Dear Parents, Guardians, Friends and Students,

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday. It was wonderful to welcome back to school all of our staff and students. A particular welcome to all those new families that have joined the Catholic Agricultural College family, together we are on an exciting journey. We have 46 new families joining our community this year. Many of the staff have been in over the last few weeks of holiday time preparing for the arrival of all the students, day and boarding. So here starts the 2014 academic year!

The staff had three days of professional development prior to the students arriving back. Br Damien Price joined us for the first day and we spent some time looking at the culture of the school and our role in ensuring that as a team we do the best we can for each other, the students and the whole community. On the second day Greg Mitchell did a workshop with us which continued on from the work of the previous day. We looked at classroom culture, teams and behaviour management. Greg will be returning in Week 3 to work with the staff and students in the classrooms.

The third day we spent time reviewing our Draft Behaviour Support Model. This is work we began in the days after the students left to go home in December. We are very excited about this plan and are looking forward to sharing it with all of you in the next month or so once this work is completed.

At the first assembly on day one I spoke to the students about my expectations for our community during 2014. They will continue hearing me refer to four key words throughout the year. They are respect, honesty, excellence and tolerance. If each of us keeps these in mind then all of our interactions throughout the College will be positive. Our aim is to build on the positive aspects of our College community and reinforce these values at all times. I will be challenging those students who are consistently unable to adhere to these values and follow the instructions given to them by the staff and if this continues then perhaps Catholic Agricultural College is not the place for them.

We have decided that we will only have one bumper issue of the Newsletter every four weeks. The other weeks commencing with this issue, there will be a shorter version, which we will continue to call the Round Up. This will provide you with dates and information which we hope will keep you up to date and informed about what is coming up and happening around the College each week.

God Bless,

Marie Barton
Principal
NEW LOOK WEBSITE
The College is happy to announce that the new look website has been launched. One of many new features is the calendar which is now available on the home page.
The website can be found at www.cacbindoon.wa.edu.au.

YEAR 11 & 12 BALL
Year 12 students have been meeting to organise this year’s school ball. They have been deciding on the theme for the night with much enthusiasm.

A reminder that the tickets for the ball need to be purchased by Friday 21st February @ $95.

YEAR 8-9 ENGLISH
What a pleasure it was to finally meet and greet my Year 8-9 English class for 2014 last Tuesday. I am feeling truly blessed to have some wonderfully delightful, intelligent and enthusiastic students in this class who have embraced their learning program with enthusiasm and interest.

We started the year by meeting one another and playing a game of samurai sword, karate chop and longbow, which is similar to paper, scissors, rock but with a lot more laughter and talking! We have since moved on and students have begun reading the text, Hatchet by Gary Paulson, which tells the story of a 13 year old boy stranded in the Canadian wilderness. Students are a quarter of the way through the text and they have been completing a reading journal after each chapter and commenting on what the character has learnt about himself and his surroundings. Students have also produced an alternative front cover design for the text, which will be collected and marked at the conclusion of week and displayed around the classroom.

If parents would like additional information regarding their child’s learning please do not hesitate to contact me at the College. In the meantime, watch this space for further updates and examples of student work.

Mrs Tracey Crisp
HoD English & Humanities

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE FOR THE INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THURSDAY 6TH MARCH

HOSPITALITY
Year 12 students Brianna and Jai made some very delicious hot cross buns in their hospitality class which the office staff were lucky enough to enjoy.

FIRST ASSEMBLY
The college held its first assembly in our new “Great Hall” it was a nice change to be out of the hot weather and having the noisy corellas to compete with. We also had some of our new student parents attend which is always nice to see. The college looks forward to having lots of gatherings in our new indoor area.