FINAL WEEK OF THE 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

Amazing to think that another year has gone, particularly for our Year 6 Graduating Class of 2014. It only seems like the other day that I was telling the Year 6 children to enjoy the year because it will go quickly enough!

GRADUATION 2014

On Wednesday evening we held the Graduation Dinner and Ceremony at Burrinja for our Year 6 Graduation Class of 2014 and what a great evening it was! The children certainly “scrubbed up well” and looked a treat. The staff and visitors also looked sharp! We had a beautiful meal, with the children being on their best manners. There was also some relaxing time, autograph hunting and enjoyable music & dancing after the meal before the families and visitors arrived for the official presentation ceremony. The Official Ceremony went perfectly with certificates, school mug, photographs and awards being presented. The children’s speeches and presentations were outstanding and the audience was suitably impressed.
**DEPARTING FAMILIES**

I would like to recognise the families who will be ending their association with Upwey Primary School and thank you all for your contributions over a short time for some and long period of time for others.

**PARENTS ENDING AN ASSOCIATION.**

- Freda Dalakouros & Nick Argyropoulos (1 year and a bit)
- Kim & Eddie Gray (3 Years)
- Nerida Portarianos (5 Years) + Portarianos Family with 17 years involvement
- Andrea McCarrick (7 Years)
- Daniel Lawes (7 Years)
- Judy Nicoll (7 Years)
- Steve Sparkman (7 + Years) Including Being A Past Student
- Dionne Tout (8 Years)
- Matt Tout (8 Years)
- Jenny & Eric Staff (13 Years)

As with the Year 6 children we will miss you and hope you have enjoyed your involvement.

**CHILDREN DEPARTING**

Due to some families moving out of the neighbourhood we will be farewelling the following children and wish them all the best in their home moving and good luck at their new school.

Molly S, Marley R, Eva L, Kaitlyn S.

**YEAR 6 AWARDS**

Below is the list of awards presented at the Graduation Ceremony.

**The Principal’s Award (Presented by Malcolm Aspinall)**

RECIPIENT: CAITLIN S

Kay & Chris Rowles’ Year 6 Encouragement Scholarship

RECIPIENT: RHIANNON M

**General Academic Achievement:** RECIPIENT: JIMMY H

**Sporting Achievement:** RECIPIENT: KIANA G

**Citizenship Award:** RECIPIENT: RHIANNON M

**The Arts Achievement, Fine Arts:** RECIPIENTS: AMY N & THULANI H
For our annual end of year excursion to the Cameo Theatre in Belgrave we watched “Penguins of Madagascar” (G) and enjoyed a lunch at the outdoor cinema. It was an excellent excursion with terrific participation and an enjoyable time was had by all.

**CHRISTMAS IN THE HILLS - FAMILY PICNIC & CAROLS EVENING**

Singing and Santa were the highlights at our annual Christmas In The Hills Picnic & Carols Evening held on Tuesday evening. Unfortunately the conditions did not lend themselves to the outdoors so we accommodated everyone in the hall. Thanks again to Santa for making an appearance and providing plenty of cheer.

Grade P/1C presented the carol Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and completed a magnificent rendition (with amazing head costumes made by Mrs Eeles and Natalie O), as did 2E with “An Aussie Christmas”, 3/4G with “Frosty The Snowman” and 5/6S with their own (very clever) version of “The 12 Days of Christmas”. (We were also entertained by Jude F-R who seemed to like centre stage!)

Thanks to all the families who attended and made is such an enjoyable evening. Also thank to the teachers for preparing the children and attending to be part of the “show”. I thank Mrs Weekees who also attended and enjoyed the opportunity to meet many families.

A special thanks to Wendell H & David M for their work in clearing around the amphitheatre in anticipation of using that area. At least it was looking great but a pity we ended up indoors.

**TRANSITION EXPERIENCE 2015**

A Transition Experience was held for all our children on Wednesday this week in preparation for 2015. All children moved to their new grade for 2015 and had a quick taste of what to expect with their new teacher. Thanks again to Mr Weekees who came along and became part of the event.

**RED FACES 2014**

Red Faces was held today with a variety of acts an heaps of entertainment. The performances demonstrated the talents and skills of our children. Congratulations to all the children who “had a go” and performed in front of the audience and thanks to the many visitors who attended. Special mention to the judges Cheryl S, Mrs Eeles and Liam S who did a marvellous job and judged very fairly...on the whole!! Congratulations to the placegetters on their amazing efforts.

1st Place – Caitlin S – Solo flute “Christmas Carols”
2nd Place – 5/6S with their original version of “12 Days of Christmas”. Jack H & Adam W – “We Will Rock You”

**BALLOON WORKSHOP – END OF YEAR INCURSION**

Steve Wickenton held his “Ultimate Balloon Workshop” for the whole school last Friday, and what a special occasion it was. We had amazing looking balloon outfits on children as they left on Friday and I am sure the children involved enjoyed the activity, and the parents enjoyed the outfits.

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For Your Information

**EARLY DISMISSAL TODAY**

On Friday 19th December dismissal will occur at 1:30 pm. The final assembly for the year is to be held at 1:10 pm and all parents are welcome to attend. The Christmas Hamper Raffle will be drawn at this assembly as will the Working Bee draw for all those who have attended working bees this year. The Bendigo Bank Scholarship award for a Year 6 recipient will also be presented at this assembly by Luan Hanlen, the bank Manager at Upwey Bendigo Bank.

**ATTENDANCE AWARDS 2014**

Today, the last day of Term 4, I presented Attendance Awards for children with excellent attendance records this term. Gold (100% attendance this term) and Silver (94 – 99% attendance this term) awards were presented. Congratulations to the children who received these awards that recognise those with outstanding attendance records.

