FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Reports and Progress
All children received their reports on Monday and hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to talk with them and let them know how pleased we are with their efforts. It has really been an outstanding year with many children showing progress above what is normally expected. As mentioned earlier in the term our NAPLAN results were excellent and we also had a significant number of children shine in a variety of areas. Also very significant has been the reading progress made by the children involved in Minilit and Multilit (Making Up for Lost time in Literacy); most of these children have made gains which have got them back on track in reading. Many thanks in particular to Mrs Hunt, Mrs Ferrari, Miss Redican, Mrs Martin, Mrs Marshall and our volunteers who have done a wonderful job with these children.

If you have any concerns about your child’s progress I would urge you to make an appointment with their teacher early in the new school year. There are usually a good number of things you can do at home to assist.

Teaching and Non Teaching Fellowship
In 2014 the School Board intends to offer a Fellowship for a teaching or non teaching staff member to undertake some professional learning. The board will be seeking sponsorship for this venture and are in the first instance offering the opportunity to the family businesses in our own community. The overall cost of the fellowship will be $3000 for the year. If you have a business and are willing to contribute in some part to this fantastic opportunity for our teachers and non teachers please let us know. Your company will be acknowledged regularly in our school newsletter.

On Reflection
We have had a very satisfying year and feel justified in saying that it has been one of our most successful. In response to the parent survey completed at the end of last year we have done a great deal to minimise bullying. For the year there have only been a small number of incidents and these have been addressed. As mentioned in previous newsletters our Positive Behaviours Support committee has been meeting regularly and designing policy which once implemented will make an amazing difference to our management of the children. In particular our emphasis will be on rewarding children for positive behaviour.

2013 has also been a time where we have had cause for celebration. The year 4/5 production of “Safari” was something very special, with the talent shown by the children truly amazing. Mrs Jensen and Miss Genders did a fantastic job in bringing this event to fruition and it is hoped in the future other children will have a similar opportunity.

Another highlight for us this year has been Mr Johnson receiving the Prime Minister’s prize for primary science teaching. Mr Johnson, who works above and beyond the call of duty, has been a wonderful inspiration with many children developing a passion for this learning area.

Other programs which have continued to ensure that Rostrata is special include our school band and string ensemble. At Twilight Tunes last Wednesday evening we had 130 band children performing. Great credit is due to the hard work of Mrs de Hoog and Mr Yong. The Stephanie Alexander kitchen garden project under the guidance of Mrs Richards and Mrs Martini goes from strength to strength. There are now many children eating healthy foods that they might have rejected in the past and quite a number have developed their own gardens at home. What has also been terrific about the program has been the number of volunteers who have made themselves available.

I mentioned at the graduation last Friday that we are so fortunate in having such a great teaching and non teaching staff at Rostrata. In the end it is this group of people who make so much difference to the success of the children in our care.

Have a lovely Christmas!

Tom Campbell
Principal
Important Dates to Remember

Thursday 19th December
😊 Last day of school for students

Wednesday 29th January
😊 School office re-opens for 2014 from 8.30am

Wednesday 29th January
😊 Pre-ordered Booklist Collections in Undercover Area from 8.00am—9.30am

Wednesday 29th January
😊 Uniform Shop is open from 8.00am—12.00noon

Friday 31st January
😊 Class Lists will be on display on pinup boards outside staffroom windows from 12noon

Monday 3rd February
😊 Term 1 commences for students

SCHOOL WATCH
School Watch is a partnership between the WA Police and Department of Education, aimed at protecting our schools from vandalism, theft and damage. Criminal damage to schools costs taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars each year, and affects students, families, teachers and local residents. With more than 650 schools involved in the program, the community’s role is vital – particularly after school hours and during school holidays. You can help by reporting suspicious behaviour on and around school grounds immediately to:

School Watch Security on 1800 177 777
or
WA Police on 131 444

2014 LEAVERS JACKETS/SHIRTS
Pre-ordered leavers jackets and shirts for 2014 students were handed out today in class.

If your child was not at school, your order can be collected from Mrs Giles in the canteen on the first day back of school next year, Monday 3rd February 2014.

Thank you

SCHOOL TOUR AND INFORMATION MORNING

Come along to enjoy a tour of the whole school, see classes at work and hear about our school’s facilities, programs and services.

All Welcome! Parents, Carers and Grandparents are encouraged to attend.

Date: Friday, 21st February 2014
Time: 9.00am – 11.30am
Place: School Library
President’s Report

As my solitary year on the P&C draws to a close, and I finish my time as a Rostrata parent, it’s worth noting that President is the kind of role in which your job is not so much doing things as making sure things get done. And there are a few people I ought to thank for being doers, and making my job easy. Char Ford has been Secretary for a few years, Natalie Mulcahy is having a break from the Treasurer and school banking roles after 7 years of volunteering, and Deb Chappell has also contributed over a number of years, including this year’s Graduation Committee. If you’ve ever put together something like a graduation yearbook you’ll know how much time and effort Nicola McPartland has put into that this year. Others who’ve sweated (literally) in the canteen and around the grounds include Jacqui Bloxham, Melissa Giles, Jude Fapani, Karina Martini of course in the garden and Vicki Richards in the kitchen, Noni Walker, and Vanessa Storer helping Possum. Thanks also to Tracey Hawke, who was President for 3 years before me, and who’s given me lots of good guidance during the year.

Of the above people, Char, Deb and Noni are, like myself, ending their time at Rostrata, so there’ll be a few vacancies on the P&C next year.

If I’ve missed anyone I should have thanked, be assured it’s unintentional! Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Kevin Lathbury

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

The Year 7’s would like to thank the P & C, especially this year’s group of mums on the Graduation Committee, for all the hard work they have done to make our final year special. Our Graduation Dinner was spectacular and we could not have asked for anything better.

Our Yearbook is amazing and we would like to say “Mrs McPartland, you are a STAR!”

Thank you also to Mrs Giles for organising our Leavers shirts & jackets.

Lastly, THANK YOU to all the teachers and support staff for taking us to camp, organising our assembly and for taking us to the movies on Tuesday.

“The Graduating Class of 2013”

IN THE GARDEN......with Mrs Martini

Thanks to all our volunteers throughout the year whether we saw you once or every week, it all makes a difference to the running of the garden. There were also many families who donated items to the garden throughout the year and looked after the chickens – a big thank you.

The growth from four years ago when the ROCK garden started to now is amazing. In 2009 there was a brown patch and now there is a self-sustaining momentum with an abundance of life in the garden. We have had 3 different types birds nesting in the garden, frogs have arrived along with a bobtail lizard and many of insects large and small. Plants are self-seeding with a rock-melon looking very healthy in the old compost patch and many others growing throughout the garden.

The new paths have given the garden a finished feeling and anyone can now safely walk around the garden.