Dear Parents

As I reflect back over the year I do so with considerable pride. The achievements of our students and teachers throughout 2013 has been noteworthy.

Our P&C have supported our aspiration to have every classroom provided with an Interactive white board or panel. This medium will transform the way we teach and has shown that it engages students to a much higher level. This has been a significant financial contribution from our parents and I am happy to report that all classrooms are now fitted with these devices.

Forty-eight students represent the City District and competed well at the Metropolitan North Region trials. During the regional trials twelve students gained further honours by being selected to represent Metropolitan North in seven different sports.

Our students competed against other schools in the District in swimming, cross country and track and field. Our athletes were successful in winning all trophies on offer.

In our second year of implementing the Australian Curriculum I commend the Wilston State School staff for their commitment to their own professional learning. Our teachers demonstrate daily a desire to improve their pedagogical practices.

This year our Prep to Year 2 students have been working very hard to improve their reading. Our staff have invested time in further developing their understanding and teaching practices in this area, and our focus has seen the students not only meet, but exceed, our expectations. I have had the pleasure of visiting our junior school classes on many occasions, and I have been very impressed with the students’ abilities and enthusiasm with regard to reading. I thank the parents who have supported this program by listening to their students read each evening and assisting in the classrooms throughout the year.

The teaching focus for our teachers in the middle to upper sectors of the school was to increase their knowledge on good practice in the teaching of reading. This was achieved this year and I look forward to the student improvements in this area in the years ahead.

This year we say goodbye to a number of outstanding teachers. After serving for thirty-six years in a number of schools around Queensland, Mrs Jo Kennedy has decided to retire. Mrs Kennedy has set a good learning foundation for a couple of generations of students as they have entered primary school. We also say farewell to Amanda Boone; Megan Anderson; Hayley Underwood; Andrea Brian; Anna Prokop and Kelly Ann Madden. All have contributed significantly to the students they have taught and I wish them well in their new postings.

If you are leaving the Wilston State School community I wish your child every success as they journey through the next phase of their education.

I hope your Christmas vacation is one for family and fun.

Guy Hendriks
Principal
FROM THE PRINCIPAL (continued)

Keep a watch on our school these holidays
Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.

If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

COPPER’S CORNER

What an exciting year 2013 has been. With the end of the school year winding down and the new year upon us police are sending a timely reminder about the importance road safety particularly the fatal 5 over the holiday period.

Speeding: Police are urging motorists to slow down and monitor their speed. Speeding is not just driving faster than the posted speed limit. It is also driving too fast for the prevailing weather, light, traffic and road conditions without full regard for the vehicle condition and driver skills and experience. Speeds just over 5km/h above the speed limit in urban areas, and 10km/h above the speed limit in rural areas, are sufficient to double the risk of a casualty crash.

Drink and Drug Driving: The best advice regarding alcohol use is simply “do not drive” whilst under the influence, however, if you are going to drink, plan ahead by organising a driver who will not be drinking or using any other drugs, make alternative transport plans, use public transport or ‘grab a cab’ or stay overnight.

Seatbelts: Police are urging motorists to wear seat belts at all times when travelling in a vehicle and ensure all occupants are safely restrained before moving. You are 10 times more likely to be killed in a road crash if you are not wearing a seat belt.

Driving Fatigued: Do not begin a drive if you are already feeling tired. It is important to get a good night’s sleep before travelling, take frequent breaks (a rest break every 2 hours is recommended), share the driving task with others and be aware of the effects of any medications you are taking.

Distraction and Inattention: Driver distraction has been identified as a contributing factor in car crashes and near crashes. A leading cause of driver distraction is mobile phone use. Using a mobile phone while driving is highly distracting with a person using a hand-held or hands free mobile phone while driving four times more likely to have a serious crash resulting in hospital attendance. While it is wise to carry a mobile phone in case of emergency police advice motorists to delay making and receiving phone calls and text messages until you have stopped driving.

Police from Stafford Station want to extend to you and your families warm Christmas wishes and all the very best for a safe and prosperous new year. Look after each other and have a Merry Christmas.

Police remind people to report non urgent matters to Policelink on 131 44 however for crimes in progress or in an emergency always dial Triple Zero 000.

---

Inter-House Swimming Carnival Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Points:</th>
<th>Lawson-</th>
<th>387</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patterson</td>
<td>265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon</td>
<td>244</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Champions:</th>
<th>Boy</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Years</td>
<td>Will M</td>
<td>Tas B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Years</td>
<td>Angus K</td>
<td>Claudia K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Years</td>
<td>Harrison F</td>
<td>Hannah B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Years</td>
<td>Dougie M</td>
<td>Lucy B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Years</td>
<td>Will B</td>
<td>Abigail S-M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Years</td>
<td>Christian S</td>
<td>Sally H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Years</td>
<td>Sam B</td>
<td>Elli H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Years</td>
<td>Kane J</td>
<td>Izzy S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

NEWS FROM HPE

Date Claimer:
The P&C AGM will be held on Thursday 20 February 2014.

---

NEWS FROM THE P&C

Grange Baptist Church
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
FREE!
Jumping Castle
Sausage Sizzle
Fairy Floss
Christmas Carols
Featuring
The Salvation Army Band
Games & Fun for the Kids!
Saturday 14th December
4PM - 7PM
Cnr Carberry & Wilston Rd