Message from the Principal

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Once again 2013 has been a busy year at Westlawn. As I looked at our wonderful students this week, and watched our Year 6 students enjoy their Farewell last night, I reflected on the achievements of all our students and the fabulous opportunities they have had to learn and develop as individuals and as young citizens of our community. As a school we have much to be thankful for in terms of what we are able to offer them, and in terms of how well we are supported by our community. I would like to thank our staff, parents and community for their combined efforts to make the children’s time at school such a great opportunity. My best wishes to all for a safe and happy Christmas.

To our Year 6 students, I wish you every success in high school and beyond, and we look forward to hearing of your future successes. To our other students, we look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Westlawn PS P&C Carols Night

Come along to the P&C ‘Family Carols Night’ tonight, Tuesday 17th December.

It is held under the Primary undercover area and it is a singalong for all students, parents and community members. The playground equipment will be out-of-bounds for the evening due to safety reasons and we want the children to join in the spirit of the evening by singing. We will expect that parents will support the P&C in keeping children with them to join in the singing. Bring a chair to sit and join in the singing. Each class or a group of classes will be called up to stand at the front and sing while the audience sings along. We will also be asking Westlawn staff, Mums and Dads to get up and do the same so bring your voice and be part of the large group. Programs with the words to songs will be available for purchase (to cover our copy costs). The BBQ will operate from 5:45pm and the singalong of Carols will go from 6pm to 7pm, then Santa will visit with lolly bags. A limited number of glow sticks will be on sale. Please don’t bring candles. The P&C would really like to see people join in the spirit of the evening and singalong. Thanks to Lauren Kembrey and other P&C members for organising it.

RAFFLE DRAWN TONIGHT!

A number of books of raffle tickets have not been returned yet. Please return all tickets, sold or unsold, by tonight. We have some great incentive prizes which we will be giving to a K-2 student and a Y3-6 student for the most tickets sold. They will each receive a $75 voucher for Athletes Foot. This is a great reward for those families. We also have book prizes to give out to other children who sell a lot of tickets. Please get behind this raffle to support our P&C in raising funds for resources for our school and students. It will be drawn at our Carols Night next Tuesday. There are great prizes to be won in the raffle:

1st prize: $1000 voucher from Cummings Retravision
2nd prize: Mini eReader
3rd prize: Portable Barbecue
4th prize: $50 book voucher

Year 6 Farewell

Last night we held a very successful Year 6 Farewell at the Grafton Racecourse. It was a pleasure to share the evening with such well-mannered and well-behaved children. They danced and enjoyed each other’s company. Thank you to Mrs Anderson for organising the evening. Thank you to parents who helped decorate the function room. Thank you to staff who attended.
Year 6 Shirt Signing
Year 6 shirt signing will only be allowed on the last day Wednesday 18 December. If Year 6 students wish to have a shirt signed as a keepsake it needs to be brought to school, not worn. No signing will occur on a shirt they are wearing. This takes place on the last day of school. Students need to bring their own signing pen/texta.

Neighbourhood Watch
Please keep a very close eye on our school over coming weeks and in the holidays. If you see anyone in the school grounds who should not be there or acting in a suspicious manner, please call the police. Take note of number plates and the appearance of the people (height, hair colour, clothing or any identifiable features). If you have a camera or phone with camera, you might like to take a photo of anything suspicious. We really need our community to keep a very watchful eye on our school please. If you have friends or relatives who live around our school or drive past the school, please let them know too.

Uniform
It would be wonderful if every student in the school wore black shoes next year as per our uniform policy. If other schools in this local area can have all students in black shoes, I am sure we can too. When buying new school shoes for 2014, please support our policy. Parents are the ones who make the decision, children only try to sway it. (And coloured laces are not uniform. Black laces please.)

The New School Year in 2014
Children in Years 1 to 6 return to school on Wednesday 29th January 2014. On that day and the following two days the students will be with their same class group as 2013 and where possible, with their 2013 teacher, or otherwise, with another staff member. The new classes will be announced on Monday 3rd February at morning assembly. Children will be with their new teacher and classmates from this date.

Teachers make very considered judgements in placing students into classes for a new school year. As there can be quite a few changes to enrolments in any particular grade with families moving in and out of the area over the holiday period, we wait until all adjustments have been made and we are sure of placements before finalising classes. Students will revise important programs such as sun safe practices, bike safety, bus safety, school rules and positive attitudes to learning, and revision of maths facts, to help settle them into the new school year and blow away the cobwebs. This process will ensure that students are not put into a new class on Wednesday morning then changed to another class within a day or two due to increased or decreased numbers within a grade over the holidays. We wish to avoid any unnecessary upset to any child. As always, the interests of your children are our priority.

