Dear Parents,

**2013 REFLECTIONS**

As another school year draws to a close, it is time to look back on a very successful school year at Winters Flat. I would like to acknowledge the fantastic teaching and support staff we have at our school. Without exception every single staff member consistently goes above and beyond every single day, in order to ensure that the children of this school receive the best education possible. I would especially like to mention the amazing efforts that Karen and Liz, in the school office go to, to ensure things run smoothly. They are often the first to arrive and the last to leave each day. I hope they all enjoy a well-deserved break.

**CLASSES AND STAFFING FOR 2014**

All children have been placed into their classes for next year; they have had an afternoon in their new class and had lunch together today (where possible). We are farewelling a number of staff members and welcoming two new teachers. Simone Healy has been appointed 0.5 to share a Grade 2/3, and Denton Arthur will be teaching a Grade 5/6. Children have met these new teachers and we are looking forward to working with them next year.

We are saying sad farewells to -

**Rhys Higgins**
Rhys has worked at Winters Flat for the past 2 years in an Education Support Role. We wish him well as he begins his teaching career in Darwin.

**Keenan Lucas**
Keenan has also worked here for 2 years in an Education Support role. We wish Keenan all the best as he continues his studies.

**Samantha Chapman**
Sam has worked at Winters Flat for the past 13 Years. She has held many roles throughout that time, especially as an Upper School teacher and a passionate Physical Education teacher. We wish her every success in her new role at Castlemaine North Primary School.

**Cheryl Bottomley**
Cheryl has taught at Winters Flat for 21 years. During that time she has been the school Librarian and also a Middle School teacher.

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**COMING EVENTS**

**TUESDAYS – SCHOOL BANKING**

**DECEMBER**
- Wed. 18th: Pool Day – 4/5F, 5/6C & 5/6O.
- Thurs. 19th: Students dress in “Festive Gear”.
- Thurs. 19th: Footsteps Disco – 2.15pm to 3.15pm.
- Thurs. 19th: End of Year Celebration Assembly – 11.30am.
- Fri. 20th: Bluearth.
- Fri. 20th: Final Day Term 4, 2013 – Dismissal 2.30pm.

**JANUARY 2014**
- Tues. 28th: Staff commence Term 1.
- Wed. 29th: Students commence Term 1 - Grades 1-6.
- Thurs. 30th: Prep Students commence Term 1.
She has also served on School Council for many years and undertaken countless other roles across the school. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her many years of dedicated service to our school.

INCIDENT AT THE POOL
Yesterday at the pool, one of our students got into difficulty and needed to be pulled from the water. The ambulance was called immediately and the student was taken to hospital. School staff is in close contact with the hospital and family and we can confirm that he is OK.

I acknowledge the professionalism of staff from both our school and the swimming pool, and commend our students for their very calm and mature response. We will be speaking to all of our students over the course of the week about water safety and, with the holidays around the corner, I encourage you to also have these conversations at home.

Incidents like this can be quite unsettling, particularly for children. At school, we have support available for anyone who may need it – and if you have any further questions, please come and speak with me. My door is always open.

Have a good week,
Mary-anne Rooney,
Principal.

ACCOUNTS
Please check accounts and settle any outstanding amounts as soon as possible.

SCHOOL BANKING
All tokens need to be returned before the end of the week.

NETBOOKS
All students with a school hired netbook need to return their netbooks as soon as possible. They need to be returned without stickers etc., attached. We are unable to offer them for sale due to the licensed software on each netbook and the legal requirements that are part of that license.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Raffle books were sent home with each family. If you have not returned the tickets and money, could you please do so as soon as possible. The raffle will be drawn at our special assembly on Thursday 19th at 11.30am. Thank you to the HUGE response for donations from families. Because of this, we are able to have extra prizes to win.

FOOTSTEPS PROGRAM
There are still a number of families who have not paid for the Footsteps program that was run at the school throughout two terms. Could these amounts please be settled before the end of term.

DISCO & DRESS-UP DAY
– Thursday 19th December
This Thursday we will be having our special End of Year Celebration Assembly, with a whole school disco after lunch. Students are invited to dress in “festive gear”.

LIBRARY
For the taking – first in best dressed:
- A set of World Book Encyclopedia
- A set of Children’s Britannica
- A Set of Childcraft
- A set of The World and its People.

There are books in the covered area. Children may take any books that they like. A HUGE thank you to the parents, grandparents and students who did such a great job when helping to move the library last Friday and this week. It wouldn’t have happened without you.

CASTLEMAINE LIBRARY
"The Summer Reading Club" is on again at the Castlemaine Library!
Can you read 10 books over the Summer Holidays?
If the answer is yes, you’ll go into the draw to win some fantastic prizes, including an iPod Touch!
Come and collect your entry form at the Castlemaine Library, find a great book, and get reading...

Commennces: Friday 20th December 2013, until Monday 3rd February 2014.
Where: Castlemaine Library is found at 212 Barker St Castlemaine, 5472 1458 or castlemaine@ncgrl.vic.gov.au