FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents/Caregivers

It’s Great to be Here.

As you would have been made aware in the last newsletter of term 2, Jan Baildon has taken pre-retirement leave. In Jan’s absence I am very pleased to have been appointed acting Principal for Woody Point Special School. Families of some of the older students in the school may remember me as a familiar face (although it had slightly more hair on top of it) as I was the Deputy Principal here from 2004-2007. I also did a very short relieving stint for Jan in 2010.

In between times I have spent 4 years as Deputy Principal at Caboolture Special School and a little over 3 years as Principal at Mount Ommaney Special School (a special school in the western suburbs of Brisbane with a very similar profile to Woody Point).

Lots of people have been asking me if it’s good to be back and I’ve been reminding people that I’ve been gone a very long time and that the school, the students and staff have all changed significantly. So I am not approaching this challenge as if I am coming back to a familiar place. Rather I’m getting to know a whole new school as if for the first time, but I can tell you … It’s great to be here!

School Opinion Surveys

Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to take part in this year’s School Opinion Survey and share their opinions about what this school does well and how this school can improve.

Access details for the Parent/Caregiver Survey have been sent home with students—these are not linked to individuals, and you cannot be identified in the survey results that will be reported back to the school, or by the department.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

P & C Meeting.

Monday 28th July, 2014, in school staff room at 9.30am. All Welcome!

Term 3

- Last Day Term 3 – Friday 19th September, 2014.

Term 4

- Public Holiday Monday - 6th October
- First Day Term 4 – Tuesday - 7th October
- Pupil Free Day Monday - 20th October
- Last Day Term 4 - 12th December


Assembly Dates – All Welcome!

Undercover Area 2.15pm

Week 4 – Friday – 8th August, 2014
Week 7 – Friday – 29th August, 2014
Week 10 – Friday – 19th September, 2014

WOODY POINT STATE SPECIAL SCHOOL
Address: 85 Georgina Street
(PO Box 44) Woody Point Qld 4019
Phone: 3480 4333 Fax: 3480 4300.
Website: www.woodpoinspecs.eq.edu.au
Email: the.principal@woodpoinspecs.eq.edu.au
Parents who require access to a school computer to complete the survey should contact the front office to make arrangements. The survey will remain open until 3 August 2014. Your participation is both valued and appreciated.

**Thanks Rotary Kippa-Ring**

I was my great pleasure to meet with and thank the Rotary Kippa-Ring club this week for their incredible work in renovating the junior playground. By removing concrete, relocating fences and relaying turf a wonderful outdoor play space has been produced with room for students to ride bikes, climb on play equipment or simply kick a ball in the flat open grassy space that has been created.

All schools rely on the support of local community and I was very pleased to have a cup of tea with Gary and Sue and say thanks. A plague has been placed on our wall of thanks to acknowledge their contribution and it can be seen at a glance that Rotary Kippa-Ring, have a long history of supporting our school. We look forward to working with them again in the future.

**Facilities Update**

Work is continuing on the replacement of the pool pump and heating equipment. As planned all the replacement of the walls and ceiling in F-block was completed on the school holidays.

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**P & C News**

**ANNUAL CENT AUCTION**

Thursday 4th September, 2014

Donations for this Cent Auction would be gratefully appreciated and can be dropped off at School Reception – thank-you.

Next P&C meeting is Monday 28 July at 9.30am. A major discussion item will be our major fundraiser for the year – The Cent Auction which is scheduled for Thursday 4 September at Bramble Bay Bowls Club.

Also a great opportunity to come and meet Ric the new Principal.
In **Junior 7** we incorporate movement into our units of work to assist in keeping the students engaged in learning. Here are some examples of how we do this.

We also incorporate technology using our interactive whiteboard and class ipads for a variety of ways.
Welcome families, friends, carers, and community members to our newsletter article. During this term we will be working on “English Unit Four Prep” from the National Curriculum. We will be modifying the content of the unit to meet individual needs within our learning group.

The listening component of the unit requires that students listen and understand oral stories. Within the Knowledge and Understanding component, students are to recall events from a story and link to personal experiences.

