As this year draws to a close, I am reminded of many highlights of the 2016 year. In partnership with Mrs Allyson Stephens, our Business Services Manager, we have done some impressive work with our facilities. Our Library has been refurbished, and the leaking roof has been fixed. Our Outdoor Learning Area has offered our big school an alternative space for many learning experiences including drama, reading, eating breaks, and art activities. There is now seating on the verge of the oval, combined with some landscaping. During the coming holidays, in addition to a number of maintenance tasks, we will have some work done to our school hall to improve the ventilation and roofing.

Our Parents and Citizens’ Association was responsible for the creative play playground which serves our year twos and threes. The P&C initiated the lap-a-thon which was a very successful event and a highlight of the school calendar.

Our trip to Beijing had a special meaning to me this year, as I, too, visited China and was amazed by the history and culture. The year six trip to Canberra was a resounding success, with our students receiving accolades for their presentation and behaviour. Every year level had excursions that related to the units of work that they were studying, and feedback from students and venues was very positive.

We continue to offer top quality teaching with consistency across our school, and our learning experiences present students with challenge and diversity. Never a school that rests on its laurels, we continue to strive to be the very best we can be in order to ensure that students reach their full potential.

This year we say farewell to members of our staff who have reached that time in their life when they can retire and focus on their own families and interests. Mrs Pauline Fraser, a member of our office team, has given years of her life in service to our school. She has done this with grace, patience, and good humour. Mr Bob Bekkers, Mrs Judy Jaggers, and Mrs Maxine Parsons are retiring and we wish them the very best for the next phase of their lives. With you goes a wealth of experience and a mountain of memories – other teachers and staff will occupy your space but you, as individuals, are irreplaceable. Miss Nicole Theron has accepted a transfer to fulfil her dream of being a Physical Education teacher. Mrs Beth Hendy has accepted a transfer to the north side of Brisbane and Mrs Maureen Toich has accepted a transfer to a prep to year 12 college.

To all those staff, returning and leaving, I say a heartfelt thank you. You have made a difference to the lives of children – your memory will live on.

Enjoy the holidays and I hope the festive season brings fun and happy times for our whole community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
SCHOOL WATCH - KEEP A WATCH ON OUR SCHOOL THESE HOLIDAYS
With the holidays fast approaching, we are asking you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.

The School Watch program is a partnership between the Department of Education and Training, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

If you would like to know more about the School Watch program, please call our Emergency and Security Management Unit on (07) 3034 6013.
DI CARTER, PRINCIPAL

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS
Congratulations to Lachlan who received an ICAS medal for his outstanding efforts in the Digital Technologies assessment. From 980,000 entries only 514 students from across Australia scored high enough to gain a medal. That’s 1 in 2,000! Lachlan and his mother attended the ceremony over the weekend where Lachlan was awarded his medal. Congratulations Lachlan, we are sure you will go on to great things and we are very proud of you.

TYRONE BRUCE, KAREN COOMBES, GAYLE HEALEY, ALLAN THARENOU

MUSIC NOTES

2016
Music at Warrigal Road State School

2016- A reflection:
I would like to begin my reflection of the year with some thankyou's:
1. To those students who have worked so well and so consistently in 2016, who are always on time for lessons and rehearsals and who continue to practice and progress at such a fantastic rate.
2. To our wonderful music teacher-aide Mrs Susan Raymont, who watches over so many of our events and keeps me on track when my mind is in one hundred places.

3. To my music colleagues; Miss Lauren Slater, Mrs Catherine Venn, Mr Daniel Holloway and Ms Katrina Mothershaw – what a wonderful team of musicians and colleagues.

4. To our spectacular Music Support Group who appear at functions and shirt collections and so many other things and just get in and help us with everything. You are amazing!

5. To our administration team who understands the value of music education for all. A special thank you to Mr Allan Tharenou who is the deputy principal in charge of music – it has been such a joy for all of us to work with you this year.

We have achieved so much, with six instrumental ensembles, six choirs and, of course, our class music program. We have sung, played and performed our way through a busy and, at times, exciting year. We have picked up the pieces of disappointments, forgotten lessons, and forgotten instruments. We have supported those preparing for high school auditions and written lots of references.

We have performed in school concerts, at school assemblies, at Fanfare, at Treble Voices Festival, at Gold Coast Schools, at Parliament House, at combined performances at St Andrew’s, around the school and each time we have walked away with a greater understanding of our music and of being a team member, with greater resilience, as well as much more developed musicians and people.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NEXT YEAR - 2017
2017 Music Students will be fitted for new uniforms, shirt swaps organised and orders taken. There will also be a sale of second-hand black pants.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK? PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU HAVE NOT.

