Dear Parents,

The Senior Formal last week was a significant milestone in the final year of secondary schooling for our Year 12s. It was especially impressive by the dignity and sophistication of these young adults; on the eve of their soon-to-be graduates of Wavell High. Our Pre -Formal and Formal events were excellent and a credit to the work of our student run Senior Formal Committee, facilitated by our co-ordinators Mrs Mirchandani, Mrs Bowker and Mrs Jeffries who were, of course, fully supported by our parents.

There are now only ten days until Year 12 students sit the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test on Tuesday, 3 and Wednesday, 4 September. The main challenge for our senior students is to maintain a serious focus and to continue with a trend of improvement. Through this expected peak in performance, our Year 12s and our community should see the very good OP results our school has come to expect.

Last Friday, 16 August Wavell was proud to farewell the visiting Japanese students and teachers from Suzuka High School. This visit provided our school an opportunity to showcase Wavell State High School and a great opportunity for the eighteen visiting Japanese students to improve their language skills. Thanks must go to our student buddies and the nine Wavell families who hosted the Japanese students in their homes. The feedback from our visitors was very warm and impressive. I thank our staff, led by Head of Department, Mrs Deery, for the provision of a quality cultural exchange for students.

Monday, 19 August provided another chance for Wavell to shine; our Middle School Literacy Olympics. This event has been run for seven years and over that time has provided a range of opportunities for local primary and high school students (Years 6 to 9). In the spirit of friendly competition, the event gave students the chance to test their skills in a number of creative and challenging literacy activities. It is important that our school provides these opportunities for our best and brightest middle schoolers, to encourage and inspire achievement at the highest level. Mrs Madden and her band of student and staff helpers have again produced an excellent event. The leadership of our older students as judges and adjudicators is another highlight and further enhances the ability of our students to work in effective teams.

Our annual SET Plan day was held on Tuesday, 20 August. This important day engages parents, Year 10 students and teachers to make individual education plans that support senior studies and maximize future opportunities. Students were encouraged to make aspirational yet achievable choices for their final two years of schooling. The success of this day was made possible through the partnerships of students, parents and teachers.

Thanks must go to our Heads of Department Ms Byram and Mrs Searle for the organisation of our SET Plan process.

Our school has now lodged an application for Wavell to become an Independent Public School. This State Government initiative allows State Schools to assume more autonomy and accountability to their community. Over the past year the school has engaged in extensive consultation through student, parent and staff forums. Much of what is proposed is part of what Wavell High already undertakes, however, the proposal would give much greater say over the appointment of teachers and additional flexibility in allocation of financial resources within our school budget. Progress on this issue will continue to be communicated to parents through our newsletter and regular P&C meetings.

C.L.Smeed
Acting Principal

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”

Winston Churchill

On Tuesday, 13 August the Year 12s made their way to the Victoria Park Golf Club for the Formal extravaganza. It was a fabulous array of fashion and all students looked demure in their evening attire. The experience for our young men and women was an important one; no longer can they be seen as children, they have moved forward and grown into adults of the future. Thank you to the organising committee and all staff who assisted for a great event! Pictured below: Georgina and Abby Martin.

On Tuesday, 20 August the Year 11 Earth Science class set out for Coolum to study the Geology of the area. Particular highlights included the observation of sedimentary and igneous rocks, rock cliffs and ‘cooling columns’. The students will now combine information gathered in the field with research data to produce a report outlining the geological history of Coolum.

On Tuesday, 20 August over 250 Year 10 students and their parents participated in developing a Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan that saw each student discuss their goals and career options for life after Year 12. During the meeting students identified their interests, abilities, ambitions and, with the help from their teacher and parent, selected subjects from their teacher and parent, selected subjects and courses that were aligned with their learning goals. Thank you to the twenty-six teachers who volunteered their time as SET Plan facilitators and to all the parents and guardians for actively participating in this process for their student.

From the Principal

Middle School Literacy Olympics

Sixty-nine teams of middle schoolers converged on the Wavell High School hall on Monday, 19 August to participate in our annual Literacy Olympics. This event goes hand-in-hand with the Middle School Problem Solving Challenge held earlier in the year. The Years 6 to 9 students represented twenty-three state primary and secondary schools from the North Brisbane area. The day consisted of creative team activities to test the student’s Literacy, Social Science and The Arts skills. This year’s theme of ‘Fairy Tales’ proved popular with the crowd which was highlighted through the live singing bee. Congratulations to our Years 8 and 9 teams who competed and thank you to our Years 10 and 11 students for judging the event and all others involved in the day. Pictured below: Sarah Kinmont, Thomas Holsworth and Caitlyn Schuhmacher.

