DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

Welcome Back

A very warm welcome to all families, new and returning, for our first newsletter for 2015.

The New Year has started very much as planned with approximately 90 students working across 17 groups in the school and over 60 students accessing programs in the ECDP.

This year we have structured our school into three learning areas: Early Year, Junior, and Interactive Learners Sector. Each sector has a team leader who works to support teachers with operational issues within their team as well as curriculum and programming coordination.

All groups are settling in well and I am particularly pleased to welcome new teachers who bring with them fresh ideas and energy. Everyone is settling in beautifully. Of course, in the New Year we do expect there to be some adjusting as students become settled with new people, and new routines are learnt by all. I thank all families for their patience, communication and support through the first few weeks of the school year. Your commitment to support our teaching teams is critical to success.

Day 8

As I write we are currently still waiting for feedback from central office to confirm our Day 8 allocation, (of teacher numbers and teacher aide hours,) however based on our known enrolment count on Day 8 we expect to hold the numbers we are currently using (a significantly gain or loss looks unlikely).

P & C Meeting

Monday 16th March, 2015, in school staff room at 9.30am. All Welcome!

Please Note – The AGM for 2015 will be held after this meeting.

Term 1 – 2015

• First Day for students - Term 1 – 27th January, 2015.
• Last Day Term 1 - Thursday 2nd April, 2015.
• Good Friday – 3rd April, 2015
• Easter Monday – 6th April, 2015.

Term 2

• First Day Term 2 – Monday 20th April, 2015.
• Anzac Day falls on SATURDAY 25th April, 2015. No extra holiday.
• Public Holiday Queen’s Birthday - Monday 8th June, 2015.
• Last Day Term 2 – Friday 26th June, 2015.

Assembly Dates – All Welcome!

Undercover Area 2.15pm

Week 4 - Friday 20th February, 2015;
Week 6 – Friday 6th March, 2015;
Week 8 – Friday 20th March, 2015; and
Week 10 – Thursday 2nd April, 2015.

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We have however had to make just a couple of minor changes to two or three students based on unexpected enrolments or changes to families moving to different areas. By the end of this week we hope to have all those changes finalised.

**Staffing for 2015**

At the end of 2014 we had two last minute transfers from the school Alison McClelland (Caboolture East ECDP) and Carol Bucton (Moreton Downs State School). We wish both Alison and Carol well in their new positions.

Again at the very end of last year we had a new teacher transfer into the school; Patrina Fenech. Patrina joins our Interactive Learners team and has done an amazing job settling into our school structures in a very short period of time.

**Great Results Guarantee**

Again this year all state and Independent Public Schools will receive additional funding through the Great Results Guarantee program and enter into an agreement that commits them to guarantee that every student will either, achieve the National Minimum Standard for literacy and numeracy for their year level or have an evidence-based plan, developed by the school, in place to address their specific learning difficulties.

In 2015 Woody Point Special School will receive $37 450 to implement programs to improve student learning. Our plan centres around extending on our key objective from 2014; Literacy, Students data, Intensive Interaction and technology.

**Dr Dave Hewett**

We have been very fortunate this year to have had the opportunity to work with Dr Dave Hewett, one of the world’s leading researchers in the area of special education. Dr Hewett’s areas of expertise include the development of communication for early learners and cognitive development of young people with disabilities.

Dr Hewett is the head of the Intensive Interaction Institute in the UK, Intensive Interaction is a teaching method used widely at Woody Point, and indeed most special schools in Queensland, to develop communication abilities. During his visit Dr Hewett provided a lecture, two days coaching for teachers and aides in the classrooms and two afternoon professional development workshops.

**Pel-I-Can**

This week saw the introduction of the school SWPBS mascot “Pel-I-Can”. Pel was a big hit as he made his debut on our Friday parade to present awards to students. We expect to see a lot more of Pel at parades and other school events in the future as he reminds our students of our 3 school expectations:

- I can be safe
- I can be respectful
- I can be a learner
Students Health

Although we are still in summer and enjoying the good weather that comes with it, we are none the less noting a high level of young people suffering various colds and flus. Can I take this opportunity to remind all parents of the importance of keeping students at home if they are either not well enough to participate in learning, or are in any way infectious or contagious. What might be a minor illness to one can become significant to another and indeed the whole school if allowed to spread. Thank you for your continued support to keep our community safe and well.

