From the Principal – Denise Lockrey

Wonderful Happenings at Wenty!

As this is the final newsletter for 2016, I would like to extend my well wishes for a joyous Christmas and restful break over the holiday period. I trust you have a wonderful time with family and friends and take time to relax and refresh in readiness for 2017!

To our families who are leaving, I wish you all the very best for you and your children in your new setting. To our families leaving us as their last child is in Year 6, all the very best for High School! Thank you for your time spent here at Wentworthville PS.

Important 2017 Dates

Friday January 27 – Staff Development Day (No students)
Monday January 30 - Students Years 1-6 arrive
Monday January 30 - Wednesday Feb 1 –Kindergarten Best Start Interviews
Thursday February 2 –Kindergarten cohort start 9.15am

We had a wonderful Presentation Day celebrating student achievement at the Redgum centre on Monday. Thanks you to all the parents and extended family that joined us on this great day.

(Continued on page 2)
I have included some of my speech from the Year 3-6 session to share with you about some reflections on the year that was.

“Growing and changing” are words I have thought of often over the last year as Principal at Wentworthville Public School and as we celebrated 125 years of Public Education at WPS. The school has been growing and changing – you just have to drive around the environs and see the housing development and cranes! We have regular enrolment enquiries as families move in to the area.

I would like to thank the staff for a tremendous year in teaching and caring for all the children at WPS as they have grappled and implemented new curriculum and sought learning experiences that seek to engage your children and support them in being resilient young people who are life-long learners. We grew a class throughout 2016, hit the magic 500 students and reclaimed three teaching spaces from the Parramatta College to facilitate this growth for 2016 and into next year. The teachers have committed themselves to implementing our three strategic directions:

♦ Embedding a strong curriculum knowledge that enhances learning for every student
♦ An engaged learning community
♦ Developing leadership and building capacity

We have re-launched the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) and embarked on the positive Mental Health initiative and are a KidsMatter School, where we promote positive Social and Emotional learning.

Like a family, we too have had our events as a staff, including: engagements, marriages, babies born, becoming grandparents for the first time, survived having children experience the HSC, dealt with family sickness and deaths, managed elderly parents, had some staff retire and some seek promotion! In all of this the staff have been cohesive and supportive of each other and for that I am thankful.

I would particularly like to thank the executive team for their collegial support and dedication as we lead and manage the school together. Thanks to Mrs Rafidi, Mrs Di Chio, Mrs Cozad, Mrs Eastwood and Mrs Boersma. They are a fine group of educators and leaders.

The administration and support staff have also worked together well to bring about a welcoming and smooth operation as the ‘face of our school’, particularly amidst the massive changes that have occurred this year with the new financial system in LMBR. This is a fine example of people working together, despite challenges for the betterment of the school. Mrs Deuis and Mrs Sargent have been at the forefront of these changes and have supported our school and the broader Admin team in a positive manner as we adjust to the new way of operating.

I would also like to thank the P&C, led capably by Mrs Nithi Mathiseelan and the P&C Executive and the team of parents who volunteer their time in various capacities throughout the school – in canteen, uniform shop, in classrooms, at monthly P&C meetings, on merit selection panels and as helpers at various excursions, as well as various other volunteering capacities. As a school we benefit from your partnership and I look forward to building this together into the future. A fine example of this partnership with the parent body was the Yandina Project which has improved the
school grounds immensely. The P&C contribute $10,000 to the project and was successful in gaining a community grant from Wenty Leagues for $7,000. A huge achievement indeed and betterment for our students!

**Some key highlights in 2016 include:**

- Our 125th birthday celebration
- Our students performing recently at our school ‘Wenty’s Got Talent’ and many students participated in the Creative Arts throughout the year, performing at the Opera House, Riverside Theatre, local Happy Club for Senior Citizens and at the recent Christmas Carols in Parramatta
- Many students improving their literacy skills, involved in MiniLit, increasing their borrowing of books from the library and participating in the Premiers Reading Challenge
- Many students developing their numeracy skills
- Participation in the dance program with the Sports Pro initiative and the social skills program with SiSA and taking the opportunity to represent the school in PSSA sport
- Actively participating in the Cleanup Australia Day event and being honoured with being the 2016 Cool Green Kids in Australia. Mr Ian Kiernan came to the school and presented the award.
- Very successful Stage 2 and 3 overnight excursion experiences that has meant many students have developed their educational experiences away from the formal classroom setting and built up resiliency skills
- Our 2016 student leaders have provided great leadership within the school alongside our active SRC who have raised significant funds for charities throughout the year, a fine sign of the students caring for others in need. Our student leaders look very smart in the new leader’s blazers that were purchased this year.

Days like today do not just happen. They occur because of the dedication and willingness to give up time and energy to work with others and manage all the logistics and behind the scenes work to bring about student recognition. I particularly would like to thank Mrs Mandy Moorhouse & Miss Marie Chamoun who have organised a range of people and logistics to support today’s event. Thank you.

