Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers

The school year has almost come to an end and what an exciting end it has been. With this, the last full week of school for 2016, to say we have had a busy week is an understatement. Laughter, friendship, tears, speeches, awards, song, drama, cheering, clapping and thoughts for the future – all emotionally exhausting for parents and students but these memorable building blocks make a rewarding life.

I leave Gray Street, along with several of my longer serving colleagues with a combined 31 years and 6 months of dedicated service. My contribution is a meagre 6 months but I leave with fond memories of many beautiful students and so many lovely parents. Thank you for the many words of support, so many of you have shown throughout the 6 months and thank you to the students who have shared so much of their lives and time with me in such a short time. The many drawings, cards, letters received from students will all be packed away carefully to remind me of my time at Gray Street.

As I have said to the Year 6 students who leap off into the next phase of their lives, always make a difference and make it count. Every challenge opens up new opportunities and adds resilience and reflection to life – be the best you can be and give of yourself wherever possible.

Signing off at Gray Street, I share this poem with you, written by Ralph Waldo Emmerson (1803 – 1882). I received a copy of it many years ago, from my three daughters and I read it often and reflect, accordingly. I think the poem runs true for everyone. With the end of the year approaching, it is always a good time to reflect.

*To laugh often and much;*

*To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;*

*To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;*

*To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;*

*To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;*

*To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.*

This is to have succeeded.

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful break with family and friends. Have a safe, prosperous and rewarding 2017.

Sandra Bourne – Acting Principal 2016
Congratulations

Congratulations to Eden Blanchett on receiving the Daniel Hodgson Award for 2016 and Dux winners Will Povey and Leoma Bahntoff.

2017 School Captains

Congratulations to our 2017 School Captains Emily Hunter and Arthur Biggin and our Student Voice Leaders, Felicity Shaw and Riley Phillips
OSHClub Vacation Care

OSHClub will be running vacation care over the January 2017 school holidays. If you would like further information please call Rosemary on 0408 936 652.

School Uniform

The school uniform is available for purchase from Accurate in Gray St.

2017 January Office Hours

| Monday 30th January | Office Open 8.30am to 1 pm          |
|                    |                                    |
|                    | 1.30pm – 4.30pm                    |
| Tuesday 31st January | Office Open 8.30am to 1 pm         |
|                    | 1.30pm – 4.30pm                    |
| Wednesday 1st February | Students Return                   |

Canteen

The first day of Canteen for 2017 will be Friday 3rd February.

Wishing all families
a very Merry Christmas
and a happy and safe New Year

We look forward to seeing all students for the first day of school on

Wednesday 1st February 2017