During the first two days of school, Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 January, Kindergarten teachers will be conducting individual assessments of all new Kinders. Letters have been sent home informing parents of the appointment time, and an explanation of the Best Start program was given at the Orientation Parent Information Meeting. Kindergarten children will only attend for their appointment time on one of these two days. Kindergarten will start attending school on Friday 31st February.

Vacation Care
Vacation Care will be operating throughout the holidays on the Westlawn PS site. A flyer which includes the holiday program is available from the school office. Phone David Vievers on 0466306220, David Bourke on 0437033143 or Katrina Adams on 0432923518 for details.

Narelle Twigg
Principal

DIARY DATES
TERM 4
Week 11
17 Dec Carols Night at 6pm. BBQ from 5:45pm
18 Dec Last day students attend school for 2013
2014 Term 1
Tues 28 Jan Staff Development Day, no students attend on this day.
Wed 29 Jan Year 1 to Year 6 students return
Fri 31 Jan Kindergarten students return
Mon 10 Feb School Swimming Carnival (Years 3 to 6, plus any competent swimmers in Y2 who turn 8 in 2014)
**Direct Deposits**
There is a new accounting system about to come on line in schools. During the change-over we will be handwriting receipts and cannot accept any direct deposits. Please do not make any direct deposits after 1 November until further notice.

**Student of the Week – Week 10**

- **Infants**
  - Eli Jones KH
  - Jade Newman 2C

- **Primary Flynn Shacklady 5J**

**Awards made during Term 4 2013**

**Teachers**
- Georgia Dowd KH, Sharni Firth KH, Zane Farrell K/1B, Jaiden Moran K/1B, Ryder Gorrin K/1B, Heidi McClmont K/1B, Layla Kingsley K/1B, Britany Smidt KL, Lachlan O’Grady KL, Ted Hill KL, Mariah Neressian KL, Wilson Moore K/1B, Jayden Langdon KA, Eliza Berrick KA, Deegan Leggett KA, Isabella Miller KA, Shanae Crispin KA, Seth Blanch KA, Charlee Connell K1B, Afiie Wallace K1B, Lucas Gray K1B, Samuel Waterhouse KL, Noah Woodbury KL, Makayla Pugh KL, Lachlan Clark KH, Jayde Penfold KH, Koby Holland 1P

**Bronze**

**Silver**

**Gold**

**Diamond**

**Principals**
- Sophie Osborne 6R, Mason Roe 5J, Alanis O’Mahoney 6B, Lily Steele 6B, Emma Waterhouse 6B, Isaac Huxley 6B, Jordan Nash 6B

**School Spirit Award – Katrina Newby**
CAROLS NIGHT
The Carols Night will take place tonight under the Primary COLA. Please come along and have a sing along with your family and friends from the schooling community. Sausage sandwiches, steak sandwiches & chicken kebabs will be available from the BBQ from 5:45pm. The carols will start at 6:00pm and there will be a visit from Santa. We will be drawing the Major Raffle and have hams, chickens and a turkey to be won. Please come along and have a great night.

MAJOR RAFFLE TICKETS
Please return all tickets, sold or not, to tonight's Carols Night.

CLOTHING POOL NEWS
The Clothing Pool is running low on second hand uniforms. If you have any please bring them in when possible.

Don't forget year 2 students will require a sports uniform for year 3 next year.

First week back to school in 2014 the clothing pool will be open the following:

Tuesday 28 January - 9:00am - 2:00pm
Wednesday 29 January - 8:30am - 11:00am
- 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Thursday 30 January - 8:30am - 10:30am
Friday 31 January - 8:30am - 9:30am

If anyone is available to help out on those days please contact Sharyn Ellem on 0400 699 617.
Clothing Pool opening hours back to normal from Monday 3 February, 2014.

FINAL MESSAGE
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated P&C Committee and Canteen Committee for your hard work this year and thank the school staff for their support.

On behalf of the Westlawn P&C I would also like to thank you all for supporting all our fundraising activities throughout the year and we're looking forward to your continued support throughout 2014.

The P&C wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Clothing Pool Hours 2013
Mondays & Thursdays – 8:30am to 9:00am
Wednesdays – 2:30pm to 3:00pm

Sharyn Ellem – Clothing Pool Co-Ordinator

Dates for the Calendar
Carols Night
Tuesday, 17 December 2013 – 6pm

Canteen Meeting
Monday, 10 February 2014 – 2pm Mrs Twigg’s Office

P&C General Meeting
Wednesday, 12 February 2014 – 6pm Old Hall