FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Things that are coming up this term

- Volunteers Afternoon Tea – Thurs 5/12/13
- Junior Twilight BBQ & Concert – Wed 11/12/13
- Last Day of School Friday – 13/12/13

End of Year Multi-draw Raffles

Once again, this year we will be having raffles that will be drawn at ECDP and school end-of-year functions. We would appreciate any donations of festive foods, wine, toiletries, toys, etc. ECDP classes have donation boxes outside their rooms and the school has a donation box in reception. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Permission Forms 2014 Booklet

“Permission Forms 2014” booklets have been distributed to families of continuing students in the school. We would appreciate it, if parents could complete the booklet and return it ASAP. This way we will have permissions in advance so programs such as swimming can start early in the new year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

P & C Meeting
The last P & C Meeting has been held for the year. Dates for 2014 will be advised.

Term 4

- Junior Twilight BBQ & Concert 11/12/13
- Last Day Term 4 – 13/12/2013

Toy Library
Dates will be advised for 2014 in the New Year.

School Assembly – Friday, 2.15pm
Undercover Area – All Welcome!

Week 10 – 13th December, 2013
Junior Twilight BBQ

Invitations for the Junior Twilight BBQ have now gone home; please return your slip with food requirements as soon as possible for catering purposes. No money is required at this stage – pay on the night. An invitation is also enclosed in this newsletter.

Making every day count

As we near the end of the school year, it’s important to remember that all students are required to attend school every day until the end of term which is 13 December 2013. Not only is attendance at school a legal requirement, but being at school helps students to achieve more and builds social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience. For more information, visit http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts.
Firstly, I must thank the wonderful staff of Woody Point Special School for making my transition into the role of chaplain such a pleasant experience. I have enjoyed my time getting around and meeting so many new people. The staff, students, and the few parents I have been introduced to so far have all been very welcoming and this makes it such a privilege to serve the community of Woody Point. A special mention must also go out to my office buddy Sandra Kennedy who has been an awesome assistance with getting me settled into my role.

I may have only been here for 7 weeks, but already I have a great sense that my 2 days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) are going to be action packed with some exciting challenges ahead.

In this Edition I hope to give you a better insight into my background and hopefully you will enjoy hearing a bit of good info on your new “Chappy”!

Name: Wayne Mealin  
Favourite Colour: Blue

Interests: Any form of sport. I like to keep reasonably fit and enjoy competing in the odd triathlon. Rugby league & soccer are my other favourites to watch or participate in!

Work: I work 2 days a week as a chaplain and 3 days a week as a nurse. Prior to commencing at Woody Point Special School I was the chaplain at Clontarf Beach State High School for almost 6 years.

Family: I have been married for just over 6 years to the beautiful Stacey and we have a dog named Jazz. I have an older sister named Sonia, a younger brother named Andrew and I have recently become an uncle to Eli.

Favourite Band: Switchfoot, Muse, Powderfinger and Bon Jovi.

Once again thank you for the lovely welcome. I will now leave you with a thought for the day: 

*Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.*
Early writing is critical to small motor skill development as children learn to manipulate writing implements and make controlled marks. In Junior 2 we have been developing our early writing skills through a range of tactile and kinaesthetic activities and experiences such as sensory play, whiteboard writing, and writing on horizontal and vertical surfaces.
Over the last semester, students in Senior 2 have participated in literacy activities across a variety of contexts. Students listen to adults reading or sometimes prefer to put some headphones on and listen to audio books. They also activate switches when participating in literacy activities using specialised computer software programs. Everyone enjoys sensory and interactive storytelling. Most recently each student received a Certificate for participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The book the students most enjoyed was Robinson Crusoe and his adventures were depicted in their artwork which was displayed at a special school assembly. As the senior students are progressing towards their final years of schooling, it is important for them to participate in outings within the local community. This might include visits to parks and shopping centres. Students may spend some time at various service providers in order to help them make a smooth transition when they leave school. We record these experiences through either photographs or videos using a camera or Ipad. Back at school, the students are able to watch themselves on the projector and reflect on their experiences. Jeremy is one student who will be finishing school at the end of this year and he has been participating in transition activities with a new service provider. He has met some wonderful new friends there and recently participated in an end of year play. We all enjoyed looking at Jeremy’s photos and hearing about his exciting day.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am a member of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. I am writing to inform you about a research study that I am conducting as part of my master’s degree and to seek permission for your child’s participation. The study will investigate the effectiveness of visual aids to improve the understanding of physical activity tasks for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder during the performance of a selection of physical activity skills. This study will be conducted at the School of Human Movement Studies, University of Queensland, Australia. The study is seeking typically developing children and children with Autism Spectrum Disorder aged between 3 years, 0 months and 10 years, 11 months for participation in this research.

The study will require your child to perform a series of physical activities including, running, galloping, hopping, skipping, jumping, sliding, batting (one and two hand batting), catching, dribbling, overhand throwing, underhand throwing and kicking. The study procedures will be explained in terms that your child can understand, and your child will participate only if he or she is willing to do so. Only I (the principal researcher) will have access to your child’s personal and medical information, and your child’s results from the study. A complete copy of your child’s results will be made available to you upon request at the conclusion of the study. The results of this study will help health professionals and adapted physical educators improve the quality of physical activity interventions for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Participation in this study is voluntary. Even if you do give your permission for your child to participate, your child is free to withdraw from this study at any time. Personal and medical information that is obtained for the purpose of this study will remain strictly confidential and your child’s identity will remain anonymous at all times. At the conclusion of the study, all results will be reported as group results only. Your child’s physical activity skills will be videotaped during the course of this study and used for the sole purpose of analysing their performance. The footage will not be reproduced outside of this study or released to a third party and will be deleted upon completion of the study.

The information sheet included with this letter will provide you with further information on the study, including the purposes, methods, demands, and possible risks and inconveniences involved. If you agree to your child’s participation in this study, please complete and return the consent form that follows. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact me on +32 488 339 778 or email kirstenanita.allen@student.kuleuven.be. If you have any questions about your child’s rights as a research participant, you may contact the School of Human Movement Studies Ethics Officer on +617 3365 4718.

Sincerely,

Kirsty Allen, BScAPP(HMS), ExSc
Post-graduate student, Erasmus Mundus Master in Adapted Physical Activity