Our children still need the support and encouragement of every person here to realise their true potential. We need to have the courage to support them in their endeavours. We look for your continuing support as we undertake the most significant task of educating your children for the future that is both **growing and changing**. On behalf of the students and the staff I wish you a happy holiday season and look forward to partnering with you in 2017.”
We also announced the student leaders for 2017. Please see the list below of dedicated students who I look forward working with in 2017.

2017 Wentworthville PS student leaders

**Girl School Leaders**
- Chloe F – School Captain
- Anika P
- Isabel R
- Jallení S A
- Sanatani M

**Boy School Leaders**
- AliKashif J – School Captain
- Dinura J
- Elijah N
- Naman M

**Lawson House (Yellow)**
- Girl House Captain – Nancy R
- Girl House Vice Captain – Akshita B
- Boy House Captain – Sujay A
- Boy House Vice Captain – Arnav T

**Kendal House (Blue)**
- Girl House Captain – Sasha P
- Girl House Vice Captain – Avantika M

*Boys to be announced in 2017*

**Paterson House (Red)**
- Girl House Captain – Mamathi P
- Girl House Vice Captain – Visha P
- Boy House Captain – James A
- Boy House Vice Captain – Sai K N

**Gordon House (Green)**
- Girl House Captain – Aesha S
- Girl House Vice Captain – Riddhi S
- Boy House Captain – Mak W

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**Staffing Update**

Mrs Boersma – one of our Stage 3 teachers has been relieving Assistant Principal at our school for Terms 3 and 4.

She has been successful in gaining a short term relieving Assistant Principal at Clovelly PS for Terms 1-3, 2017 teaching a Stage 3 class. We wish her well in her leadership and career development and know that Wentworthville’s loss is Clovelly’s gain.

At this point in time Mrs Boersma is due back in Term 4, 2017.
**Uniform Shop Openings**

Our wonderful uniform shop volunteers who help our families organise children into uniforms will be open the following days and times in the **first three weeks of school in 2017** to support families with school uniforms:

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Monday January 30</td>
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<td>Monday February 13</td>
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<td>Thursday February 16</td>
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Denise Lockrey—Principal

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**High School Transition Program**

During Weeks 7 and 8 Stage Three students participated in a high school transition program. The aim of this program is to give students a taste of high school so that they are better prepared to make the transition from primary to high. This program was enjoyed by all involved and students studied subjects such as TAS, Science, Health and Visual Arts. We were honoured to have Mr Yousef, Ms Fonti and students from Pendle Hill High School come to WPS during this program to work with our students on reading timetables, making friends and dealing with conflicts in high school. We thank them for their time and knowledge.

Mrs Eastwood

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**In the line by Five to Nine**

**Congratulations to the following students who received a prize for being in the line by 5 to 9**

**Week 9 Term 4**

- **Kindergarten:** Jainil Darbar KD
- **Year 1:** Harleen Singh 1Z
- **Year 2:** Thiraphat Wongwai 1/2R
- **Year 3:** Divjot Grewal 3M
- **Year 4:** Athou Lual 4J
- **Year 5:** Jordan Thinesh 5/6B
- **Year 6:** Tvesa Agrawal 6H

**Week 10 Term 4**

- **Kindergarten:** Ishwin Kaur KV
- **Year 1:** Nidhi Rajesh 1M
- **Year 2:** Neeti Patel 2M
- **Year 3:** Vaidehi Agrawal 3/4D
- **Year 4:** Aiden Johnpillai 4J
- **Year 5:** Riddhi Sharma 5/6E
- **Year 6:** Thridev Elangow 6H
Students who received a Principal’s Book Award

Term 4, Weeks 7-10


Notes in bags:
- Year 6 parent invite to Graduation on last day this week – all Year 6
- Stage requirement list for 2017 –all students K-5
- Stage 2 and 3 camps 2017 –approximate costings—
  (Stage 2 and 3 students for 2017)
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<td><strong>Australia Day</strong></td>
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<td>30 Jan <strong>Uniform Shop open</strong></td>
<td>31 Jan <strong>Xenontech Day</strong></td>
<td>1 Feb <strong>Uniform Shop open</strong></td>
<td>2 Feb <strong>Uniform Shop open</strong></td>
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<td>6 Feb <strong>Uniform Shop open</strong></td>
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<td>Parramatta Eels community talk-Stage 3</td>
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<td>13 Feb <strong>Uniform Shop open</strong></td>
<td>14 Feb <strong>Xenontech Day</strong></td>
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<td>21 Feb <strong>Parent /Teacher Information Session Followed by welcome BBQ</strong></td>
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<td>28 Feb <strong>Xenontech Day Parramatta T/L Network Mtg at WPS 1pm-&gt;</strong></td>
<td>1 March <strong>KidsMatter Parent Workshop 5-5.50pm (Library) P&amp;C AGM and mtg 6pm</strong></td>
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<td>KidsMatter PL (3)</td>
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**Happy Holidays**