### Primary-Secondary Interface

At Harristown we have a strong interface with our feeder primary schools with near 20 visits planned during Term 2 2014.

Year 5 children from our Southern Vale Cluster schools will be invited to visit the campus in Term 3 to familiarise themselves with people, places and programs here.

Year 6&7 children will participate in a numeracy workshop in celebration of National Literacy/Numeracy Week when primary children will work alongside our Year 8s to solve problems.

Furthermore, talented Years 6&7 children from the Southern Vale Cluster primary schools will be invited to extend their knowledge and skills in particular areas over a 4 week program. Principals are contacted directly about each event.

### Making Friends

We recognise that fitting in and making friends is very important to young people, hence our emphasis on an Inter-year Program which assists students to do both. This program involves Year 12 students working with small groups of junior school students to get to know one another and to get to know their senior leaders.

There will be particular playground areas assigned for Year 7s and Year 8s so that they will have a place to be until they feel comfortable to venture out into the broader school during lunch times.

Students, who involve themselves in their special interest in music or sport by joining ensembles or teams, will often make friends with these children who have like interests. Similarly this is the case if children are interested in chess, technology games or students which are offered as lunch time activities.

### Lucky Draw

All families who have paid their child’s Student Resource Scheme fees in full will go into the draw to receive either a school uniform or to have their fees refunded.

Payments must be received no later than 1pm on Orientation Day, Tuesday 9th December.

Winners will be announced near 2.00pm on Orientation Day, Tuesday 9th December 2014.

### Four Mini School Families

On enrolment at Harristown each child is assigned a House. Assignment to a House is generally based on a child’s surname, except in cases where Houses are full for the particular year level or parent/carer requests that a child be in a particular House with other family members.

Generally speaking students whose surnames begin with the following letters are allocated to the following Houses:

- Balkuin (surnames A-E)
- Barang (surnames F-L)
- Bonda (surnames M-R)
- Dherwain (surnames S-Z)

All students from inside and outside the cluster are welcome to enrol, until such time that our enrolment numbers grow to a point where we are full. In 2006 Harristown had an enrolment management plan in place with an enrolment of more than 1700 students. We expect to enrol close to this number in 2015. So get applications in early!

At Harristown we pride ourselves on connecting with our families and while we expect near 500 enrolments for 2015, we want to maintain our ability to interview all families. For the first time we will be conducting group interviews with families.
The Curriculum

Just as in primary school, the high school must adhere to the Australian Curriculum, observing documented standards of assessment. This practice is reviewed as part of the regular audits conducted by Education Queensland, recently done in 2013.

Harristown continues to strive to be a high performing school across all areas.

We support our teachers to implement research-based and evidenced-based strategies into teaching and learning at Harristown. This includes the 16 elements of explicit instruction, the Dimensions of Learning incorporating the Habits of Mind as well as QAR, a reading comprehension strategy promoted through our School Literacy Plan.

Differentiating for diverse learners is also a focus at Harristown, ensuring that each learner's needs are considered and addressed.

Events for Parents/Carers

Throughout the school year, Harristown holds a number of events which are not to be missed by parents/carers. These include:

- Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Subject Selection Evening

Other events which parents/carers may be interested to attend, particularly if their child is receiving an award, include:

- Gold & Silver Award Ceremonies
- Presentation Night at the Empire Theatre

During the year a number of special assemblies are held to which a number of parents/carers may be invited. These include:

- ANZAC Assembly
- NAIDOC Assembly

Year 8 Camp

Year Level Co-ordinator, Liam Holcombe is planning a camp for early 2015. So be sure to save up to participate in this event. Stay tuned for more details. A great way to make friends!