As a way of learning, the students chose an item of interest. We then took a picture of the student and their item. The students then added text so they could talk about their photo and item. Students who can write independently wrote and edited their story. Other students required help and a model sentence was written. The students said what they wished to write, the teacher wrote the sentence, and the student copied the sentence. For students who required more support, staff used hand over hand writing to facilitate learning; we also had some students who used punctuation within their writing.

We all love learning, we all love coming to school, and we all respect each other for the wonderful learners that we are.

Thanks to our fantastic staff, families, and volunteers; we all truly appreciate your support in our teaching and learning journey.

Tracey and Kirstie: Junior 8  ☺
Q and A with…
Principal Ric

Intermediate 3 and 4 wanted to get to know Principal Ric better so they organised an interview with him. With assistance, students created their own question for Ric and then shared some information about themselves. Here’s what they found out:

Chance: What’s your favourite dance move?
Ric: Side to side shuffle

Liam: What’s your favourite football team?
Ric: “Obviously Queensland in the Origin. I used to like the Raiders but lately I’m a bit of a Souths man. I’d just like the Bunnies to get a premiership.”

Matthew: Who is your favourite singer?
Ric: “Jimmy Barnes. Anything Aus Rock I’m okay with.”

Daniel: What’s your favourite movie?
Ric: “I really liked Frozen the first time round. I like The Lego Movie when Emmett asks Batman if his bat mobile comes in orange and Batman responds “I only work in black or very, very dark grey.”

Penelope: Who would you say your fashion is most like? Lady Gaga, Mr Schuester from Glee or Will.i.am?
Ric: “I’m pretty sure it’s not Lady Gaga. Somewhere in between Mr Schuester and Will.i.am.

Sam: Do you have a shed or a man cave?
Ric: “A shed, a shed, a shed. What I would give to have a nice big shed! I’m somewhere in between a little shed and a big garage.”

: What activities do you like doing in your free time?
Ric: “I like playing cricket, watching cricket, reading about the cricket or sitting quietly in my chair thinking about cricket.”

Riley: Who is your favourite superhero?
Ric: “Oooo there’s a can of worms. I’d probably have to say Batman because I like the way he says “I’m Batman.” Superman I’m not a huge fan of. I think he could be doing more, I mean he doesn’t eat or sleep, he can fly, he can’t be hurt so I think he could just be doing more.”
Woody Point Special School

Cent Auction

Raising money for WPSS students

Bramble Bay Bowls Club
Woody Point
(Cnr Victoria Ave & Georgina St)

Thursday 4.9.14

9am for a 10am start
finishing at 12pm

Prizes Include:

Coffee Machine  Quilt
iPad  Flat Screen TV
And many more!

$5 entry fee includes tea & coffee
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
School Students with Disability

Information for Parents/Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn’t matter what the individual child’s circumstances are – every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better information about school students with disability in Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information about students with disability – in fact, schools have had to do this by law for some time. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information – that is, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with disability at some point. Schools need to be able to support students with disability by removing any obstacles for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. This means that schools need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carer about reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do now and this won’t change.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).
WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?
Your child’s school will collect and report information every year about:

- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- where known, the student’s broad type of disability.

Some students who are not provided with an adjustment at the time of the collection will meet the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and will be eligible to be included in the data collection.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD’S INFORMATION?
Teachers and other school staff from your child’s school will collect the above information based on:

- consultation with parents/carers
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for making sure that the information collected about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?
Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. With the new data collection, this will be done in the following ways:

- Personal or confidential information will not be given to anyone not authorised to see it.
- When the information is sent by your child’s school to the local or federal education authority for combination with information from other schools, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.
- When the information is reported from 2016 onwards, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE DATA BE AVAILABLE?
When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection, the information will be reported on the My School website from 2016 onwards. It will be by school only – no student names are recorded as part of the data collection.

CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY CHILD’S INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?
It’s your decision about whether you want your child’s information to be included in the national reporting or not.

Including every school child who is being provided with an adjustment because of disability in this new national data collection each year will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students’ needs.

Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don’t want to have your child’s information included in the national data collection.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, your school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability

If you do not want to have your child’s information included in the national data collection please contact Woody Point Special School Office on 3480 4333 by July 31 2014.