Welcome to the final newsletter for the year. In many regards it is hard to believe that the 2013 school year is all but over.

Last week was very busy, with a number of high school orientations, final year preparations and the school swimming carnivals. I was very pleased and commented to the children on the way they conducted themselves at these events. The behaviour, sportsmanship and the way children supported each other was very, very pleasing as it was simply exemplary behaviour.

This week we have seen the awards presentation which acknowledges the hard work and fine achievements of some of our students. Congratulations to all of the recipients.

This week sees the end of Cassie Dixon, Jenny Solman's and Nick Fenton's time at Geebung. Cassie has worked at Geebung for six months and has been permanently transferred to Wishart State School. To Cassie thanks for your efforts during your time here at Geebung. Even though your stay has been short you have contributed in a number of areas. Jenny is retiring and I am sure all would join me in wishing her well into the future. Jenny thanks for all you have done in working with the various students, staff and community members over your time here. Nick is moving north to take up a permanent position at Moranbah State School. He will teaching prep. Again to Nick for your contribution over your time thank you.

Fiona Eaton the Guidance Officer is also departing. We wish her and her family all of the best. Robert Bernard our current P.E. Teacher is also moving on, well for maybe only six months. We will wait to see what happens with Rob and indeed we may welcome him back in mid 2014. Rob good luck in the curriculum branch writing P.E. Curriculum.

Craig Johnson’s term as a long serving and dedicated President of the P&C association also comes to an end. Craig has work often in the backgrounds of the school's operations contributing many hours each month. Craig I know the whole community would like to acknowledge all of your efforts and thank you for you contributions which have been many and various. To you and your family as you move on from Geebung we wish you good health and happiness in your and your families futures. Thank you.

The 60th Year School Magazine is completed. Well done to Mellissa and those who contributed in any way. It is wonderful publication with great photos, interesting articles, and some clever words. It is definitely worth the $15 and can be purchased from the office if you have missed out so far.

Report cards have been written. A huge amount of effort and time have been put into these to guide children’s and parent’s efforts. PLEASE take the time to read these carefully.

School assembly times change to 2:30 pm on a Wednesdays in 2014. We are hoping to welcome even more parents and have moved this event to the end of the day, which is not key learning time.

On a personal note I was very pleased to be advised last week that I had been permanently appointed to Geebung State School. A great deal of this was due to the whole staff and the P&C for their very strong support and for this I thank all concerned for their support. I look forward to working with all of you.

Finally I would like to acknowledge all of the staff for the very hard work they have put in this year. There are many hours where teachers, aides, cleaners, office staff and grounds staff put in extra time and efforts to ensure children get the opportunities which will add to their life experiences. The education of your children is in very good hands and all of the children and families are indeed fortunate to have the Geebung staff working with all of the students.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all families. I hope it is a relaxing and safe time for you and your families. To the families finishing up at Geebung we wish you well in the future. To those families returning or joining us in 2014 we look forward to working with you.

Easier access to school information through updated version QSchools app

A recent update to the QSchools app means our parents will now be able to find tuckshop and class time information more easily. On top being able to access calendar, newsletter and other information from our school website the upgraded app can also access uniform shop information and school social media pages. It all makes staying in touch and up to date a little easier for your family.

Visit the department’s apps page for more information and all the features: http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/.

The QSchools app is available for free download through iTunes, Google Play and the Window’s store.
2014 has been a fantastic year for Geebung State School. With an emphasis on improvement we have targeted our teaching to help improve student results. This was evident with our NAPLAN results showing the highest performance in recent years. The community have also responded positively to our relentless high expectation of student behaviour. I was speaking with a visitor to the school last week and he mentioned to me that he was “blown away” by the manners of the students at Geebung State School. Students at Geebung State School always refer to teachers by their name, look at the person they are speaking with and will always offer a polite “hello” when they pass an adult.

