Dear Parents,

I would urge parents to follow with interest the developments around school funding being discussed in the media. It appears that the certainty that was promised with bipartisan support for the well researched and broadly supported "Gonski" Plan is now up in the air. It is not my place to comment on the politics of this issue but as these political decisions do impact on our school I would encourage you to follow the commentary, be informed as you can and make up your own mind about what is happening on this critical issue. The future of high quality public education must be assured whatever the decisions made.

The tender for our new Junior Secondary Year 7 facility closed last Wednesday with a decision on the successful tenderer to be advised before Christmas. When we return after the holidays preliminary work should have commenced to establish a work site at the entry to Boothby Street. This entry will be closed to everyone for next year until construction is concluded. Parents and students who use this entry need to make plans for an alternate drop off / pick up for 2014.

Our 2013 Yearbook is a wonderful celebration of the many academic, cultural, sporting and social achievements. My congratulations go to the editorial team of staff and students who so led by Miss Leil Whittingham. Year 8 and 9 students are able to collect their ordered Yearbook once their clearances are finalised. I have received the preliminary Queensland Core Skills test results for our Year 12 students. I am very confident that the hard work and dedication of our students and staff will pay off with some impressive OP results to be released on Monday, 16 December. I have also received our School Opinion Survey which showed high levels of satisfaction with the school from parents, students and staff. I was particularly pleased with the nearly 100% satisfaction rating regarding the use of computers for learning in the school and the 98% of parents and students who think Wavell is a good school.

On Monday, 9 December I look forward to welcoming our incoming Year 8s for 2014. They will join our Year 9 students as part of the Wavell State High School Junior Secondary component. It is now only one year until Year 7s start at Wavell High. Our Year 8 and 9 students will enjoy an alternate program from next Tuesday, 10 December to Thursday, 12 December with reports issued on Thursday afternoon. Those small numbers of expected students who join us on Friday, 13 December will support our annual school clean up in preparation for 2014. There is no penalty for students not in attendance on that day.

I thank the school community and our wonderful staff and students for their contribution to this year’s success and for their ongoing support of the school throughout the year. My very best wishes to our staff not returning who are all featured in today’s newsletter. I wish all our families a safe and happy Christmas.

J J Major, Principal

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**Senior Leadership Day**

On Thursday, 28 November the Prefects Elect and 2014 SRC Executive (pictured below) spent the day at the Gap SHS Leadership Centre completing indoor team activities. Students participated in rock climbing and 'the leap of faith' to help develop team cohesion and leadership skills. The students have also completed at-school teamwork activities and planning sessions in preparation for their roles next year.

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**“A well spent day brings happy sleep”**

Leonardo da Vinci

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**Contract Teachers**

Thanks to our long term contract teachers, many of whom will depart a little earlier this year.

**Returning for 2014**

- Miss Gabrielle Butt - Business Education
- Mr Dan Crestani - Performing Arts
- Mr Michael Drago - Science
- Ms Michelle Hyde - English and Social Science
- Mr Allan Masters - Mathematics
- Mrs Charissa Jeffs - Business Education
- Miss Jayne Stubbs - Mathematics

**Teachers departing**

- Mr Andrew Crawford who has been a member of our Health and Physical Education and Science departments. Miss Riaz Riazjan has been a part of the Wavell teaching team for the second half of the school year.
- Ms Clair Monnicken and Miss Louise Morton have both taught in the English and Social Science departments at Wavell.

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**End of Semester Report Cards**

Report Cards will be issued as follows:
- Year 11 - Tuesday, 10 December from 10.00am - 12 Noon in Library
- Year 10 - Thursday, 12 December from 10.00am - 12 Noon in Library
- Years 8 & 9 - Thursday, 12 December at Assembly - 2.45pm
Doodle4Google

This year, Google invited school students from Years 1 to 10 to use their imagination and artistic talent to create a Google doodle based around the theme ‘If I was an Explorer I would...’ with the winning being showcased on the Google homepage. Year 9 students Dennis Ding and Thomas Meincke (pictured) have been announced as part of the 80 Years 9 finalists from nearly 1700 entrants. Dennis’s drawing, Let’s Go Explore, featured some of the world’s most famous places, such as Rome’s Colosseum and Korea’s Guardian Lion. Thomas’s artwork, Nightmare Hollow, was about the inner mind - the subconscious section of the brain. It explored dreams and nightmares, and that the possibilities of our imaginations are endless. Congratulations!

Toy Assignments

Advanced Academic Program students recently completed their studies on “Energy, Recycling and Toys”. Students designed, developed and created a toy from recycled materials that was required to use and produced energy. There was lots of thought, planning and creativity involved - and some play too! Pictured below: AAP student Jack Meincke presenting his toy.

Music Success

Macklin Emmett, Year 8 student, has been accepted into the Young Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra and received a Chamber Strings Scholarship. Congratulations Macklin on this prestigious honour!

Operation Christmas Present

Operation Christmas Child Appeal was run again this term. The response to the challenge of creating shoeboxes filled with special goodies to send to countries facing disease, famine and poverty was amazing. Throughout the week, the Wavell community donated thirty-nine boxes and gave over $400 to pay for the shipping of the boxes to their destination. A big thank you to all who contributed to the appeal.

Years 8 & 9 Alternative Program

Letters detailing activities have been distributed to students. There will be a variety of activities for students to try.
• Tuesday 10 December: Blue-Fit Leisure excursion
• Wednesday 11 December: Events Cinemas excursion - “Freebirds (The Greatest Turkey Movie of all Time)” PG
• Thursday 12 December: At school games and activities with report cards distributed in the afternoon
• Friday 13 December: Clean up Day

2014 RESOURCE SCHEME REMINDER

- All forms have been mailed home.
- Please return agreement forms before the end of Term 4, 2013.
- Payment forms due with payment by Friday, 31 January, 2014.
- Contact the school on 3350 0307 if you did not receive your form.
- Return texts, library books and repay any outstanding monies for 2013 by the end of the year.

Absentee Phone Line

3350 0303

STATIONERY & CLOTHING SHOP HOURS

Monday, 9 December (Last trading day for 2013)
Combined Shops: 8:15am - 11:15am
10:00am - 5:30pm
January 2014
Tuesday, 21 January: 12noon - 5:30pm
Wednesday, 22 January: 8:15am – 11:15am
Thursday, 23 January: 8:15am – 11:15am
Friday, 24 January: 8:15am – 11:15am
First week of school from 28 January 8:15am - 11:15am daily
Second week of school from 3 February 8:15am - 11:15am daily

Volunteers Required for Shops

Helpers required in shops for Orientation Day and the week prior to school commencement.
Volunteer for 4 hours and get 10% off your bill.
Contact Virginia Wootton for details:
Phone: 3359 5126.

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