Dear Parents,

This is the final newsletter for 2013 and every year brings change, rewards and challenges, and this year was no different. As the year draws to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given our students and our staff.

Farewell to those staff members who will be leaving us at the end of the year and farewell also to those students and families who are moving - we wish you well in the future.

This week we held our junior and senior academic assemblies and I congratulate all our students who have succeeded in reaching their goal/s, and I wish luck and good fortune to those who are still attaining their goal/s - don’t give up and never take education for granted!

I encourage all of our students to put aside ten minutes to write down what they’ve achieved this year and whilst completing this task, it might be a good time to also write down which opportunity they would like to seize next year!

Finally I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you next year.

 Yours sincerely,

Chris Tudor AM
Headmaster

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**Solar Car Nationals**

**Introducing SPC-Roadrunner**

Introducing SPC-Roadrunner – first time entrant to the Model Solar Car Nationals, held this year in Melbourne, with from schools attending from all over Australia and Taiwan. As a model solar car, Roadrunner was straight forward in its design ... reliable, stable and definitely not as sleek or fast as the top competitors.

Introducing the team – Henry Burgess, Alia Clark-ElSayed, David Crowe and Niamh Young, all from the Year 9 Science and Engineering class. All had realistic expectations for this competition. It was to be a learning experience with the simple aim of successfully running the car in all round-robin races, gaining ideas for future participation at the event, but with little prospect of actually being competitive with the top teams.

Introducing the weather – cool and drizzly in the mornings, warming to bright sunny afternoons. This was hardly optimal for solar cars, but was the best Melbourne could offer on that weekend. The low sun conditions slowed all competitors. In its races on the first overcast morning, bulky Roadrunner put in particularly laggard performances and lost all of its round-robin races. We weren’t disappointed (well mildly) as our expectations were being realised ... perhaps our car was not a roadrunner after all.

Introducing the change – bright sunlight! The fast, complicated cars with their electronic enhancements, fine tolerances and low resistance designs were really quick – easily overhauling our slower, stable Roadrunner on the wide curves and straight sections. However on the tight curves, like Wile-E-Coyote, most of the faster cars continued in a straight line off the track to their doom. Stable, reliable Roadrunner continued around the track and completed its races with very respectable times (meep, meep). The top two places were taken by cars with both superior speed to and the stability to remain on the track. Roadrunner proved that of the two stability was vital ... speed kills!

Introducing Roadrunner’s result – 3rd place. Although Roadrunner defied expectations and dashed the hopes of many teams with many more years of experience, everyone was very happy to see a polite and good-natured group of students from Alice Springs meet with its first success.

Well done team SPC-Roadrunner!
Life gets busier and busier at the weekends for our boarders with lots of options for them this weekend.

On Friday the majority of girls went to an Aids Day disco at the Youth Hub. There weren’t a lot of people there but it didn’t prevent our girls having a wonderful time and dancing the night away. Thanks to Caelli, one of our old boarders for inviting us.

While the majority were dancing, the older ones were watching a horror movie in the Fred Shed with the boys. No one wanted to sleep by themselves on Friday. Funny that. I wonder why!

It was up before dawn for some of our medal hopefuls in the final race in the Alice Springs Running and Walking Club Slim series. Sadly Savannah didn’t feel well and opted out, giving up an almost certain medal. Those who went, all acquitted themselves well. Natalie took the Gold U18 walk with a commanding lead, and Farhana took out the Silver. Zara did another PB to clinch Bronze in the U18 run, improving over the three race series by a phenomenal 11 minutes. The boy boarders also took home a medal with Dean Sullivan working hard to gain Bronze in the Male U18. Well done to everyone who took part over the series and it was good to see a couple of new faces for the final event.

In the afternoon my kitchen was invaded by some keen chefs who made sushi, chocolate brownies and a very rich chocolate cake. The sushi and the brownies soon went but we held the cake back for supper when it was very much enjoyed. Somebody did query why it had a blue jelly bean in the middle but it was simply explained as the chef’s quirk!

After dinner on Saturday it was time for that summer favourite – the water fight. It was boys versus girls. We never learn! But over the years we have designed the rules to make sure it’s a bit fairer with each team having its own coloured buckets and not being allowed to steal the other teams’ for fear of being put into the sin bin where every man and his dog can throw water at them to their heart’s content.

Sunday it was back to earth with some study for the coming exams and some packing. We were busy again in the afternoon with one group going gardening to raised money for the Philippines and another group doing some clay modelling for Christmas decorations with Shannon. In total, the girls have raised a very creditable $1200 to put towards the College’s Philippines appeal. A great effort for just 24 boarders who appreciate that Christmas is the time for giving as well as receiving.

Marg Stevenson
Head of Girls’ Boarding
There is a story of an old man who carried a little can of oil with him everywhere he went, and if he passed through a door that squeaked, he poured a little oil on the hinges. If a gate was hard to open, he oiled the latch. And thus he passed through life lubricating all hard places and making it easier for those who came behind.

People called him eccentric, queer and cranky; but the old man went steadily on refilling his can of oil when it become empty, and oiled the hard places he found.

There are many lives that creak and grate harshly every day. We all need lubricating with the oil of gladness, gentleness or thoughtfulness.

Have you your own can of oil? Be ready every morning - what a difference we could all make to a hurting world.

Happy Christmas, happy holiday and happy oiling!

GIANTS NETBALL CLUB WANTS YOU!

We’re looking for individuals or teams who would like to join our friendly club.

Experienced or not, young, old, player, coach or umpire, all are welcome!

Maybe you’re thinking of starting a new sport or are new to town; we’d love to hear from you.

Age divisions and game times are:
- Under 9’s 9:00am
- Under 11’s 10:00am
- Under 13’s 11:00am
- Under 15’s 12:00pm

Under 17’s and open divisions all play at either 1:30, 3:00 or 4:30

Games are played on Saturdays
Season starts 15th March 2014

For more information contact Crystal: neataglassgiants@gmail.com or check out our Facebook page: Neata Glass Giants Netball Club

**Group Photo Orders...**

Group photo orders have arrived!

If you placed an order with Miss Braunack, please collect your photo/s from College Reception from Monday 2 December.

**Chaplain’s Message**

**THE LITTLE CAN OF OIL**

**What’s Happening in Term 1 Week 1 2014**

**MONDAY 27 JANUARY**
- ~ Australia Day Public Holiday

**TUESDAY 28 JANUARY**
- ~ Term 1 commences
- ~ Year 12 students return

**WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY**
- ~ Year 7 students start

**THURSDAY 30 JANUARY**
- ~ Year 8 to 11 students return

**FRIDAY 31 JANUARY**
- ~ Commencement Service

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