Principal’s Report

100 MINI LAPTOPS BOUGHT. We have purchased mini laptops for year 1 and year 2. Each child will have the use of the laptop to assist with the acquiring of skills in literacy and numeracy. The teachers of the classes will undergo an online course so that they are better equipped to get the most from the laptops. The purpose is to give our younger students every opportunity to develop essential skills so that progress is easier in the upper grades. It is envisaged that in term 4 the laptops will be sent into the Prep years to get them skilled and ready for year 1.

MORE RESOURCES BOUGHT. With the generous support of our community in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program we have been able to buy over $5000 worth of equipment for the students. Most of the equipment is ‘hands on’ so that students can be more engaged in learning activities. A fair proportion of the equipment is aimed at enhancing the explicit teaching episodes that are used throughout the school.

AWARDS NIGHT. On December 5 we will be holding our annual Awards Night. It is a time to recognise student effort and achievement. We recognise A & B achievers in English and Mathematics so this year we introduce a 'Most Industrious Award' to replace the Year 1 to 6 Academic Award which is duplicated by the A & B achievers award. The Most Industrious Award will recognise students who are relentless in their efforts. The Most Improved Award will go to students who have made significant improvement in an area such as reading, behaviour, mathematics etc. I’m excited about broadening the range of awards to bring more students into the calculations for individual awards. The year 7 students will still retain their range of awards including Dux and Dux Proximus.

CYSTIC FIBROUS FUND RAISER. This week the students have decided to get behind Cystic Fibrosis research by wearing either red socks (the CF colour) or odd socks. Clare Pullen our 2012 school captain is a fundraiser for this worthy cause and our Student Council has thrown its support towards the fundraiser. Once again we request a gold coin donation.

SPORTY AWARD. Jedd Abbott has been nominated for the Sports Person of the Year awards to be held next week at Magpies. The nominations are made by the officials of the team who managed the students. Congratulations Jedd and good luck.

REPORTS AND ASSESSMENT. As you are aware teachers are testing and preparing reports. This year it has been made more difficult due to the cutting of the cables during the recent break in and subsequent thefts. Several blocks do not have internet or communication and this has made everyone’s job more difficult. Thanks for the efforts of the staff and students working with those difficulties.
**CHRISTMAS LITURGY**

*The Empty Christmas Tree*

*Monday 25th November*

All non perishable grocery items can be brought to school on that day or dropped into the school office beforehand and will be distributed by St Vincent de Paul to needy families in the Valley Community. All donations are greatly appreciated.

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**REMINDER NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

Queensland Transport Bus Travel Assistance Application Forms for students commencing Year 8 in 2014 are required to be sent back to Mackay Transit Coaches by 06 December 2013. Enquiries please phone 49573330.

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**Pinnacle Playhouse**

*on 15th December*

*a big taste of the Woodford Folk Festival, right here in our own backyard.*

Tickets priced at only $25, students and concession at $15 and accompanied children 13 and under getting in free, the Festival of Small Halls is perfect for getting a group of friends or family together for a great pre-Christmas night out.

This is the first of a huge series of tours planned by the Woodford Folk Festival under the Small Halls banner, and the artists are a perfect indication of the quality and caliber of the shows Queensland can expect in future. Doors open 4.30pm | First Act 5pm | Interval 5.50pm | Second Act 6.30pm | End 7.30pm.

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**Absences**

Shortly, teachers will be asking you to record unexplained absences. The system requires that we supply reasons for absences eg. Sick, personal, holiday, etc.

Please take the time to fill in the form and our apologies for any “doubling up” if your initial reason was not recorded.