PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We commenced 2014 with a change in the structure of our school to a primary and secondary aged model. This has been embraced by students and families in a very positive way with many commenting on the appropriateness of the ages of the students learning together on the campus environments.

The challenge for our school community continues to be to ensure that quality resources, facilities, staffing and teaching and learning programs are spread between the two campuses. Manningham Road campus will continue to have a prominent focus in our Strategic four year and longer term plans for development of a secondary campus. The future direction will need to meet the needs of our young adolescents and adults and prepare them for the 21 Century and the challenges and opportunities in their post-school lives.

Throughout the year we have facilitated Education and Autism Week and Health and Nutrition Week. These weeks provide an opportunity for collaboration and positive contributions by all members of the school community. We come together to learn and share enjoyment in a well-planned and friendly manner. 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.

This year we farewell seventeen students who have completed their education at BHS and move to post-school placements. We are also very proud to see three secondary students move to full time TAFE courses and in total twelve students in the primary school move to mainstream schools. Our dual enrolment students will number twenty-six in 2015. Our partnership with all of the schools is amazing and provides networks of knowledge, collaboration and sharing of knowledge which is exemplary. Our local primary school, Templestowe Valley deserves a special mention, as they support our students learning programs by sharing with three buddy programs and a kitchen garden program each week for our primary school students. We also partner in ADVANCE programs with Templestowe College, Doncaster Secondary and Doncaster East Secondary schools, we value their contributions to our students programs.

I would like to thank our committed and hard working Parents and Friends Association. Our students at both campuses will all benefit from your fundraising activities. Well done and again thank you! This year our school council comprised of a number of new members. I have sincerely appreciated the support of all school councillors and the work they have conducted throughout the year. Our president, Kathy Havers has made an outstanding contribution and our governance body has developed into a cohesive and committed team. My thanks are extended to all councillors for their support of myself, our leadership team and our teachers and education support staff.

At this time each year it is imperative that I acknowledge the huge team of passionate and professional teachers and education support staff who choose to work at Bulleen Heights. They are a diverse team who bring amazing talents and skills to our teaching and learning practice and provide the students with loyal and dedicated service. The school is supported by a number of larger teams whose contributions can be seen across both campuses. Many thanks to the leadership team, multi-disciplinary team, ICT team and ABA teams for your on-going support.

Regards

Susan Merjan

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year