Dear Parents,

Much has been made of NAPLAN results in the Courier Mail over the last couple of weeks in the lead up to this year’s test. It has become almost obsessive with the sole Brisbane newspaper preparing their own comparison database. Wavell takes the NAPLAN tests very seriously. NAPLAN does assist schools to identify aspects of literacy and numeracy in which students are deficient and in which areas they excel. It is however a bit of a stretch to say that the data is a major indicator of good or bad schools. While our data is consistently good it is not likely to be able to match it with the likes of the elite private schools where enrolment is based on capacity to pay up to $20,000 a year in tuition fees. Our averages in all tests are consistently above state and national averages in the context of enrolling a broad range of students with different levels of ability and from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. I am proud that our school is able to individualise programs to support our gifted academic students in extension classes and to also support the learning needs of a range of students with learning difficulties in our foundation classes and provide extra support through our Wavell Enrichment Program. Naturally we actively encourage all of our students to sit for the tests; not so for some schools. The impact of encouraging all students is that the less able students reduce the average result. It is a shame that the media does not publish the NAPLAN participation rates for each school. Wavell is so much more than NAPLAN results and OP scores. Wavell is about developing young people into wonderful adults who have learned to work co-operatively and excel in a multi-cultural context.

I am confident that our Year 9s are well prepared and keen to do their very best in NAPLAN next week. We have some special rewards for those who show a strong commitment and concentration in trying hard. We ask that our students do their personal best. We ask that our students do their personal best. Ensure a good night’s sleep each night before the tests – no late night TV, computer games or social networking. Reading a book or writing a short persuasive story would be a better option.

2. A good healthy meal each evening, a solid breakfast (protein is brain food) and a healthy lunch are necessary.
3. Prepare all required equipment and have spare pens, pencils and a ruler.
4. Make sure they have a calculator for the part of the Numeracy test on Thursday.
5. Lots of encouragement without the pressure of expectation. Remember, the tests, while important in seeing how well children perform in literacy and numeracy, are not University entrance tests, nor do they impact on subject results.

Parents can learn more about the tests and what is involved at the NAPLAN web-site; www.naplan.edu.au

Don’t forget to encourage your neighbours, family and friends who are looking for a great high school for their children to attend Open Day at Wavell on Sunday, 20 May from 2:00pm to 4:30pm.

Finally, I wish a happy Mother’s Day to all our mothers for Sunday.

JJ Major, Principal

“I find the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.”

Thomas Jefferson

Canberra Trip

Two weeks ago six year twelve students: Josh Madden, Bianca Bucec, Camille Avenido, Rein Kleidson, Annette Mannion and Daniel Little went on a tour of Canberra.

The tour centered around representing the school and Kedron Wavell Sub-branch RSL at the national ANZAC Day services. Despite the freezing conditions the students had a memorable experience attending the Dawn and National services. They completed tours of the War Memorial; Parliament House and the National Science Centre. Special thanks to John Kennedy and Barry Kywood from Kedron Wavell Sub-branch RSL who accompanied the group. Their time was truly appreciated. Wavell would like to thank the Kedron Wavell Sub-branch RSL for their sponsorship of the tour and continued support of our students.

Ancient History

On Monday, 30 April senior Ancient History students had the opportunity to visit the newly refurbished Queensland Museum and to view the ‘Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb Exhibition’. The visit contributed to the unit being studied this term. Not only were four intact mummies on display, but also many artefacts associated with the funerary and burial customs of the Ancient Egyptians all on loan from the British Museum. Overall it was an interesting and relevant experience for all the students involved.

Scholarship

The Education toward Employment Scheme supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Lauren Harris (pictured) submitted a well presented and thoughtful application and demonstrated potential to be a strong role model for students in our school and community. We congratulate Lauren.

Science Excursion

On Tuesday, 17 April Senior Earth Science students visited the Planetarium as the culmination of a term’s work on space. They then went to the Mt Cootha Lookout and the Simpson’s Falls area to study landforms and learn about the geological history of Brisbane.

Special Provision for QCS

To all Year 12 students and their parents:

Any student sitting the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test who feels that a reason for special provision exists may apply for exemption or variation to the test conditions. Applications must be made in writing to QSA before Friday, 18 May and must include documentary evidence. For information and forms contact Miss Bencsevich, Mr MacPherson or Mr Turner.

