Welcome Back!
Hello and welcome to the new school year. I hope you had great Christmas and New Year celebrations and have all kept safe and well. I always enjoyed spending quality time with my children during this time.

A few changes have come into effect this year. Mr Richard Walker will not be returning to Walpole Independent PS for 2013. Richard has been accepted into the Flying Squad and will be based at his local school, Bridgetown, until he is sent off to anywhere in the state, at the drop of a hat, to fill a position temporarily.

Richard often said that if you put your hand in a bucket of water and pull it out, the water will fill the space where your hand was, so it won’t be missed and he uses this analogy for staff in a school. Once you leave, the position fills very quickly and the school moves on. This is quite true, but doesn’t acknowledge that the person and their efforts wouldn’t be missed. We often don’t appreciate what we’ve got until it has gone.

Richard had enormous drive, energy and time that he dedicated to the school. He was the driver, facilitator and supporter of many initiatives at the school. We have solar panels installed, self sufficient water supply for the gardens and ablutions, the orchards, veggie gardens and chooks relocated and built up, the old asbestos classrooms replaced with transportables, a music room, the KP1 play area re-fenced, the aqua culture set up, the introduction of the Canberra camp, an extension maths camp initiated, playground equipment updated and of course the approval to become an Independent Public School has been a huge process. Not taking away from the volunteer efforts of the School Board, School Gardeners, the P&C, other staff and individual parents and community members to see these projects up and running, they would not have been possible without Richard’s support, facilitation and hands on approach, often in his own time.

Richard’s philosophy was always for the benefit of the children and their education, nothing else.

On behalf of the students and staff, I wish both Richard and Jan all the best with their move and hope they enjoy the next phase of their lives in their new home.

Mr Birkin has also retired and is moving back to his home in Wynyard, Tasmania. I would like to wish him and his family all the best with their move and hope they stay happy and healthy.

Staffing arrangements for Term 1, 2013, are as follows:
- Acting Principal: Mrs Lorelle Flett
- KP1: Mrs Kaye Edmonds (Mon & Thurs), Mrs Sherrill Williams (Tues to Fri)
- Education Assistants are Ms Margaret Everett, Ms Laura Arrowsmith and Mrs Lesley Peck.
- Yr 2/3 Mrs Geny Crouch (Mon, Tue, Wed Term 1 only), Ms Ashleigh Cooper (Thurs Term 1 only), Mrs Teague-Robertson (Fri all year)
- Yr 4/5 Mr Jason Tate
- Yr 6/7 Support teacher: Mrs Carolyn Brodie (Wed & Fri mornings)

Mrs Teague-Robertson will be our Phys Ed specialist teacher for 2013 and Mrs Trish Crossley will continue as our music specialist.

I am therefore pleased to introduce to you the new staff members to our school.

Mr Jason Tate, will be the Year 4/5 teacher for 2013. Jason is an enthusiastic new graduate from the University of Notre Dame Australia with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) majoring in Mathematics. Jason grew up in Western View the school newsletter online
Australia enjoying working with a variety of community groups such as Scouts Australia, Red Cross, and Salvation Army. He has played with his local and university hockey teams and was a coach for the junior players.

Jason has worked in a variety of areas while studying, including customer service, food preparation, sales, grounds keeping and most recently was working in the ICT field as Logistics Coordinator for a major company in Perth. He is looking forward to working with the Year 4/5s and helping them reach their goals.

Ms Ashleigh Cooper also graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a major in Mathematics. She enjoys playing sport, especially netball and has been enjoying it for the last 15 years. Other loves are the beach and music of all genres.

While studying, Ashleigh has worked in customer service and food preparation positions and is looking forward to getting to know people in the community.

Ashleigh will be working in the 2/3 class for one day a week during Term 1. She is looking forward to being appointed to a school full time in the future.

Mrs Geny Crouch is an experienced teacher who has worked in both country and metropolitan schools. She has worked predominantly in Year 1/2 classes but has had experience over all primary years and in multi aged groupings. Geny even held a position at Walpole Primary School for Years 1 & 2 in 1994. She has spent the last 3 years teaching Italian in a primary school in Perth.

Geny currently works in reception and administration at Silver Chain on Thursdays and Fridays. She is looking forward to building a home in the area and enjoying all that Walpole has to offer.

Please make yourself known to them when you are next at the school.

Over the holidays there has been one major structure change. The fence around room 1, (the old Kindergarten building), has been altered to encompass the KP1 Room. The students in Kindergarten, Pre-Primary and Year 1 will be using the facilities in both buildings and now have an enlarged, contained play area.

The new playground equipment that was ordered last year is due to arrive on Feb 13th and will be installed as soon as possible.

SCHOOL BOARD
The first meeting for 2013 will be held in the School Library on Monday 13 February. This meeting will allow the School Council members to make the arrangements for the election of our first school board as an Independent Public Primary School. Keep a lookout for the nominations forms that will be out soon after.

Current Council parent members are:
- Glen Burton 98401332 Chairperson
- Kim Burton 98401332
- Deanne Blake 98408836
- Julie Ewing 98401441
- Dave Edmonds 98401105
- Matt Wrigley 98401852
- Antony Egerton-Warburton 98401636
- Lee Cummasskey 98401019

The staff is currently represented by:
- Lorelle Flett  Teacher
- Carolyn Brodie  Teacher

FRIDAY LUNCHES
On Fridays students will be able to order lunch as per 2012. They will receive their meal (eg sandwich, pizza or similar), a piece of fruit and a drink. Students will be required to bring their own plate and cup.

BIG BURGER WEDNESDAY
Order your big burger for lunch this Wednesday.

Beef Burger: beef pattie, lettuce, tomato, beetroot and sauce in a bun.

Lentil Burger: lentil pattie, lettuce, tomato, beetroot and sauce in a bun.

Bring your own cup for homemade lemonade with your burger.

Order forms have been sent home today.

Bell times are:
8.45am Warning Bell
8.50am School commences
10.40am Morning Recess
10.55am Warning Bell
11.00am Second session commences
12.25pm Lunch
01.00pm Warning Bell
01.05pm Afternoon teaching begins
03.00pm School concludes

This configuration allows for 310 minutes of instruction daily.

Kindergarten students attend on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09.00am – 3.00pm providing instruction for the Federal Government’s recommended attendance time of 15 hours per week.

School Fees
The School Council decided not to have school fees this year but include a few extra items on the students kit list that are usually bought with this money. Therefore it is essential that all students come with their complete complement of requirements as soon as possible.

Many thanks. Have a great start to the New Year and if you have any matters that you wish to discuss with me or any of the teachers, please telephone to make a mutually convenient appointment.

Lorelle Flett