8 October 2013

Welcome back to school and the final term of 2013. Term 4 is always a term of celebration of the year’s activities including Presentation Night, Year 12 Formal, Year 9 Semi-Formal, Year 6 Graduation, Prep Graduation, Sports awards, Music Showcase, Film & Television Awards and other activities which highlight the great year we have had.

Term 4 is also a time of preparation for next year. We have already commenced planning across all year levels to continually improve the academic and pastoral programs. Orientation for new students will also take place this term. If you have friends who are considering enrolling at Mueller in the New Year, please encourage them to submit an application form as we have limited vacancies.

2014 Term Dates

As you would have read in the Mueller 2015 Strategic Plan, we are making progressive and systematic steps towards the continual improvement of Teaching and Learning. Major decisions which are now made are all measured against the following vision.

*The aim of the strategic direction is to improve student outcomes through a clear vision for Teaching and Learning underpinned by a commitment to maintain our Christian ethos.*

One of these decisions is the 2014 term dates. Rather than simply roll into a similar calendar as previous years, we have examined the use of time to maximize effective Teaching & Learning contact time. This has involved looking at the use and placement of pupil free days, exam blocks, reporting and the final week of school.

There are 2 major changes.

EKKA week. Traditionally, Mueller has had a Pupil Free Day on the Monday of EKKA week, followed by a public holiday on the Wednesday. This has made the week extremely disjointed. 2014 will see us come in line with the Moreton Bay Regional Council and have a single public holiday on Monday August 11. There will not be a Pupil Free Day. This will change what has previously been a very disjointed week into a time where we will have 4 days of effective teaching (Tuesday August 12-Friday August 15).

Other changes across the year. We have also been making changes to exam blocks and reporting to ensure the academic program continues through to the last day of each term. This was the case in Term 3. In the secondary school, the final week of
Term 3 was treated as Week 1 of Term 4. The final week of term is traditionally viewed as a wind down time, will now become valuable teaching time.

The Pupil Free Days normally in place (Wednesday July 16, Ekka PFD, October 20 Senior Verification Day) will become normal school days.

Final week of term 4. The final week of Term 4 has traditionally been a time of tidy up and particularly in Years 7-9, a time of alternate activities. Absenteeism increases and the time has not always been used effectively. To counter this, we have allocated the final week of Term 4 as Pupil Free. This time will be used by staff in marking, reporting and essential professional learning activities targeted at Teaching and Learning. Students will be engaged in the academic program up until the week prior, effectively being no decrease in teaching time.

The following 2014 term dates will be published on the College website:

Term 1 : Tuesday January 28 – Thursday April 3
Term 2 : Tuesday April 22 – Friday June 27
Term 3 : Wednesday July 16 – Friday September 19
Term 4 : Tuesday October 7- Friday November 28

Public Holidays :
January 27 – Australia Day
April 18-21 – Easter Weekend
April 25 – ANZAC Day
June 9 – Queen’s Birthday
August 11 – EKKA Show Day
October 6 – Labour Day

Pupil Free Days :
January 20-24 – Planning for the 2014 academic year
April 4 – Reporting
July 14-15 – Christian Schools Australia, Queensland Conference
December 1-5 – Reporting, Planning for 2015

2015 Day 1: Tuesday January 27

I understand that there may be some questions or comments you wish to make about the 2014 calendar. Please email me any concerns or come along to the next Faith & Action Meeting where I will give a full report. The next meeting is scheduled for November 11 at 6:45pm in K8. Each meeting, there is an opportunity for parents to ask questions in an open forum on any aspect of the College operation. Please come along to engage in this discussion.
Brett Lee Cybersafety Session. Overall there was a very positive response to the move towards mobile digital technology (iPads being the preferred device). It is vital that we now work together in engaging our students in responsible digital citizenship. The first of these sessions will be with Brett Lee. Brett will spend the day at school working with students and teachers, followed by an evening session for families. I strongly encourage you to attend.

The term will surely go quickly. Be sure to put aside the morning of December 6 to come along to the Mueller Community morning tea, followed by the Christmas megaChapel. Once again we have a fantastic program for the megaChapel and plenty of carol singing.

I encourage you to contact a member of College leadership should you have any concerns, have a great term.

Paul Valese
Head of College
38972853
p.valese@mueller.qld.edu.au

Charmaine Winwood (Deputy Head of College)
38972853
c.winwood@mueller.qld.edu.au

Darren Gynther (Head of Primary)
38972853
d.gynther@mueller.qld.edu.au

Liz Scheu (Head of Middle)
38972853
e.scheu@mueller.qld.edu.au

Ben Stiller (Head of Senior)
38972853
b.stiller@mueller.qld.edu.au

Todd Langford (Head of Curriculum)
38972853
t.langford@mueller.qld.edu.au

Kendal Slack (Studies Coordinator)
38972853
k.slack@mueller.qld.edu.au