From the Master of the Junior School

Even to your old age and grey hairs, I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. With whom will you compare me or count me equal? Isaiah 46:4-5a

Dear Parents and Friends of the Junior School,

It has been a huge week with many unique, challenging and immensely enjoyable learning experiences for our boys.
This morning the Library Resource Centre, K-2 classrooms and hallways were full of Grandmas, Grandpas, Nanas, Pops, Nonnas and Pas for Grandparents’ Morning. It was such a delight to see so many boys so proud of their school and excited to be hosting their grandparents. Thank you to all of our grandparents for making the effort to be here and to many of the parents who assisted our special guests to attend. We are grateful to the K-2 teachers and Mrs Tredinnick for organising the morning, and Mr Nuilala for leading the singing. We hope to enjoy the support and involvement of grandparents in our school for many years to come.

Year 1 parents enjoyed their sons opening the classroom doors on Thursday afternoon as they exhibited the learning they have been undertaking around how technology has changed the way we live. All parents who made it would have been impressed by the enthusiasm, creativity and independence with which the boys communicated the understandings that they are developing about this concept and the learning process. All of our grades will provide parents with an opportunity to see the learning in the classroom before the end of the year. Year 2 are the remaining grade for this term scheduled for the
last afternoon, Friday 23rd September.

On Wednesday morning all of the boys, teachers and many parent helpers enjoyed the gorgeous spring sunshine and went for a walk! Smiles, chatter and some creative walking styles were on show as our boys completed between 1km and 3km of walking in class and buddy groups. We are very grateful to the parents and grandparents who stamped cards at checkpoints and distributed ice-blocks at the finish line. Thank you to the Auxiliary members who made the Walk-a-thon initiative possible. All of the students who have collected sponsorship pledges are now asked to bring the money to school. Once collected, payment can also be made as a lump sum via the link on the Community webpage via JS Events. We will keep you posted on how much is raised and who claims the class pizza lunch and individual prizes. Our thanks are also extended to the parents who organised the Pie lunch that followed the walk. The boys enjoyed their special lunch and the proceeds will be used to fund the Year 6 departing gift to the Junior School.

On Tuesday, all staff and students were captivated by the presence and performance of indigenous performers from the Torres Strait Dätiwuy Dreaming group. It proved to be a wonderful morning of learning about the culture and language of indigenous Australians. Please enjoy the Music Captain’s report and photos contained in this newsletter.

We also marked the community’s R U OK Day with a focus on looking after and checking in with our mates. We undertook special activities such as making biscuits with our buddies and writing complimentary messages to encourage one another and raise spirits. One of the great features of our school community is that we are surrounded by people who care about us and like to help us. Our activities reminded us of this and the power we have to brighten another person’s spirits and outlook.

We had almost every boy in Year 6 attend with a parent for Monday evening’s Amazing Me session. It was a wonderful evening of discussion between parents and sons. This parent and son session will be followed-up by a boys-only session in class next week. Year 5 can look forward to next year’s session which will be held earlier in the year towards the end of Term 1.

Next week, Years 3, 4 and 5 embark on their camps. Years 3 and 4 travel north to Galston for three days from Monday. Year 5 travel south to Waterslea from next Tuesday for the remainder of the week. Camps serve as an opportunity to develop and extend relationships as well as participate in a wide variety of adventurous activities, including individual and team challenges. Camps can also be the first step for parents in allowing boys greater responsibility and freedom as they stay away from home, possibly for the first time. Please ensure that packing lists, arrangements for departure and pick-up are carefully noted. Any medication should be given to the class teacher with written instructions prior to departure. I have no doubt that our boys will rise to the challenges ahead of them.

Earlier this year, many of our students opted to compete in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) conducted by The University of NSW. These competitions provide a stimulating challenge for students and feedback on performance is provided to both the individual and the School. Certificates and results have begun to arrive at School. It is our intention to distribute certificates directly to the
boys as they become available.

All the best to our athletes for the CIS Championships on Wednesday.

Mark Dunn

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Master of the Junior School