Welcome to our final newsletter of 2015.

Well, what a year it has been. It is hard to believe that we are almost wrapping up for 2015. It seems like only yesterday that we were all sat in the courtyard for our very first assembly back on 2nd February. This was an historic day and it has been wonderful to see so many amazing stories take place in our first year of existence since that first day.

The school opening itself was nothing short of miraculous. The Gateway Constructions team worked around the clock over Christmas and new year and the only reason we had to delay our opening by two days was because of the 3 days of torrential rain that came down in the week before our scheduled opening. Our teachers, their families and numerous volunteers also spent many hours setting up the classrooms with new tables, chairs, equipment and books.

Four terms have now passed and we are preparing to celebrate the achievements of the first year at our inaugural DCC presentation Night. There are so many things to celebrate that we can't possibly cover them all. I can honestly say that I could very easily spend a few minutes talking about each and every one of our 88 students and how far they have come in one year at DCC.

Next year promises to be even bigger and better with some exciting new building projects coming our way over the Christmas break. We will also be welcoming at least 30 new students on the first day next year. It’s exciting to see our school growing so quickly and it is an indication of the positive experiences that our first families have had as word spreads of the great community that is being forged here at 2873 Round Hill Road.

I want to extend a big thank you to every parent who has made a commitment to the college by sending their children to the school in the first year of operation. You have made a courageous step of faith and my prayer is that you will be rewarded for your loyalty and the trust you have put in us to educate and nurture your child.

The year we have all experienced together in 2015 has been a wonderful journey of Discovery. I look forward to seeing what comes next in 2016 because after all, we're only just getting started.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year break and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2016.

Damian Higgins
Principal

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Important Dates!

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<td>Presentation Night</td>
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Fee Payments

This is the last newsletter for 2015 and we would like to thank all those who have completed their school fee payments for 2015.

Also please don’t forget our school Building Fund. Payments to the Building Fund are tax deductible and will go toward new buildings for 2016. We are very excited that the school is growing but do rely on Building Fund support. Families who have not completed their school fee payments are urged to speak to Mrs Radford so she can manage the cash flow over the next few months.

Lost property

Please check the table outside the administration building for any belongings that might be yours. Uncollected items will be donated to charity at the conclusion of the year.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will be open next year for uniform purchases on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st January between 9am – 1pm. Please contact the office to book a time.

Grade 7/8 Science

In their studies on Living Systems the 7/8 Science class has been learning about the circulatory system.

To help gain a thorough understanding of how the heart works the class performed an investigation of a sheep heart. After locating and identifying important external structures, students moved on to dissecting the heart. Many were intrigued to see the internal anatomical structures and compare the differences they observed between the left and right ventricles. Who knows, we may have some of tomorrow’s surgeons right here at Discovery today!

Year 9/10 Out and About!

Seeing Lady Musgrave Island is an incredible opportunity that every person growing up in Agnes Water should experience.

The Year 9 and 10 Science and Outdoor Education classes recently headed out for an amazing day of discovery at Lady Musgrave on the Great Barrier Reef. After a bumpy start, with several of the students...and one of the teachers succumbing to seasickness, the rest of the day was filled with coral sightseeing on a glass bottom boat, a tour of Lady Musgrave Island, and snorkeling around the reef. While snorkeling was undoubtedly the highlight, all the beautiful sights and learning new things about the Great Barrier Reef was fantastic. We would like to say a big thank you to the knowledgeable crew of Lady Musgrave Cruises for such a great day!
Grade 3/4

In Science this term the class has been looking at the topic Forces and Motion.

The children have learnt that some forces, such as friction, happen through direct contact, while other forces, such as gravity, occur from a distance. To observe the effects of friction the class investigated what happens when you rub your hands together with gloves on and compared it to when a lubricant like dishwashing liquid is introduced. In learning groups the children then explored how the force of friction is different between different surfaces. They were asked to pull a heavy object across a variety of surfaces and compare their findings.

Library Up-date

The library has come to be a really loved and enjoyed space by so many of the students.

It provides them with another comfortable and fun space to unwind and relax during their school day. They have enjoyed working, reading, playing games or just "chilling out" on beanbags with their friends.

We are looking forward to moving the library to a new area next year, where there will be an exciting, new space, with more opportunity for learning.

A big thank you has to go out to the P&F committee for donating funds to the library this term to put towards new games and beanbags. The students have certainly benefited from these additions.
Primary LARC Excursion

The DCC primary classes recently enjoyed combining together for an excursion to Seventeen Seventy where they climbed aboard the LARC and participated in the Goolimbil Walkabout Tour.

This indigenous Australian experience was filled with fun, food and lots of fantastic information. The children got to see plenty of native flora and fauna, including pelicans, sea eagles, a massive mud crab, and for some even a shark! Children learnt about the hunting and gathering of bush tucker and got to sample some at intervals along the way, which provided new taste experiences for many. The excursion was a great learning experience which supported much of what the classes have been studying in Humanities and Social Sciences throughout the year.

Food Technology

This term has seen the Yr 7 Food Technology students cook (and then enjoy eating!) a wide variety of yummy snacks and small dishes in their practical class. Some of these dishes include homemade muesli bars, apple turnovers, jacket potatoes, vegetarian quesadillas and much more.

Whilst also cooking up a storm each week the students have been learning about macro and micronutrients as well as what a vegetarian diet might include.