Hi all,

The first thing I would like to do in this newsletter is to acknowledge the effort of the staff in the last four weeks of term to cover for me as I took some long service leave. Graeme Barwise, Julio Bustos and Justin Finnerty all assumed the primary leadership positions in the school and I can report that it was business as usual, so much so that I am thinking about doing it again next year! I managed to spent 3 weeks touring around Scotland, England, Paris and Frankfurt, mainly on a motorbike, a particularly challenging exercise in countries where they drive on the other side of the road. The other week I spent visiting special schools in the London area, and although all of the programs had many wonderful activities, overall it left me with an enhanced opinion of Berengarra and its approach to meeting the special needs of students.

Staff conference.

The staff held a very successful 2 day conference in the last holidays, with the focus on teaching and learning. Three guest speakers presented workshops on severe language disorders, traumatized children, strategic planning and staff welfare. Graeme Barwise and Catrina Salton made a presentation on the Schools Based Apprenticeship program, (SBAT) and I conducted a workshop on teacher quality. The outcomes of the conference will enable us to improve the delivery of our programs as well as formulate a plan for the future needs of the school.

School Registration

I am pleased to report that the school was successful in its review conducted by the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority, a process that occurs in all schools every five years. In complete contrast to the last review it was a relatively painless process, which indicates we are in a very healthy state.

Tenure

In the last week of term we received some great news from St Francis Xavier Parish offering to extend our lease on the Box Hill property to the end of 2018. While this secures the future of the school for that period, we are now in a position to seriously look at purchasing a property, and we continue to explore that option with the Parish as well as look for other suitable sites in the eastern suburbs.
TERM 4 COMMENCES 2013

Staff return—Monday September 7th

Students return—Tuesday October 8th

Whole school camp—Wed 20/11, Thurs 21/11 return Fri 22/11

Monday and Tuesday 4th & 5th November—Pupil free days - (Melb Cup)

Pathways graduation and last day of school - 29/11/2013

Students finish—Box Hill. December 6th @ 12.30 p.m.

Staff finish—Friday December 13th

TERM DATES 2014

1st Term—January 29th—Students commence February 3rd, Term finishes on April 4th.

2nd Term—April 22nd—June 27th

3rd Term—July 14th—September 19th

4th Term—October 6th—December 5th (staff finish December 12th)