Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the School Community

**Welcome Back**
Welcome back to the 2013 school year. I hope you all have had a refreshing and enjoyable break. 2013 promises to be another busy and productive year of teaching and learning. I know teaching staff have been working for some time to plan and prepare interesting programs for their students. A special welcome to all the new families joining our school community for the first time. A very warm welcome to our following new permanent staff members:

Mrs Alison Bampton - is a highly regarded and experienced educator. Alison comes to Weld Square PS after two years at Balga PS and has special expertise in Early Childhood Education and English as a Second Language. She has also worked in the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

Dr Eli Nathan - is a highly qualified teacher with both a M.Ed. and PhD from the University of WA. Eli has had many years experience teaching in North Metropolitan Regional schools, most recently Bayswater PS and North Perth PS.

**Changes and continuing the good work**
This year will see the full implementation (including assessment and reporting) of the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics and Science at Weld Square PS. This will mean that Weld Square PS will be ahead of many other schools who are still only at a planning stage. Teachers will also be trialling aspects of the new History curriculum. Detailed information about the new Australian Curriculum is available to all parents from the ACARA website, www.acara.edu.au.

Weld Square PS will continue with its excellent programs in Asia Literacy (a Department of Education priority), Pastoral Care and Health and Physical Education. Sandy Clifton our School Chaplain will be continuing to offer practical pastoral support to students and all community members. Sandy has also taken a key role in implementing and supporting the Buz Ranger program this year. Quinten Going will also be back conducting his mentoring and Student Leadership program. The very successful Bluearth program will also continue to operate for PP-7 classes. Weld Square PS is one of a limited number of schools who are not only running classes, but now have most staff as trained facilitators.

The Chinese New Year - 2013 The Year of the Black Water Snake
The Chinese New Year 2013 begins on 10 February and is the Year of the Snake. According to Chinese astrology, the associated colour for water is black, so 2013 is the Year of the Black Water Snake.

In Chinese folklore the Snake is a symbol of intelligence, gracefulness and materialism - they enjoy luxury. People born in the Year of the Snake are supposed to be influential, insightful, analytical and motivated in business. Check our notice boards for information about the free community events this weekend.

Early Childhood Education Playground Development
During the vacation break, P&C President Helen Bolin (who worked tirelessly in the heat), parent Vu Nguyen and a number of other specialised trades people have been working diligently to implement our Early Childhood Education Playground plan. A special thank you and acknowledgement goes to Associate Principal, Maria van der Linden for her initiative and coordinating the plan and site works.

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Glen Cookson
Principal