Dear Parents and Carers,

As we complete the 2013 school year and look forward to the coming holiday season, it is important to reflect on our achievements during the year in order to prepare for further progress in the coming year. On the Pleasant Road Campus, the Junior sub-school has continued to increase in student enrolments and has been supported by the leadership of our assistant principal, Barbara Smith, leading teacher Kelly La Combre and A.B.A. coordinator Cate Ord. The Senior sub-school has been led by assistant principal Davina Bate and leading teacher Debra Atherton, with specialist staff supported by Eve Dare.

The Manningham Road Campus commenced the year with another four portable classrooms accommodating new students. This year Paul Gledhill has supported the team there as acting assistant principal, with leading teachers Rohan Gosden and Kate Roberts. Together, with the dedicated teams of teachers, education support staff and multi-disciplinary team our students have continued to progress in academic, social and personal learning areas as reflected in the new Australian curriculum, AusVELS, transition programs and TAFE.

I would like to acknowledge the support to the school community by our psychologist Ieuan Williams, speech therapist Val Gledhill, occupational therapists Delphine Glasco and Kate Lambeth and DEECD staff Marg Bianchi and Jenny Hung. The integrated approach between these professionals and our teaching staff is a critical part of the successful approach to teaching and learning programs implemented with the students.

Throughout the year we have facilitated Cultural Diversity Week, Education and Autism Week and Health and Nutrition Week. It has been wonderful to see so many parents and friends of the school visit and join in the programs and activities throughout these special weeks. The continued success of the annual whole school sports day compliments Health and Nutrition Week and we are so pleased that so many parents and friends join us on this day.

Nine young adults are graduating from Bulleen Heights School in 2013. We celebrated their achievements at a magnificent graduation dinner last week. To our graduates congratulations and our best wishes go with you as you transition to your respective post school programs. Thank you for the privilege of working with you all and for the contribution you have made to the culture and history of Bulleen Heights School. We wish you well in your chosen post-school option with the confidence that, as young adults, you are well prepared for life beyond Bulleen Heights.

I would like to thank our Parents and Friends Association whose members have facilitated many events to raise significant funds and support for the school community throughout the year. The School Council under the presidency of Kathy Havers and the members of our governance team have demonstrated a keen focus on meeting the needs of the students, families and school community. Thank you all for your tireless work.

I wish you a Merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year and a vacation that provides many opportunities for staff and students to relax and enjoy time with families and friends. I am looking forward to another exciting and rewarding year in 2014 that will continue on our path to reach new heights in the educational provision for students with autism spectrum disorder.

Yours Sincerely,

Susan Merjan