Dear Parents,

Our 2015 year has come to a close and what a year it was! It was a year where we implemented a new reporting process across the entire school. (Thank you Megan) For the first time our school performance was ‘Wattle Park Circus’ at a local venue- the Besen Centre. A new perimeter fence was installed around the school along with the planting of an avenue of trees.

An artist in residence worked with the Year 5 students to create an ANZAC memorial trail (which will be installed next year) We have had two ‘Art Shows’, came first in the state of Victoria once again in Chinese Language Perfect and was placed in the top 25% of schools for Mathematics Olympiads.

Two successful camps were held at Camp Coonawarra and Phillip Island Adventure Resort along with a gastro-free Year 2 sleepover!

Many music events were held throughout the year including our school soiree nights and MusicWorld concerts.

Wattle Park Primary school is a great school! The teachers and staff are highly professional and committed. The school achieves outstanding results in curriculum as a result of our excellent school programs and continued parent support.

Last Monday we celebrated the educational journey of our Year 6 students at a gala Graduation Dinner and Presentation ceremony conducted in the school gymnasium.

Special guests included our former principal Mr Nick Farley, Ms Anna Burke (Federal Member for Chisholm), Mr Will Bishop (a Cameron Close representative) and many parents, grandparents, siblings and teachers.
It was indeed a showcase of our students’ singing, dancing and public speaking skills. It was a memorable night for all involved. Our Year 6 Leaders have been a very special group of students who have taken their responsibilities seriously and been wonderful role models for our younger students. We will miss them dearly.

Sincere thanks to all staff who contributed to the Graduation evening especially our Year 6 teachers; Mr Chris Roberts, Mrs Anna Saakjsjarvi and Mrs Annmaria Antonino. Thank you for the fantastic support from the Year 5 parent helpers who made a most significant contribution to this year’s graduation by providing all of the salads for the graduation meal. The salads were scrumptious! Thank you also to the Year 6 parents for decorating the community room turning it into a most salubrious dining room.

Congratulations to William B and Olivia W who were presented with the Nick Farley citizenship award for 2015. A number of families will conclude their association with Wattle Park Primary School as their last child graduates this year. Our best wishes and sincere thanks go to the families for their support and assistance over the years; Bagio, Bagiotas, Bevilacqua, Carter, Chen, Cocks, Dunn, Fitz, Foy, Gay, Griggs, Delbridge, Guymet, Jenkinson, Kyriakou, Kourtis, Macaluso, Luo, Rayner, O’Brien, O’Reilly, Sprague, Sturzenegger, Smith, Wheatley and Yang.

A special goodbye to Mrs Alison Dunn for her 16 year association with the school as canteen manager, PFA president, school council member and standby uniform shop assistant. We can’t imagine the place without Alison! To students who are leaving Wattle Park PS for a range of reasons, before the completion of Year 6, I wish you well at your new schools. I hope you and your families will look upon your time at Wattle Park with fabulous memories.

This year we are saying farewell to four staff members. Mrs Amanda Dwyer who has had a long association with the school, 26 years, is moving to Ivanhoe East Primary School. Amanda has had a distinguished career at Wattle Park Primary School acting in a number of leadership and curriculum roles. We wish Amanda all the very best and thank her for the many contributions she has made to the school particularly in developing the English curriculum across the school.

Mrs Amanda Chetcuti has decided to take a break from teaching fulltime and will take time 12 months leave. I thank Amanda most sincerely for the many different class levels she has taught throughout the school and alongside Amanda Dwyer has contributed enormously to the development of a comprehensive English program across all year levels. Both Amanda’s have driven numerous changes throughout the school.

Ms Julie Nield has been the successful applicant to Ormond Primary School for 2016 teaching Year 6. Julie in her 6 years at Wattle Park has ensured the delivery of rigorous curriculum in both the level 3 & 4 teams creating high functioning teaching teams. Julie has certainly left her mark here at Wattle Park. Teachers and students alike have benefitted enormously from her passion for history.

And lastly, Mr Chris Roberts, who is taking a ‘gap year’ travelling the world for 12 months. Chris filled a temporary position that became available at the beginning of term 1, 2014 and we have kept him ever since! We wish Chris all the very best for a safe year of travel.

The starting day for students in Years Foundation -6 inclusive is Thursday 28th January 2016. The uniform shop will be open on Wednesday 27th January 11.00a.m. -1.00p.m.

The Curriculum Days passed by the School Council for 2016 -
Term 1 Wednesday 27th January (mandated)
Term 2 Monday 11th April (start of Term 2)
Term 3 Monday 11th July (start of Term 3)
Term 4 Monday 31st October (day before Melbourne Cup Day)

Our first whole School Assembly will take place on Monday being the 1st February, at 3.00p.m. in the Gymnasium.

As the year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of all members of our community. To the talented and dedicated staff, exceptional administration team and efficient support staff, thank you.

I would especially like to thank School Council President Mrs Jo Holland and Treasurer Mr Tim Humphries for their unwavering support for the school – staff, administration and community; their leadership of school council; their wise advice on many issues and their passionate and positive conversations both public and private about just how wonderful our school is. Natasha Sinclair and Gemma Anderson who have led the Parent Friends Association are to be congratulated on creating a warm welcoming environment for community members to meet with the aim of promoting community relations and along the way raising an amazing amount of funds for the school. Thank you!
Special thanks to all the parents for their extraordinary support and encouragement. Particular mention must be made of the School Council and Sub Committee members, the Movie Night committee, Parent Helpers; who devote many voluntary hours to ensure Wattle Park continues to be the outstanding school it is.

On a personal note a special thank you to Ms Megan Ganter. Megan is a loyal, trustworthy assistant principal who stands right alongside me. I value her honest, open council and I could not possibly do my job without her considerable knowledge and support. Think Lennon and McCartney, Cope and Ganter is the educational equivalent!

To the Leadership team comprising of Mrs Amanda Dwyer and Mrs Anna Saaksjarvi who are both moving on for 2016, Amanda to Ivanhoe East Primary School and Anna who is expecting twins. I have sincerely valued their insights and suggestions with regard to curriculum and workforce issues. You will both be missed enormously.

Thank you to all members of the Wattle Park Primary School community for your support throughout 2015 and for your many good wishes and words of appreciation.

Have a peaceful, safe and Merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday period. Goodbye Year 6- I will miss you!

Regards Gayle

P.S. Staff/student netball match score- 9 to 2 in favour of the staff. But the staff were very worried this year, the students scored the first goal and the challenge was on!

Thankyou to all who played, it was played in great spirit.
FOUNDATION 2016 ENROLMENTS

It is that time of year when schools are preparing for the following year and student numbers are critical to the school’s staffing structure.

Could you please complete the required Student Admission Enrolment Form if you intend enrolling your child at Wattle Park Primary School in 2016. This form is available from the office or on the school’s website. It can be forwarded by mail if requested.

If you are aware of any families who may live near you and have not enrolled, please encourage them to put in their enrolment forms as soon as possible.
DELISHNESS
THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR CAKE

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Come along for a fun day of baking and decorating!

2 DATES TO CHOOSE FROM:
-Monday 4th January 2016
-Monday 25th January 2016
10am – 3pm

For children aged 8-12 years old

Learn from an award winning sugar flower and cake artist

All equipment, tools and ingredients provided

Each child will take home a decorated cake, cupcakes, sugar figures and more!

Places are limited, so sign up now!

Phone: 0438 820 892