ENSEMBLE MESSAGES - Have a happy holiday season and best wishes for 2017.

CHENIOR CHOIR – Awesome Work and Performances at St Andrew’s.
ANNE POOK, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
The day I stepped onto the first tuft of grass at camp, I was fizzing with excitement. My absolute favourite activity was the *Leap of Faith*. I would have said the mid-ropes, but, I never got around to doing that due to the storm we had on the first night. I remember how I felt a strike of my phobia of heights when I climbed up the ladder. The never ending ladder finally ended when I reached the platform and I was scared to death when it came to the point when I had to turn around on that tiny piece of wood. True to the title, I leapt down with faith and felt a rush of relief and enjoyment.

I also loved *Group Initiatives* and I couldn’t help but to crack out a giggle when we had to sort ourselves alphabetically in order of birth month. Something that stopped me in my tracks was the *Tower of Tremble*. It surely lived up to its name when I started to plead to come down. I was horrified when someone told me that we had reached eight levels.

*Raft Building* sure was fun as well, while the girls thought they were sure to lose, the boys were sure they would win, but when we came to the shore the girls raft was falling apart. So we quickly slid the helpless raft into the water and rapidly hopped on. When we looked back, every single boy was off the raft and hanging on to any loose pieces that could help them back to shore. I guess that means we should never underestimate the power of a raft that we thought was going to fall apart.

It (the camp) was so fantastic, some might even say it was blast-tastic. From the point when I first laid eyes on the activities, to when I could put on a harness without any help, it all came together perfectly in the end. Just like life is putting together a puzzle for you.

*by Selena X (5F)*

**Messages from the Coordinator 6 December**

Vacation Care forms are now available for December/January. Get in quick as days are filling up quickly.

Some of the fun activities include excursions to the Planetarium, AMF Bowling, YMCA Camp Warrawee, a Disco, Laser Skirmish and lots, lots more. Forms are available from the school hall.

**What we have been doing?**

This week at YMCA Warrigal Road OSHC, we decided to kick off the Christmas celebrations early by dressing up for the festive season. Miss Emma, Miss Tracey and Mr Lenmack were so excited to dress up and get with the Christmas spirit of the first day of December.

The children decided to work together as a team and build a giant tower made from magnetic shapes. This activity lead to a group discussion, on where can you find real giant towers around the world. Also, inside the hall the children participated in a group game of skipping with Miss Steph and our fabulous Mr Jay sat and had story time with some of our preps.
For bookings to join in the before and after school fun activities, please phone on 0477 767 984 or email: awr@ymca.org.au.

Get in quick for lots of holiday fun and excitement.

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**SUNNYBANK LITTLE ATHLETICS**

*After Xmas Competition*

*Get the New Year off to a flying start with 6 weeks of Athletic events and free coaching.*

**Come Along and join in the Family Fun and Fitness of Little Athletics**

**WHERE:** Sunnybank High School Oval, Gager St, Sunnybank  
**WHEN:** Saturday afternoons from 1:30 pm - Starting 14th January 2017  
**WHO:** Children from 3 - 16 years of age

Run, Jump, Throw and Play your way through the afternoon with young athletes your own age.

6 Weeks for just $80 (U6-U17’s)  
$35 for Tiny Tots (3 & 4 year olds)

Further enquiries and contact details:  
Website: [www.sunnybanklittleathletics.org.au](http://www.sunnybanklittleathletics.org.au)  
General: [enquiries@sunnybanklittleathletics.org.au](mailto:enquiries@sunnybanklittleathletics.org.au)  
Phone: Isabel Green (Centre Manager) Ph: 0412 022 028
Some important reminders from your P&C

Tuckshop

Today was the last opening day for the tuckshop for this year. The tuckshop will be closed tomorrow, Thursday 8th December, and day after tomorrow, Friday 9th December. Please ensure that you do provide lunch for your children on the last two days of term. We will reopen on the first day of Term 1 next year, 23rd January 2017.

Uniform Shop

The last opening day for the uniform shop for 2016 will be Thursday 8th December. Opening dates for 2017 are as follows:

- 16 Jan 2017 to 20 Jan 2017 - 9am to 3pm
- 23 Jan 2017 to 3 Feb 2017 - 8am to 10am
- 6 Feb 2017 Onwards - Mon, Wed & Thurs (times TBA)

The P&C would like to thank all members, sub-committees, employees, volunteers, school staff, students and the school community for their support in 2016. We look forward to your increased participation and support in 2017. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us over the holidays on wrsspandc@hotmail.com

Remember to like us on Facebook - Warrigal Road State School - P&C

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE !!!!