Dear parents,

Welcome back to the 2013 school year, a year that our staff are greatly looking forward to. As you already know at the end of the 2012 school year we said goodbye to Mrs Uta Purcell after 40 years of dedication and service to children in NSW Public Schools. With my return to Glenquarry this year we also said goodbye to Mrs Michelle Laval who did an outstanding job during my absence in 2012.

So with the new year we see some staff changes and it is my great pleasure to welcome Miss Genevieve Smith to our staff for 2013. Miss Smith will be mainly working with the K-2 students but will also spend time with all the children when we come together as a whole school group each afternoon.

Our funding arrangements mean that Miss Smith will be with us 4 days per week in 2013. Our classroom arrangements will continue with the same structure that was implemented in 2012 with the children working in K-2 and 3-6 class groups for our main literacy and numeracy sessions from Monday to Thursday.

I have been very pleased with the way the children have begun the new year and they have all been very settled and focused on their work. Miss Smith and I are looking forward to maintaining these levels of engagement and helping the children to achieve new personal bests as the year progresses.

As well as some past students returning and a new student in year one joining us, it has been wonderful to see our bright and enthusiastic new kindergarten students who have joined us this year. One of the nice things about small schools is the way older children take our new students under their wing and make them feel right at home from their first day. I’m sure they will continue to enjoy their days at Glenquarry and enhance the fine reputation in the wider community that Glenquarry students have always had.

A thank you as well to parents of the 3-6 students who organised themselves quickly to attend the Bong Bong Small Schools Swimming Carnival last Friday. Despite the weather and early finish, Glenquarry students tried their best and supported each other throughout the day.

With some of the events being washed out, the remainder of the carnival will take place next Monday morning February 11 at 8am at Bowral Pool. The events still to be run are the individual senior breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly for competitors who choose to compete in these events. The remainder of the carnival should not take more than 2 hours and students are expected to return to school after the events.

As mentioned at this morning’s assembly we have an issue with the water that goes to our school bubblers at the moment. Our drinking water is tested periodically to ensure the highest possible standards are maintained. If there is even a slight decrease in water quality the school converts to bottled drinking water until the issue can be rectified. This situation occurred in 2012 and was resolved quickly but on this occasion it has been recommended to replace the piping between our filtration system and the bubblers so we will be continuing with bottled water for some time. Please ensure that your child brings a full drink bottle to school each day. Water stations are available in the library and 3-6 classroom for the children to use as needed.

Tonight is our first P&C meeting of the year. It will take place at 6:30pm in the 3-6 classroom. I am looking forward to meeting with you all and discussing P&C activities for the new year. All our new parents are encouraged to attend. P&C is a wonderful way to keep up to date with the programs and activities in more detail and I would encourage all parents to come along. I look forward to seeing you there.

With my warmest regards,

Grant Galbraith
Principal

School Photos
A reminder that our school photos will be taken on Monday February 18. Your child will be bringing home a personalised order form from MSP Photography for you to place your orders. These are to be brought to school on the day of the photos with your order details and payment inside the envelope. They are handed straight to the photographers on the day by each child as their individual photos are taken. Please do not send the order envelopes to school before hand as we are not involved in the money side of the session. The photographers also offer sibling group photos. Envelopes for sibling photos are available at the school office.
Community News

Bowral Butterflies Netball Club
Join a netball team - it’s social, fun and great exercise! Bowral Butterflies Netball Club will be holding registration days on **Saturday 23 February** at Mittagong Marketplace from 10am-2pm and **Wednesday 13 March** at Eridge Park from 4pm-6pm. All ages and experience levels welcome - even if you’ve never played before. For more information ph. Kerrie Cook on 0402 478 910.

Robertson Burrawang Soccer Club
Robertson Burrawang Soccer Club will be holding registration days for the 2013 season at Hampden Park Robertson on the following dates: **Thursday 7 Feb 4-6pm, Sunday 10 Feb 4-6pm, Thursday 14 Feb 4-6pm and Saturday 16 Feb 4-6pm**. Boys and girls, ladies and men, all ages welcome. For more information ph. Robert Handley on 0419 243 520.