Dear Parents & Carers,
This will be the final Newsletter for 2011, and my final Newsletter as Principal of Walkerston State School. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support of myself and the school over the last four years. I have valued my time as Principal at Walkerston and will take many fond memories with me as I leave. We have achieved so much together and I will very much miss the whole school community. Thank you all for your good wishes in recent days.

Mr Jeff Bull is no longer available to take up the position of Principal. Mr Phil Wilson will be our new Principal for 2012. Mr Wilson is a highly regarded and very respected Mackay Principal, currently at Mackay Central State School, and I am thrilled that he will be taking care of Walkerston for the new school year. I am sure the school will continue to flourish under his excellent leadership.

Below is a transcript from my end of year report at the 2011 Walkerston State School Awards night. Please see the list of award recipients included in this newsletter and join us in congratulating them all.

2011 has been another very successful year for Walkerston State School. There have been many highlights this year. Some of these have included: The opening of our new hall, achieving excellence in sport at all levels, Dance Fever, a new website (check it out!), two wonderful school camps for the 6s and 7s, fantastic entries in the Eisteddfod achieving high scores including a 2nd place for our Choir and a highly commended for our band, Swimming Carnival, the breathtakingly fantastic school musical… Hoodwinked, and the list goes on, It has certainly been a great year. As this is my last Awards Night I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved as a school community in the last 4 years. There have been so many, but I believe the main achievements have been:

*Increased enrolment from 317 beginning 2008 to 400 end of 2011, *Improved Infrastructure in a New Hall, Tuckshop, Library Extension and 3 new classrooms and classroom makeovers, *The implementation of straight year levels as opposed to all multi-age, *The launching of our new school Website this year (thanks to Mr Howard and Mr Hurley)*Improved Learning Outcomes, especially in the areas of Numeracy and Writing, *Employment of a Chaplain, *Formation of a successful Chess Club, *Implementation of a Breakfast Club. (Just to name a few!)

I would also like to take this opportunity, to thank our wonderful staff who work so hard for our students. I can honestly say that every staff member goes over and above the call of duty to ensure that our children are given every opportunity to achieve and to develop to their full potential. We sadly end this year by saying goodbye to many of these wonderful staff. Leaving staff include: Mrs McIntyre who has moved to Brisbane, Mr Howard who is moving to Herberton, Miss Diaz who is relocating to Western Australia, Chappy Vicky who has moved to New South Wales and Mrs Groark who has transferred back to special education, but who will still be in the Pioneer Valley. We wish them all the very best for the future and thank them for their very valuable input into our school. Their leaving has left huge gaps to be filled in the fibre of our school culture and community as they all played vital parts in various elements of our school life. They will all be very much missed. And then of course we have to say goodbye to our 5 ‘mothers to be’ as they begin their Maternity Leave: Mrs Brandon, Miss Clifford, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs McNamarra and Mrs Pershouse. We wish you all the very best for the coming year.

I would also like to recognise the fantastic efforts of our P&C and wider community who work so tirelessly for our school. Thankyou to our much valued P&C committee, President Mrs Toni-Maree Dodd, committee and members, who have made a hercules effort this year to raise money for our school, and have provided us with wonderful opportunities and events such as the great carols day we had today, and their financial support of our Year 7 Canberra trippers and other wonderful events such as The Mothers and Fathers Day Stalls, The fair, The craft show, Melbourne Cup Day, Walkerthon, Tuckshop etc...
Every thing they do, they do for our children and our school. As the Principal, but also as a parent, and on behalf of all parents, I would like to thank you for all that you have done. Thank you also to breakfast club volunteers, our tuckshop workers, our parents who provide transport and help supervise our sporting events and excursions. We are so blessed to have parents who are willing to take on huge jobs such as setting up for band every day, training our touch football team and managing wardrobe and sets for our school musicals…you are an integral part of our school and we value what you all do very, very much. Last but not least thank you to our classroom helpers who support our teachers in our classrooms and beyond. We thank you all for your support throughout the year.

We couldn’t operate without you and we certainly wouldn’t be the school we are today without your valuable input.

My final thank yous for the year go to our wonderful students. Their collective ownership, pride and support of their school makes Walkerston a very special place in which to work and I have truly been very fortunate to have been their Principal. I would like to make special mention of the Year 7s for this year. They have been a very special group who have been very proactive in the daily life of the school. To our two School Captains, Chloe Baulch and Whitney Abbott, and our two Vice Captains, Madison Scriba and Fraser Anderson, a very special thank you for your help and support over the last 12 months. They have been fine ambassadors for our school and I have been very proud of them. I would like to make special mention of their leadership and initiative with our student council this year. This group have been the most active and effective student council we have had in recent years. We were a little late getting started for the year but they have certainly made up for it in their endeavours since then, being very proactive in all areas of school life. I am particularly proud of their most recent endeavour where they have worked with local community businesses to raise toys and books to deliver to the local hospitals for children who may be in hospital on Christmas day this year. We are very proud of you all and thank you for your many hours of work on this endeavour.

On behalf of the staff and students of Walkerston State School, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous New Year…..

**REPORT CARDS**

Report cards have been issued with this newsletter. When reading your child’s report card it is important to remember that all students develop and learn at different rates and in very individual ways. The A- E reporting standards are used throughout Queensland and describe the levels of achievement that can be assigned to a collection of evidence provided by the student. A ‘C’ is given to students whose work typically demonstrates a sound level of knowledge and understanding of concepts, facts and procedures, and application of processes. A ‘C’ is cause for celebration as it means the student has been able to demonstrate that they have achieved what they need to achieve at their current level and are ready for the next semester of learning.

