Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first full school assembly was held last Friday and it was extremely successful. Most notably, the new public address system that was provided by the P&C’s hard work last year, had its first official use. The upgraded system now provides quality sound throughout the Gym and also in the Hall. This contribution of over $30,000 is a fantastic addition to our school. Future performances and assemblies will now have access to a quality sound system and student performances will no doubt be enhanced. Thanks again to the P&C for this wonderful support.

Meet the Teacher Evening
This week we have the Meet the Teacher Evenings for parents and carers. Details of the sessions are:

Early Childhood -Tuesday 18 February 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Primary -Tuesday 18 February 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Middle School -Wednesday 19 February 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Senior School -Wednesday 19 February 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Please make every effort to attend the relevant sessions. The partnership we develop between home and school make a huge difference to the learning of individual students.

Interesting Research
Over the break you may have read or seen details about David Gillespie’s new book. Here are a few of the key points made in the book.

Free Schools: How to get a Great Education for your Kids without Spending a Fortune

What matters and what doesn’t when looking for a good school according to Gillespie:

What doesn’t matter
- It doesn’t matter how many ATAR 99.95s the school got
- It doesn’t matter if the school is mixed or single-sex
- What size the school is
- If your child is in a multi-age class

What does matter- a lot
- Great teachers and principals

Ten other things that matter
- Learning to learn is important
- Extracurricular activities (especially music) should be on offer
- Languages other than English should be part of the curriculum
- Effective use of technology will make a difference
- Effective behaviour management is important
• Effective communication with parents matters a great deal
• Avoid primary schools that don’t use phonics to teach reading
• Children should not be streamed according to academic ability
• But you should look for a school that ‘accelerates’ if your child is a genius
• If your child has special needs, you should know exactly what resources are available.

Student Achievements
Aman, Caan and Sarah from Ms Boate’s Year 4 class have written some excellent poems. They have written poems with Onomatopoeia as the theme and created some word combinations that provide a clear sound picture in the readers mind. Great work by these budding young writers.

Immunisation Schedule 2014
Immunisations are offered this year for years 7, 8 and 9.
All forms have been distributed to students in these year levels. Please return all forms to the Fishbowl by Monday 17 February.

The dates for the immunisations are:

Round 1    5 March 2014   Year 7 and 9
Round 2    10 June 2014   Year 7, 8 and 9
Round 3    11 November 2014   Year and Year 9

As always, please contact the Deputy Principals; Benjamin Hall, Gail Taylor, Sam Beattie, Tiffany Mahon or myself, to clarify any issue of concern to you. The whole school team at Amaroo School are committed to working with our community to ensure our students have the very best opportunities to learn.

Richard Powell
Principal
Amaroo School

School Board
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Parent Board Reps: Judiann Hohnke, Katherine Keenan
Staff Rep: Gail Taylor and Naomi Goode
Student reps: Kyle Plekker, Grace King.

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