Ric Day
Principal

THE NEXT P & C MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY THE 16th MARCH, AT 9.30AM IN THE SCHOOL STAFF ROOM – ALL WELCOME.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE AGM FOR 2015 WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS MEETING TO ELECT OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR. (General Meeting will be held first then the AGM)
The other day I was asked the question, what is it that a chaplain does? Well for some insight I have included the latest role description from DETE.

**Chaplain/student welfare workers may be involved in any of the following:**

- **Social and/or emotional support** – assisting students to develop knowledge, understandings and skills that support learning, positive behaviour and constructive social relationships through social skills programs.
- **Spiritual support** – providing an additional dimension to the school's care, guidance and support of students with spiritual and/or religious needs.
- **Mentoring** – acting as a role model for students and assisting in the development of supportive relationships for, with, and among students.
- **Community development** – enhancing the links between the school and its community, working with school-based support staff and community-based youth organisations and networks to support students.
- **Educational support** – assisting with classroom activities (under the direction of a teacher) where involvement by the chaplain/student welfare worker provides further social, emotional or spiritual support for those students who may be at risk of disengagement.
- **Extra-curricular activities** – participating in general school activities, e.g. camps, excursions, sports day or coaching team sports.

The chaplain is part of a greater team of professionals who works with our students, parents and staff towards a healthier and stronger student.

Chaplaincy is a service provided to the school community hence the saying, “An unopened gift is worth nothing,” is rather appropriate.

I encourage all parents, students, staff and the greater community to tap into the chaplaincy program. If you think I might be of assistance, you’re welcome any time to come and knock on my door or give me a call.

Yours Sincerely

School Chaplain – Tilla Gerber
Wow what a wonderful beginning to the school year. So much exciting learning and it is only week four. Our focus has been on getting to know the children and checking where they are sitting academically. Our aim is that our teaching and learning programs are balanced and support all learners and their varied abilities across curriculum areas. We have been teaching Numeracy, Literacy and Science. We have also focused on teaching the behaviours we require to be effective learners. We have begun library, swimming and in a few weeks hope to begin Riding for the disabled at Burpengary.

We are learners. We put our hand up and wait for our turn.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eli is working on blank questions and answers.</th>
<th>Coby is working on reading comprehension.</th>
<th>Keira is working on a repeating pattern.</th>
<th>Angus is writing a sentence.</th>
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</thead>
</table>

In science we are pretending to be a living animal, we are owls.

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<th>Damien is writing a sentence about the day of the week.</th>
<th>Harley is using Jolly Phonics letters, words and pictures to learn.</th>
<th>Jack has drawn a storm. We have been learning about the climate.</th>
<th>Keira is learning to draw symbolic representations of people.</th>
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</thead>
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Our indigenous story “How the Birds got their Colours.” The students are drawing their own interpretation of the story cover.

Play is an important part of learning. We communicate, we share and we negotiate. We care and help our friends. Developing valuable life-long learning behaviours.
Literacy – Early Years 1
Reading aloud and sharing stories together is a one of our favourite activities in Early Years 1. By reading stories to the students’ every day, we are helping them to become familiar with letter sounds, words, different language concepts and ideas. Reading also sparks children's imagination, stimulates curiosity and helps with overall brain development. In Early Years 1, we read stories in a group and at other times, we read stories one-to-one. Some students even like to ‘read’ to themselves.
Parents/Carers

We are asking your assistance in regards to managing possible bowel motions in the pool environment.

Please be aware that if a bowel movement is detected in the pool, the pool is subsequently closed for 24 hours while it is treated with a ‘super chlorination’ process. This means that swimming classes that have been timetabled after the incident will miss out on their session in the pool for that week.

As you know, sometimes we can pre-empt this occurrence and therefore to minimize this disruption, please be proactive in supplying swimming liners or alternative products (e.g. Swimster Reuseable Swim Pant – Theraquatics catalogue).

Alternatively, if your child has been given medication to loosen bowels or is suffering from diarrhoea, please let us know.

Thank you

Kym Schluter
PE Teacher