**CAROLS CONCERT**

What a lovely day we all had last Thursday! A very warm thank you to our P&C organising committee for arranging such a lovely day for the children. The classes had been working hard on their items and we were entertained with an excellent carols concert performed beautifully by the children. Thank you to the staff for their efforts with this. The concert was followed by a visit from Santa himself who arrived with great excitement aboard a big red fire engine! Thank you to Mr Chopping for arranging Santa’s visit. The students each received a book, a bag of lollies, watermelon and an Icy Pole…all very generously provided by the P&C committee.
P&C NEWS

NO TUCKSHOP THIS FRIDAY

Tuckshop Convenor
Expressions of Interest are called for the position of Assistant Tuckshop Convenor. This paid position is for 8 hours per week. The Tuckshop operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the make-up of the 8 hours is to be discussed with the Tuckshop Convenor. Expressions of Interest are being requested now with the successful applicant commencing work at the start of Term 1, 2012. Expressions of Interest are to be addressed to the P&C President and can be posted in the P&C Box in the office. All Expressions of Interest need to be received by the P&C Committee by Monday 6th February 2012.

Fair Co-Coordinator / Fair Committee
The P&C Committee are looking for volunteers to form a committee to organize the 2012 School Fair. Anyone willing to help out can contact the P&C President Toni-Maree Dodd on 0418186832 or P&C Secretary Wendy Windsor on 0438890269. The fair is scheduled for Saturday 28 July 2012. If a Fair Co-Coordinator has not been allocated by the end of February the fair will NOT be able to go ahead.

COMMUNITY NEWS

WESTS NETBALL IS LOOKING FOR COACHES FOR 2012
Wests Netball are looking for coaches for the 2012 Netball Season. We are hoping to have teams in all age groups from U/9’s up to and including Senior’s. If we do not have enough coaches then we may not be able to run some teams and unfortunately this may impact on some of our players. You do not have to have a child playing with our club to coach. Training times can be arranged to suit your schedule. Please contact Caroline at stratford38@bigpond.com or Rosemary on 0400702797 for more information.

THANK YOU
Thank you to Just4Kids Hire for bringing a jumping castle free for the Prep students on Incentive Day.

FOR SALE
3 BOYS MIRANI HIGH FORMAL SHIRTS - $15 each
3 BOYS UNIFORM SHIRTS - $5 each
EXCELLENT CONDITION
Phone 0439853419

THANK YOU WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL
A big thank you to Walkerston State School Community for their generous support in donating to needy families this Christmas.
Dr Peter Wright Regional President of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

ST JOHN’S PARISH WALKERSTON PROPOSED SACRAMENT DATES 2012

Year 4 or older
Parent Information Evening for confirmation 1/2/2012
Sacrament of Confirmation – 4/3/2012
Parent Information Evening for First Eucharist - 8/4/2012
Sacrament of First Eucharist – 13/5/2012
Year 3 or older
Parent Information Evening for Penance – 9/5/2012
Sacrament of Penance – 6/6/2012
WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL  
AWARD PRESENTATIONS ~ 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Runner-up</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Class Music</th>
<th>Class HPE</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Most Improved</th>
<th>Citizenship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lauren Jones</td>
<td>Elyse Harding</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Rubylee Stockwell</td>
<td>Campbell Harder</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Jack McMullen</td>
<td>Demi Orr</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sarah Brett</td>
<td>Baden Robinson</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Felicity Case</td>
<td>Koby Townsend</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Mykie Roche</td>
<td>Alyssa Germanotta</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jade Murry</td>
<td>Alex Mackenzie</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Suzanna Miller</td>
<td>Sam Townsend</td>
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<td>Kristine Ganalon</td>
<td>Felicity Case</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Jessica Grech</td>
<td>Sean Baker Joshua Harding</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jessica Grech</td>
<td>Tait Poli</td>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Lydia Jones</td>
<td>Sarah Middleton</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mason Clifford</td>
<td>Riley Nicholas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Riley Nicholas</td>
<td>Mason Clifford</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Dylan Kay</td>
<td>Belicia Ritchie</td>
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<td>Clare Pullen</td>
<td>Isaac Pinkard</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clare Pullen</td>
<td>Rhys Head</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Pieter Boosyen</td>
<td>Hayley Galea</td>
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Medal for English Excellence:  
Sarah Brett, Hunter Gilham, Lauren Jones, Jade Murry, Baden Robinson, Jack Thompson, ,  

Medal for Maths Excellence:  
Sarah Brett, Felicity Case, Amy Dean, Eden Falconer, Elyse Harding, Lauren Jones, Brodie McCowat, Caitlin Morris, Isaac Pinkard, Alice Pullen, Clare Pullen, Baden Robinson, Madison Scriha, Jack Thompson, Fraser Anderson.

YEAR 7 DUX  
Fraser Anderson

YEAR 7 PROX  
Madison Scriha, Anthony Draper, Hayley Heel

YEAR 7 ALL ROUNDER SPORT  
Madison Scriha

YEAR 7 CULTURAL  
Madison Scriha

YEAR 7 CITIZENSHIP  
Nicole Kay

YEAR 7 ENCOURAGEMENT  
Emma Addis

YEAR 7 CONSISTENCY  
Amy Dean

YEAR 7 INSTRUMENTAL  
Amy Dean

YEAR 7 LOTE  
Fraser Anderson