30 March 2010

Dear Parents

We have had a wonderful start to the 2010 school year. While much of this can be attributed to the efforts of staff, with the valued support of parents, I appreciate the manner in which students are contributing to the overall success of the school.

We are fortunate that the school environment has been improved further with the recent addition of six magnificent new Prep school classrooms along with the restoration of the Wolaroi veranda. The staff and students in the new Prep classrooms have certainly made the most of their new environment with each room full of examples of creative student work.

The P and F Fair was a wonderful and very successful day for the school. I pay tribute to the parent organising committee, the KWS staff and students along with the contributions from so many parents. While the primary reason for the Fair is to raise money to assist the student educational programmes, the superb spirit generated by the community, working together to achieve a common goal, represents far more than any dollar figure can buy. My sincere thanks to all parents for your support of this year’s Fair.

On the day of the Fair we formally opened the newly refurbished Wolaroi veranda. We were extremely fortunate to have a direct descendant of J.C. McLachlan, the original owner of Wolaroi, with us for this occasion. Stuart McLachlan, the great grandson of J.C. McLachlan, brought with him an original crayon of J.C. McLachlan, which he has thoughtfully donated to the school. This portrait has now returned to its original location in Wolaroi House in the Board room.

The Senior Management team has been working on putting together a new 5 year Strategic Direction for the school. The document was recently endorsed by School Council and will be released firstly to staff then to parents and the wider community. In brief the new Strategic Direction focuses on five main priorities in the school. These are as follows:

- **Delivery of a rigorous and differentiated academic programme from Pre-Prep to Year 12**
- **Support and value the development and recruitment of staff**
- **Support for, and development of, a diverse co-curricular programme**
- **Foster global awareness and social responsibility that emanate from Christian values and tradition so students are able to make valuable contributions to a diverse global community**
• Maintain a strong financial position that can continue to improve the school from both a physical and educational point of view

Each of these Priorities has many projects underpinning and driving the completion of the main priority. Preparing this new Strategic Directions document has involved extensive discussion at SMT level and incorporated responses and feedback from staff and the School Council. In preparing the plan we initially focused on 5 key questions:

• What is important to Kinross Wolaroi school?
• What seems to be currently happening – both within the school and externally in the wider educational sector
• What possibilities exist for KWS?
• What are we going to do about it all?
• How will we monitor progress and measure success?

In summary, the process of putting this new Strategic document together has allowed us to evaluate what we are currently doing and to set about changing and improving aspects of educational practice to continue to enhance Kinross Wolaroi School.

In closing I thank you, the parents, for your ongoing support of the school. We appreciate your involvement in your child’s education. Research shows that parents who discuss the school day with their children and are interested and involved with their homework has a positive effect on the child’s learning.

Have a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday break

Brian Kennelly
Principal