**Message from the Principal**

We’re already well into the scheme of things in school and I’m pleased to report that the year has got off to a great start with all of our students adopting positive attitudes and following our four school rules: Maximising Safety, Maximising Respect, Maximising Self-Responsibility and Maximising Effort. A super way to begin the year! Highlights over the first few days have included welcoming our new Prep students to the school and listening to our prospective school leaders delivering their speeches at parade. Details are included later in this newsletter. I am confident that our positive start to the year will continue throughout 2014 anticipate a productive and rewarding year. I look forward to working with all of our school community, parents, carers and staff, to ensure that all of our students do the best that they possibly can over the coming months.

Regards,

Robert Lawton,
Principal

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**2014 Enrolments**

Thirty-one students are currently enrolled at Maroondan, ensuring that we remain a two teacher school for 2014 - great news! Students new to the school this year are our two Preps - Lara Gruening and Joshua Mueller. Joshua joins his older brother Jeremy. Welcome to both Lara and Joshua and to their families. Thank you for supporting our school!

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**P&C News**

As ever, our P&C did a fantastic job again in 2013, organising uniforms, tuckshop and a range of fund raising activities. However, numbers are thin on the ground and we could do with a little more support from anyone who has a little time to spare. All parents and community members are encouraged to involve themselves in P&C activities and can do so by attending and registering at our **P&C Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26th February at 3.15pm** (in the upstairs computer next to the office). As well as general members the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are also open for election. Please see me or current P&C Secretary Geraldine Gregory if you’re interested in assuming one of these positions.

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**Interschool Sports**

Mr Byrnes’ class will begin the interschool sports programme on Friday, 21st February. Sports this term are cricket and softball. I shall send home details of venues as soon as I receive them. Transport to away events will be arranged and provided by school.

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**Our new Prep students**

Three Year 7 students, Bailey, Carolina and Anna and one Year 6 student, Anne, have put themselves forwards for school leadership positions in 2014. All four of them made their pitch for selection at our parade on Monday this week. It was interesting to listen to their speeches and to hear what they feel they can offer as potential student leaders. I had originally envisaged that we would have two leaders from Year 6 and two from Year 7 as both of these year groups leave at the end of the year. Given the students who have put themselves forwards, however, I am currently evaluating the best possible way forward. A decision will be made prior to the end of the week and school leaders will be announced at our parade next Monday afternoon.

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**Marauders Win in Week 1!**

Max Bands are issued to students when they are spotted demonstrating positive behaviours and following our school rules. After tallying up the totals for the first week, Marauders House came out on top, beating Bombers with a score of 177 against 157. Well done Marauders - keep the good work! Bombers - are you up to the challenge in Week 2?

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**NEW LIBRARY BORROWING—MONDAYS**

Reminder - Library borrowing for all year groups is each Monday afternoon. Don’t forget to bring a cloth bag to keep your library books safe and undamaged.
FORTNIGHTLY DIARY

Thursday, February 6th - Tuckshop Please try to place orders at least one day ahead

Monday, February 10th - Parade incorporating announcement of school leaders, 2.45pm, Visitors welcome

Thursday, February 13th - Tuckshop Please try to place orders at least one day ahead

Monday, February 17th - Parade, 2.45pm, Visitors welcome

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday, February 21st - Years 4 to 7 Interschool Sport starts

Tuesday, February 25th - Cross Country training starts for all willing students P-7, 3pm to 3.30pm Tuesdays, 8.30am-9.00am Fridays

Wednesday, February 26th - P&C AGM 3.15pm

Cross Country training starts for all willing students P-7, 3pm to 3.30pm Tuesdays, 8.30am-9.00am Fridays

Monday, March 10th - 3 Way Reporting Interviews this week

Tuesday, April 1st - Maroondan Cross Country Competition on the oval from 1.30pm - Visitors welcome

Friday, April 4th - Term 1 ends

Homework, Home Reading Books and Morning Reading
Just a quick reminder that homework folders with home reading books should be returned to school on a daily basis as we use these books for our morning reading session prior to school. Parents are invited to help out with morning reading which takes place between 8.30am and 9.00am each morning. Any help in this regard is much appreciated - just turn up and we’ll find an eager reader for you!

Cross Country 2014
The cross-country season will very shortly be upon us with Small Schools and District events taking place in in Term 2. Maroondan’s own school cross-country competition will take place on the last Tuesday afternoon of this term, April 1st. In preparation, Mr Lawton will be holding training sessions for students who wish to join in, starting after school on Tuesdays and prior to school on Fridays from February 25th.

Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews
3-Way interviews will be held in Week 7 of this term, starting Monday, March 10th. Details and booking sheets will be sent home nearer to the time.

Prep and Year 1 Students Display Their Emotions
Our younger students have been studying the feelings and emotions of characters in story books in English lessons during the first few days of school. Here they are displaying some of these emotions for us!

Teachers learn too! Mr Byrnes and Mr Lawton display certificates for computer training completed during the student free days prior to term