Hello Everyone
I hope you have all had a happy and successful start to the year. In this newsletter we have a few topics to discuss that carry over from last year and that we hope can well and truly be resolved soon. The two most pressing issues are the Quadrennial School Review and parking.

**Quadrennial School Review (QSR)**
This is the process by which the school reviews its practices and performances so that ongoing improvement can be targeted for the long term. As the name suggests the process is to happen every four years. We began the QSR last year but didn’t establish a clear sense of direction for the next 4 years and, now that we have our new building and new Heated Pool, I hope that the future is clearer. We want the best opportunities for our students and if you believe you can contribute to this conversation I would appreciate hearing from you. The timeline for this will be to definitely have this process completed by the end of March.

**Parking**
The same arrangements that were in place last year for the drop off and pick up of students is in place again this year. If you are to pick up your child at the top car park (E Block) you will have been invited by now. Drop offs continue at the bottom gate (Admin area) unless this has been negotiated with the class teacher. Please remember to contact me if there is a problem with any parking arrangements and I will do my best to ensure they are resolved.
**New Staff**
Welcome to Mereani Masi, teacher of S4, and I trust that you enjoy your new role. Welcome also Sharon Kitching to the new position as teacher of M6. We also are able to welcome back Dim who is coming in on Tuesdays to work in Alex’s class, Michaela who is back from leave and now is the teacher for S8, and Clara Scott who is teaching for 3 days each week in M3. We also have two new physiotherapists working in the school. Please make Danika Oczko and Kerrie Turner welcome to the school.

**Meet the teacher**
Your teacher will arrange a time when you and he or she can meet to discuss the year. For the older classes there will also be information sessions about getting ready for the future as you and your child plan to leave the school community.

**School Hours**
You might be aware that the school has been trialling a new format to the school day. We found that the school needed to change its hours of contact during the day and so, because the times would have to change anyway, we decided to apply a new format. As a trial the student contact hours are now 8:50am- 2:40pm with school finishing at 2:45pm. The first break is from 11:00am to 11:30am and the second break from 1:30pm – 2:00pm.

**Phones, Toys and Valuables**
If students bring in items that are valuable it will be difficult to keep them safe so please only send them after discussion with the teacher. Phones should not come to school unless they are needed for urgent communication or unless the class is studying the use of mobile phones as a means of communication. If phones do come to school it is expected that they are handed to the teacher who will keep them secure until required.

**Forms and Book Lists**
As you and I are quite aware, paperwork can be a chore. Please understand, however, that we must go through the basics of checking details of medication, health and contact details at least annually. Within the next fortnight you will receive some more forms that will get the most up to date information for us to use at school. Please complete these and return to the school as soon as possible. If you haven’t received a book list for your child please contact the school immediately.

**Heated Pool**
We have done the training necessary to use the pool for hydrotherapy and hope to be able to have a swim very soon.

**The New Building**
The new H Block is looking very good and we have a class already in place. The terracotta room is starting to be used and it won’t be long before catering will start in the new kitchen area. This is very exciting and the students are quite thrilled with the new space.

All the best,

Bruce
Picking up Students from School
All students who are being picked from school need to be signed out at the school office. If anyone other than a parent/carer is picking up a student the school must be notified and photo identification must be presented before signing out a student.

Our School Code of Behaviour
Our school follows the Positive Behaviour Support Program. This program involves active teaching of our School Code of Behaviour. It is our expectation that all students will be following the four key parts of the code. They are:

Co-operation.
Respect for Others.
Self Control.
Respect for Property.
A copy of the symbols for each of the four key parts is attached. Our school welcomes your support with this program.

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF PLANTS
If you have any plants that could be potted up they would be greatly appreciated, e.g.
" Bromeliads
" Succulents
" Agave.
Plants can be dropped off at school and sent to the Home Economics room.
Donations of Small Pots under 14cm or 5inches

AFTER SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM
Vacancies Available for After School Care at Ipswich Special School (Operated by Focal Extended Inc.)
Vacancies exist for children with a disability, aged between 12 and 18 years
When
Between 2:45pm and 5:30pm
Monday to Friday (school term)
Permanent and casual bookings are available
Fees
$10.00 per session. (Childcare benefit fee reductions apply for eligible participants).
For more information
Please contact the OSHC coordinator Kerri (07) 3812 2014 or 0424 506 546 via email childcare@focal.org.au

DONATE YOUR OLD DESKTOP COMPUTERS FOR RECYCLING
Our school runs a computer recycling program as part of our work experience program. We require old desktop computers which can be used for recycling. NO LAPTOPS PLEASE. Computers can be dropped off at school.
We now have a full size range of school uniform shirts in stock, available for purchase from the school office.

Sizes 6 - 12  $16.00
Sizes 14 - XXL  $18.00