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Engineering Scholarship

Matthew Tusa has been awarded a $400 Indigenous Australian Engineering Scholarship for 2013 from Engineering Aid Australia. Congratulations Matthew!
Bard-Wired

Last week’s senior drama performance, Bard-Wired, was the second collaboration between Wavell and dynamic theatre company, Shake & Stir. This directing residency allowed students to work with theatre professionals and gain insight into the arts industry. Bard-Wired is a mash up of many different Shakespearean plays showing that the interpretations are endless. The audience was taken on a journey by Puck from A Midsummer Night’s Dream and experienced a multiple personality Juliet, rapping, hip-hop inspired Witchey and a gender swapping Hamlet. These modern character interpretations uncovered fresh meaning and insight within some of Shakespeare’s most recognised personalities. Bard-Wired showcased the exceptional talents of our graduating Year 12s and the potential of our Year 11 actors. The colourful show delivered many laugh out loud moments and was enjoyed by all. Well done Drama students on such a professional and entertaining production. Pictured below: Georgia Fogarty and Christy Wright.

Wavell Speaks Out

Many students have been busy competing in the Wavell Speaks Out public speaking competition. Congratulations to all participants in the heats, many interesting topics were spoken about. From these heats, three students from each year level have been chosen to compete in the finals. Congratulations to- Amber Pearson, Sarah Sheppard, Alicia Ganton (Year 12), Rose Foster, Claudia Abbott, Eliza Morse (Year 11), Brockton Coven, Rhianon Hassett, Giselle Pickering (Year 10), Emily Honor, Georgia Cloudsley, Emily Guest (Year 9) and Abbey Wighton, Josephine O’Donovan and Emily Todd (Year 8). A warm invitation is extended to family and friends to support these students on Monday, 26 August in the library at 7.00pm.

Interschool District Finals

Last week saw the conclusion of our Winter Interschool District Sport competition in the form of District Finals. Congratulations to all teams that competed. The Year 10 girls netball finished with an impressive win of 27-8 over Sandgate in their match. The Year 10 boys basketball team comfortably won against Kedron with an end result of 61-27 and the Open boys basketball team also secured a 35-29 win. All three winning teams in district finals put together outstanding performances, however particular congratulations goes to Savannah Vasilakis, Emma Goding, Jesse Gorton and Darcy Charles who were awarded Most Valuable Players for their respective teams. Winter Metropolitan Finals commence on Wednesday, 28 August. Good luck to all teams who have progressed to the next stage of the competition.

Market Day

On Market Day, Thursday, 8 August Years 9 and 10 Business students created their own market stalls. They were required to plan and market their business to ensure its success. There were twenty-eight stalls, ranging from Dutch poffertjes to hot chocolate and cake pops. Almost every stall made a significant profit from the $35.00 initial loan. Well done students, business staff and thank you to Mr King and Mr Omllee for the hall set up.

State of Debate Challenge

Year 11 Wavell students Caitlyn Schuhmacher, Eliza Morse and Tabitha Mcmenemy recently competed in the inaugural debating competition sponsored by the Rugby League Museum. The students were successful in Round One against Keebra Park but unfortunately went down to Palm Beach-Currumbin by one point. Well done and we look forward to next year.

Shake & Stir Performance

Year 10 students were treated to the talents of the Shake & Stir theatre company with the presentation of ‘Statespeare’, which was a fast-paced, contemporary look at some of Shakespeare’s finest plays. Students were dazzled by the talent of the actors as they performed key scenes from Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Taming of the Shrew, Titus Andronicus, Much Ado About Nothing, Othello and Hamlet. Everyone in attendance would agree that Shakespeare’s plays are as relevant and entertaining today as they were in the days of their initial performances.

School Photography Reminder– Formal uniform required

Diary Dates

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 26 August</td>
<td>SRC Executive Meeting in Conference Room 10:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27 August</td>
<td>SRC Meeting in G2– 1:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28 August</td>
<td>SRC Meeting in G2– 1:10pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 29 August</td>
<td>SRC Meeting in G2– 1:10pm</td>
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<td>Friday 30 August</td>
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<td>Monday 2 September</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3 September</td>
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<td>Wednesday 4 September</td>
<td>SRC Meeting in G2– 1:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 September</td>
<td>SRC Meeting in G2– 1:10pm</td>
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Ski Trip 2013

Four days of sun, snow, and good times were had by the forty students who descended on Perisher last week. With seven hours spent on the slopes every day, the students developed their skiing and boarding abilities through group lessons with experienced instructors, and by exploring the resort using the many lifts on offer. Without a doubt, this year’s trip was an outstanding success. Many thanks to teachers, Mrs Pios, Mr Stanley and Mr Osborn. The week created new friendships, plenty of laughs, and priceless moments that will not be forgotten by the group. Bring on winter 2014!