A strength of Geebung State School is its community feel. This culture is built from parents who are ready to roll their sleeves up and help out. Our “parent and volunteer army” continues to grow and we welcome more and more volunteers again for 2014. If you are able to help out in classrooms, or odd jobs, or coordinate projects around the school please speak with your 2014 classroom teachers. This selfless action directly supports the learning of our students and models a wonderful community attitude from our parents.

Can I take this opportunity to thank three of our staff members who are moving on at the end of 2013. Frank Riccobon (IT Technician) has been an integral part of the improvements in our IT resources here at Geebung State School over the past year and a half. We thank him for his guidance and hard work and wish him well with his next endeavour. That reminds me, have you got the Q Schools App yet? FYI: Our newsletters will be electronic next year. Alyson Van Gaalen (Brass/Woodwind Instrumental Music teacher) has been such an enthusiastic teacher for our IM students. She was “instrumental” (sorry) in setting up the music performances this year and continued to lift the standard of our students skills. Karen Morcom has worked in the office with a high level of professionalism and a sense of fun. Thanks Karen for your efforts this year. Thank you to each of you.

Our P&C president, Craig Johnson has served our school community and lead the P&C well. Craig has overseen several initiatives in his time as president and he has helped to grow the number of active P&C contributors each month at the meetings. Above all Craig was happy to lead from the front and he could always be found flipping burgers at all our major events. Craig, great work and thanks for your efforts and support towards the improvement of Geebung State School. Thanks also goes to the P&C executive and active members for your support too. As a school, we look forward to working closely with you again in 2014 for the benefit of our Geebung State School students.

Can I also thank the staff at Geebung State School. This year has been challenging as we embraced change. Change is never easy but as a group it was clear that the team were committed to the agenda for 2013 and beyond. Improvement in anything requires reflection and review. As we have reviewed our system we have been able to strengthen our processes and 2014 will simply be a continuation of this agenda. I’d like to finish where our team began 2013, “Each and every member of our school community believes that each and every student can and will achieve.”

Finally to the students of Geebung State School. Thank you to our student leaders for your efforts this year. We wish our graduating students well for their future studies. Well done too, our 2013 prep students. You have survived your first year of school. As I’ve already mentioned, students at Geebung State School are earning a reputation for being wonderful hosts, respectful and courteous in their manner. With these attributes combined with some hard work, they will see achievements again in 2014.

Have a great Christmas, enjoy your family, stay safe and we’ll meet again in 2014 ready for another great year together.

Matthew Meharg
Deputy Principal

Awards

Congratulations to our Award winners at last week’s Assembly. Well done!
Senior Disco

Congratulations to those students who have received awards at assembly over this last two weeks!
Swimming Carnival

It was a great finish to the Geebung sporting calendar for the year with the running of our swimming carnivals in week 9. I was very happy to see so many parents supporting their children on both Thursday and Friday. It was great to also see our students supporting each other so positively throughout the carnival. Our overall champions for 2013 was Bribie lead by their humble leader Janelle O. It was a fantastic effort from all house captains on the day getting students organised for all events.

The age champions are as follows

- 9 years Boys: Aaron S
- 9 years Girls: Cassie M
- 10 years Boys: Riley E
- 10 years Girls: Chloe H
- 11 Years Boys: Kodi D
- 11 Years Girls: Kirsten P
- 12 Years Boys: Patrick W
- 12 Years Girls: Piper E
- 13 Years Boys: Toby B
- 13 Years Girls: Jessie J

With these results we will now take a strong team to Bramble Bay Trials in 2014 with a team to be very competitive. Thanks again for another great year in sport.

Rob Bernard
HPE Co-ordinator
P&C News

Thank you to all the school families that have supported the slice drive fundraiser this year. We raised a profit of approximately $550. The first batch of tea towel orders have now been delivered to students. The second order has arrived this week and will be handed out to students by Thursday afternoon. A special thank you to Leanne Hayden and Mandy Stiller for organising these fundraisers.