P & C Meeting - Tuesday 15 May 2012, at 7:30pm in the Admin Building All Welcome

Contact Mrs Jane Bedewi on 33500328
Pictured above: Ms Kirsten Baker A/HOD

Our Year 12 Drama students were given an exciting chance to work with Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre Company to create the thrilling and visually rich production ‘MOST’. After months of training in the physical theatre style and rehearsing for many hours after school and on weekends the production came to life on the 27 and 28 of April. The production was set in a post office and followed four main characters Majella, Oliver, Sam and Tilly. This collaboration with a professional theatre company was a valuable experience for our talented students.

Author Visit

On Tuesday, May 1 all Year 10 students listened to guest speaker, Vietnam War veteran and renowned author, Barry Heard as he relived his experiences before, during and after the Vietnam War in the 1960s. With descriptions of daily life at war told with, at times, an undertone of wry humour, and many emotional memories of loss and sacrifice, Barry’s story was one that the students will never forget.

As an accomplished author, Barry Heard has the ability to keep both his listeners and readers enthralled. His first novel, ‘Well Done Those Men’ retells his personal story in war and sits within President Obama’s personal library in the White House. His latest novel, ‘Tag’ has also been well-received, read and enjoyed by our own Prime Minister Gillard. Regardless however, Barry Heard is a remarkably humble man who shares his experiences in war so that others can truly appreciate the effort and sacrifice soldiers go to for their country, and fully realise the harsh reality of war.

Keren wins the Inter-House Cross Country

House Points: Keren-586, Alamein-578, Burma-460, Tobruk-295

Pictured: Mr Major with the Keren captains, Toby Pinder, Courtney Moffatt and Vincent Rennie (Sports Captain)

Our Annual Inter-house Cross Country race was held on Thursday, 3 May. Participation was the key to another successful championship, and with over 80 percent of students in attendance at this year’s event, it highlighted the enthusiasm Wavell students possess for engaging in physical activity.

Congratulations to Keren House for winning a closely contested competition with only 8 points separating the first and second placers.

Year 8 and 9 Gala Days

Gala Days for both year levels were held last week. All schools from the district participated in both competitive and social competition in AFL, Basketball, Touch and Volleyball. They were a great success in terms of friendly participation. Wavell had large numbers of teams in most sports on both days with AFL being the developing sport in the junior competition.

Wavell hosted Boys Touch on both days so our fields were busy. Students and staff returning from other venues reported having had a great day both socially and competitively with many students catching up with friends from other schools. Thanks to all staff members and senior students who made these days a success.

Wavell’s success means that teams will compete in a number of metropolitan competitions. We will have competing teams from Year 8 Girls and Boys Touch and Girls Basketball and Year 9 Boys and Girls Touch and Girls Volleyball. Good luck to all who participate in these competitions.

ZEN ZEN ZO


Diary Dates

Monday 14 May • SRC Meeting in G2 1:10pm
Tuesday 15 May • Year 9 National Literacy & Numeracy Assessment Program Test Day 1 in Hall
Wednesday 16 May • Year 9 National Literacy & Numeracy Assessment Program Test Day 2 in Hall
Thursday 17 May • Year 9 National Literacy & Numeracy Assessment Program Test Day 3 in Hall
Friday 18 May • QCS Test Closing date for special consideration applications
Monday 20 May • Year 11 QAS & QCS CBTs Students Services On the Job Placement-Day 3
Monday 21 May • Wavell Open Day for Prospective Parents and Students 2:00 to 4:30pm
Monday 22 May • District Cross Country at Kelvin
Tuesday 22 May • Metropolitan North Cluster Day - Golf
Wednesday 23 May • Metropolitan North Cluster Day - U14 Baseball, U15 Basketball
Thursday 24 May • Ferry Grove Maths Teams Challenge
Friday 25 May • Brisbane Dance Eisteddfod at St Lawrence's College

Stationery & Clothing Shop Hours - Each Monday and Thursday 8:15am - 9:15am

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AMENDED PHOTOGRAPHY SCHEDULE

Important - Enrolments 2013
Do you have a sibling of a current student to enrol into Year 8 2013, and did not receive an enrolment form at Assembly on Friday, 4 May?
• Collect the form from the Main Office or G1.
• Please return completed forms immediately.

ATTENDANCE PARENTS MOBILE PHONES

Commencing Term 2, 2012
All confiscated phones are to be collected from Student Services by parents only.

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University of Queensland
• Wednesday 16 May - Parent Information Seminar UQ Centre, St Lucia Campus
• University of the Sunshine Coast
• Tuesday 30 May - Information Evening North Lakes Community Centre 6:00-8:00pm

TSXPO-Tertiary Studies Expo
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