**SCHOOL RETURN DATES FOR 2015**

Staff will be returning to school for the start of the 2015 school year on Wednesday 28th January. Our office will be open on this day.

Staff will also be attending Professional Learning on Thursday 29th January.

Children will be returning to school on Friday 30th January.

We will also look forward to welcoming our new Prep children for 2015 on Friday 30th January for the whole day. They will then have each Wednesday off school for February.

**WRITTEN REPORTS - END OF THE YEAR**

December Written Reports for Semester 2 were distributed last Friday 12th December. I hope all parents appreciated the reports and the effort the teachers have put in to accurately assess progress throughout the semester. Please complete the Parent Comment page and return the page for photocopying for us to complete our records. Thanks in anticipation.

**STAFFING CHANGE FOR 2015 – WELCOME MR WEEKES**

Mr Andrew Weekees will be beginning at Upwey PS next year. He has been selected to take up the Grade 3/4 classroom teaching position.

**STAFFING CHANGE FOR 2015 – FAREWELL MISS WEATHERLAKE**

Miss Weatherlake will be finishing at the end of this year so the last day of Term 4 will be an opportunity time for parents to thank her for her wonderful contribution to Grade 3/4 and the whole school.

**STAFFING CHANGE FOR 2015 – FAREWELL SANDRA & HAYLEY**

Sandra Hartley and Hayley Warton (Integration Aides) will also be leaving Upwey PS at the end of the year and again the end of the year will be an opportunity for those connected to these staff members to show appreciation for their considerable involvement as part of our school community.
STAFFING CHANGE FOR 2015 – FAREWELL SAM
Sam Carey will be finishing at the end of this year so the last day of Term 4 will be her last day at Upwey PS. I would like to thank her for her great service, commitment and involvement at our school over 7 years as the BASC co-ordinator. Sam plans to seek more full-time employment in 2015 and we will wish her all the best for her future direction. A replacement has not been nominated as yet.

OUT OF UNIFORM DAY AND CLASS PARTIES – THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER
Our Out of Uniform Free Dress day and Class Party day will be held next week on Thursday 18th December. On the Class Party day children will be invited to attend in Out of Uniform and provide a gold coin donation as fundraising for the charity decided upon by the Junior School Council which is the Dandenong Relief Committee. The Theme for Free Dress is a choice between “Colours” or “Christmas Spirit”. Further details on the composition of Class Parties will be provided by individual classroom teachers.

CLASSROOM KRIS KRINGLE
The staff has again decided to support a Kris Kringle activity for the last day of school this year (Friday 19th December). All children will be invited to participate within each grade and bring a small gift for another child in the grade (no food items thanks). A separate notice will be distributed in regard to this matter. It is a choice activity - not compulsory for children to participate. The value of the gift is requested to be between $5 to $8 dollars.

CLASSROOM HOUSE COMPETITION
Corella are the winners of the House Competition held on all classes for Semester 2. They also won the competition in Semester 1. Congratulations to all members of Corella for their contribution to this outstanding achievement.

THANKS
SIGNATURE BEARS- YEAR 6 CHILDREN
A special thanks to Kay Goodall (and a few others) for great assistance in organising and sewing the Signature Bears for the Year 6 children. The unbelievable time and effort Kay puts in indicates her commitment to the school and the children and this huge contribution is very much appreciated. We will have to make sure that after she retires we are able to get her back on the job next year. I hope the Year 6 children give her a big hug and a thank you in appreciation.

GRADUATION PROJECTOR
A big thanks to Steve W who opportunely came into the Burrinja Café during set up of the digital presentation by the Year 6 children for Graduation, and expertly hooked up the digital projector (even though Mr A had the situation under control).

REMINDERS
BOOKLIST & VOLUNTARY LEVIES FOR 2015
School Fees for 2015 will be $290 for the first child and $240 for the second child (This includes a $50 B & G levy-refundable on attending a working bee.) The Booklist component of the school fees will be $160. Information sheets, with a detailed cost breakdown, have been distributed to all families.

The minimum payment anticipated will be $160 (booklist section) and will be due during the hours indicated on the booklist information. Payments may alternatively be made before the end of the year or at the beginning of 2015. Direct Deposit will available. Please contact Kay or Cindy in regards to payments.

PRINCIPAL’S CLOSING MESSAGE
WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL & SAFE HOLIDAY BREAK
2014 has been such a busy and productive year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all children, parents and families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Children will need a well-deserved break and I hope they enjoy their holidays thoroughly. To the parents and families I thank for your wonderful support and hope that you are able to enjoy the time with your children. Have a great time and look forward to another busy and exciting year ahead in 2015.

THANKS TO OUR HARD WORKING STAFF
Thank you to all the staff for your continued support and wonderful effort during 2014. It has been an extremely busy, eventful and exciting year (particularly Term 4) with everyone contributing so well to Upwey PS. It was also great to welcome Miss Gallagher, Ms Wood and Miss Weatherlake as our new teachers to the fold during the year. Have a relaxing and extremely well-deserved and exciting holiday break (if you can) and be ready for the challenges of 2015.

Malcolm Aspinall
Principal
CLASS OF 2014
Term 1, 2015 - Upwey Primary School

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BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Hi all.
As some of you already know, today is my last day at Upwey Primary school. It has been an absolute pleasure to work here for the past seven years. I will miss all of you & I'm sure I'll see many of you around Upwey. Have a great Christmas and an even better 2015. Sam.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF OUR FAMILIES AT UPWEY PS.
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS AND STAY SAFE.
SEE YOU IN 2015 FROM KAY AND CINDY