The 2013 year book is now for sale for $15. Every class has a class page in the year book, and it also includes their class photo, as well as pages covering events that occurred at the school during the year. If you have not been able to purchase a copy yet this week, there are copies available in the school administration office. The office can accept cash only or you can pay by EFTPOS at the tuckshop.

On behalf of the P&C Executive, I would like to thank every person that has contributed in the many different ways throughout the school during 2013. The list seems endless, parent and grandparent helpers in classrooms, volunteers in the tuckshop, members of the P&C that attend the monthly meetings, volunteers, teachers and staff that have helped at the various sausage sizzles throughout the year, working bee volunteers, and all helpers every week at swimming club. Thank you also to those families that continually donate food to the tuckshop, goods to be sold at the stalls during the year, and the families that support our many fundraising events. Our P&C would not operate as successfully as it does without all your help. We have had a fabulous year, with many great times, laughs and friendships have been made.

We wish all Geebung State School staff, students and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe, relaxing holiday.

Our next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 11th February 2014 at 7pm in the library, followed by our first general meeting for 2014.

Melissa Ashford
Secretary

Uniform Shop News

The shop will be open prior to the commencement of term 1 on Thursday 23rd January from 9am to 12noon and 4pm to 6pm. Eftpos will be available.

Any polo pre-orders can be picked up on this day or when school commences the following week. The school uniform shop is the only stockist for Geebung State School Polo.

The shop hours for term 1 week one are 8.30am - 9.00am Tuesday to Friday.

From week two the hours are Wednesday 8.15am - 9.00am and Friday 8.15am to 9.15am.

Get ready for 2014 .... formal uniform prices at our external stockists:

Lowes @ Chermside Shopping Centre - Boys Formal Shirts all sizes $27.99 and Girls Formal Dresses all sizes $42.99.

Rowena’s @ 2/613A Robinson Road Aspley - Boys Formal Shirts size 4-8 $27.50, size 10-14 $29.45, size 16+ $31.35 and Girls Formal Dresses size 4-6 $39.90, size 8-10 $41.80, size 12-14 $42.75, size 16+ $43.75.

I would like to wish all students and families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. To those not returning to Geebung State School next year, best wishes in your new school.

Fleur Stanford
Uniform Shop Convenor

Chaplain’s News

It has been another wonderful year for me as chaplain at Geebung State School. I have had the privilege to journey with an amazing group of students, wonderfully dedicated staff and an extremely supportive school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 7 students and those families departing, all the best as they embark on their journeys beyond Geebung State School.

Below I have listed some Christmas services:

**Centrepoint**
Cnr Pfingst and Hamilton Rds, Chermside
Christmas Eve 6.00pm - 7.00pm

**Connect Baptist**
21 Braun St Deagon
Christmas Day 8.30am

**Bridgeman Baptist**
375 Albany Creek Rd Bridgeman Downs
Christmas Eve 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Christmas Day 8.00am

**St Kevins**
Christmas Eve 7.30pm
Christmas day 8.00am

**Wavell Uniting**
Christmas Eve 5.00pm
Christmas Day 8.30am

**Geebung Uniting**
Christmas Day 7.30am

As you spend time with Family and Friends this Christmas. I wonder if you’d stop and consider the deeper meaning of Christmas. The message of Amazing love and hope. And if it has any significance for you.

Merry Christmas

Chaplain Kerry
Adopt-a-Cop Visit to 1S

1S's amazing experience getting to see and having a go at sitting inside a police car. Many thanks to Mr Scott Travers, our adopt-a-cop for this wonderful experience and the safety talk.

Reena Singh
Class Teacher

DEPARTING GEEBUNG STATE SCHOOL ADVICE FORM

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Tuckshop

Tuckshop closes after little lunch on Friday 13th December 2013 for the year. Thank you to all our helpers this year. Please sign up for next year.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

Leanne & Helen PH 3265 5959
Years 4-7 Awards Assembly

Thank you!