

Comment from the Principal - 28th October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

At last some weather worthy of the season which has contributed to a relaxed but purposeful and positive atmosphere in the School.

End-of-Year Concert

The application of those involved with the expressive arts was on display at last night's concert which saw artists, dancers, singers and musicians in a cornucopia of talent which was so enjoyable. Another pleasing aspect was the obvious development of talent which has been seen over the last few years, both at individual and group levels. It really made me feel very proud of our people, staff and students alike. Thanks are due to Mrs Gail Saunders for organising the whole event and leading our young people in their music; also to Mrs Amanda Abbott, Mrs Ilka McKeown, Ms Patricia Gardner and Mr Ken Warren. I also appreciated the involvement of the Parents and Friends Association in providing a light supper.

The Canteen

Mention of food reminds me to let you know that the Schools Canteen Association of WA, to which the School belongs, has reviewed our menus, and provided a favourable and useful report. It praised the excellent provision of 'greens' and only highlighted a couple of 'red' items (in the 'traffic-light' labelling system) which we will replace. We have also formed a food committee of students and staff to assist Rose in her planning of menus. I have also been impressed by the cheerful involvement and skill of the students who assist her which is an important aspect of their education and community service.

Year 12

Our Year 12 students reached the practical end of their time at the School last Friday and celebrated in the now-traditional breakfast barbecue (cooked to perfection by Messrs Clark, Newton, and Mrs Shipp). This was a convivial affair with staff and students enjoying good food and fellowship before the students were subjected to a series of fiendish games and challenges organised by Mrs Hall. Their exams start this coming Monday in the Parish Centre and we wish them all good fortune; certainly the willingness of our ATAR students to attend the additional revision sessions provided by their teachers has been encouraging.

Staff Reviews

You may be aware that all our staff are appraised at least once every year, with observations and feedback from students and staff a major part of the process. These observations have now been completed and will be followed by a series of discussions involving individual members of staff and me. Previous experience suggests that the specific nature of the reports is very helpful in assisting my colleagues develop and hone their skills.

Charities

Praise and thanks for all who contributed to the *Canteen Bandana Day* event which raised over \$240 for this worthwhile charity. It was interesting to see the many ways in which a bandana could be worn!

Mr Clark is also co-ordinating a further fund-raising effort for the *Make-a-Wish Foundation* which will take place at the end of term and will see several staff becoming a little less hairy! More information will emerge in due course.

Meeting for Year 9 Parents

As I indicated a couple of weeks ago this postponed meeting is now scheduled for Wednesday 2nd November at 1730 in Doug Murray Place. The purpose of the meeting is to explain our approach to mathematics in Year 10, and to outline some changes to the curriculum for this group which should see some exciting developments. I will provide a summary of the meeting to those unable to attend.

Student-free Day - Monday 5th December

I have written to you already about this day and would simply like to reinforce how reluctant I was to have to close the School. Unfortunately the training on child safety and protection which staff will be undertaking that day could not be provided on any other date, and I felt it too important an opportunity to miss. I do hope that you will not be too inconvenienced as a consequence of this cancellation which is, I think, only the second such occasion in the last three years or so.

Forthcoming Events

The calendar on the website, and on the SEQTA 'splash' page, provides dates and times of events over the next few weeks but, as always, I highlight what is on the cards for the week ahead.

Monday 31st October	ATAR examinations begin in the Parish Centre
Tuesday 1st November	Mince Masters Final in School Melbourne Cup - students able to watch the race over lunch
Wednesday 2nd November	1730 meeting for parents of students in Year 9
Friday 4th November	1050 Visit of Hon Mia Davis Minister of Sport, Water and Fisheries to speak to girls in Years 10 & 11 on women in leadership Year 8 needles
Monday 7th November	Year 7-10 exams

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Kerr

P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles
Principal