Hello Everyone

While we are continuing with the Quadrennial School Review it is important to ensure the school maintains its sense of direction. For that reason an Annual Implementation Plan has been put together based on our current discussions around the QSR. I would like to share the goals in this newsletter and invite your feedback.

Annual Implementation Plan- Priority Areas

1. Review the Reading/ Literacy Plan for the school, enhance currently available reading schemes and reading materials, engage staff in Professional Development around reading and provide feedback to staff on the teaching of reading in the classroom.

   Reading has been identified by the staff and many parents as something that they would like our school to engage with more consistently. I couldn’t agree more strongly and we intend to make our school known as a READING SCHOOL. Not every child will be reading aloud but they will still be able to engage through a variety of strategies such as Intensive Interactions, Interactive Storytelling, the development of their own books, etc. So keep a look out for all that’s happening in this area.

2. Develop a Science Plan for the school

   With the ready access to science programs it was believed that now would be a good time to engage with this Key Learning Area. Students really enjoy the surprise and excitement that often go with performing interesting science experiments. A coordinator has been appointed and teachers, including Michaela, are trialling a number of approaches to the teaching of science.
3. Strengthen partnerships between school and home, school and external training and educational providers, school and post-school option providers.

We have been very lucky to have the people and organisations in our community able to assist our children to take the next step as they leave school. We continue to develop our relationships with these people and inform parents through a regular newsletter and access to information and training events.

4. Introduce the Australian Curriculum

The school is here to provide the best learning opportunities for our students and we do this in the most caring and careful way. To this end we try to engage with an age-appropriate curriculum that is adjusted and adapted as required, that keeps the attention and interest of our students and aims to improve their quality of life. Many states, including our own, have made outstanding connections to the educational needs of all our students and our school will adopt the Australian Curriculum and trial some of the Curriculum to the Classroom (C2C) units.

5. Develop skills to Use the Heated Pool

The use of the pool has presented us with amazing opportunities. Many of our staff have now been trained in hydrotherapy, many of our students no longer have to travel by bus to engage in swimming lessons and we have a wonderful facility that can also be used by community members. We also need to ensure the absolute safety of students in the pool and therefore our processes need to be thoroughly explored and meticulously developed.

6. Positive Behaviour Support

At the staff conference in October last year we heard about the benefits of a school wide approach to delivering behaviour support. This was strongly supported by the majority of the people at the conference and over the next few months we will make a decision about the introduction of the Education Department’s supported School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program.

7. Ipad Plan

As with everything we do, the Parents and Citizens Association have strongly supported the school’s hope to improve communication strategies and connect our students to technology by contributing to the purchase of Ipads and Ipad trolley. We are in the process of trialling the use of IPads to test how best to use these in our school.

All the best,
Bruce
From the Chaplain....
A big welcome back to all families for the new year! I hope that everyone has had a safe and enjoyable break, and are settling back into the school routine. It has been exciting to be back, meeting new staff and students and seeing all the familiar faces. This term I plan to visit all classrooms to find out who is in each class, and get to know what everyone is doing!

As the chaplain at Ipswich Special School, I am here as a support worker for the school community. On Wednesday’s and Thursday’s, I am at the school to support and be a listening ear for students and staff. I am also available for spiritual support, although I need parent/carer permission for any ongoing conversations with students of this nature.

If you would like to contact me for a chat, or to let me know of any issues your child or family may be facing in which I may be of help, please call the school office.

Being cybersmart: For those families who have children who have access the internet at home, consider reading the information brochure “Who’s chatting to your kids?” available at www.police.qld.gov.au for tips on keeping your kids safe online.

Thought for the day:
‘Life is not the way it’s supposed to be – it’s the way it is. The way you cope with it is what makes the difference.’
Theresa Cook

About Your School Chaplain
A chaplain is a support worker for their school community (students, families/carers, staff). We work in 4 key support areas:
Pastoral care – which involves talking and supporting students and the school community, with any problems and issues. I am not a qualified counsellor; I work in conjunction with our guidance officer, Rachel Convery, who is available for counselling support.

Spiritual support – helping students explore their world view. Even though I am a Christian, should a student have needs for another religion, I can connect them with appropriate leaders for that faith.

General world views on different religions can also be explored with students. Anything ongoing conversations of this nature, requires parental permission, as does participation in any chaplaincy program.

Local networking for families/students. This could include information on local support groups, respite care, coffee mornings, etc.

Nurturing Christian students in their faith, with parental permission.

Classroom visits are an important part of my job at this time. In this way, I get to know the students, teachers and teacher-aides, and the way each class works, and the challenges they face. This also helps when I meet other members of the student’s family. If you have a student that is having issues at school or home, and you would like me to spend time with them either in class or check in with them at break time, please phone me on Wednesday’s and Thursday’s (when I am at school), leave a message in my pigeon hole, or email me at: theresa@su-chaplain.com

Thanks!

Theresa Cook

POTTERY CLASS DONATIONS
Pottery students are looking for donations of Air Plants (Old Mans Whiskers) to put on pottery masks. Donations can be dropped off at the school.

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.
**Easter Pie Drive**
Reminder that all pie driver orders and monies are due back by Friday 9 March.

**Student medical Details**
Please return updated student medical detail form to the school as soon as possible

**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.

---

**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

**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
OUTSTANDING STUDENT WORK

Classroom work continues to be of a high standard. It is great to see so many students working so hard. Keep up the good work!

**Paper Shredding**
Shaye Harrison  
Darelle Bond

**Good Signing**
Emily Draper  
Johanna Crow

**Craft**
Joshua Baker

**Goodwork**
Hannah Johnson  
Zakorah Smith

**Laundry**
Kirsten Dwyer

**Phonics Literacy**
Rhyley Schultz  
Allie O’Meara  
Zac Grbin

**Story Telling**
Karley Wilson  
Brie-Anna Auld