Hello Everyone
The students have been having a wonderful year and I hope that parents and carers are also feeling supported. Below are a few of things we have been doing, a few of the opportunities provided to parents and some of the end of year festivities planned.

Students programs
Junior and Middle school have continued to work on the Curriculum to Classroom (C2C) units to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in the curriculum areas being studied by their peers in the mainstream. As well as the Communication focus the school always sees as its central focus and the emphasis on Numeracy and Literacy we have always promoted, this year we have implemented more strategies and given more consideration to Reading. This was something we agreed to in the Quadrennial School Review and over the next four years it will remain an important part of what we do.

Senior school has been able to offer Fishing as a program for the first time and this is being continued for 2013 due to its success. Many other TAFE offerings, work experience and other projects such as grounds maintenance, automotive, catering, tuckshop, horticulture have proven to be great preparation for school leaving. Students have also been working on the specifications outlined in the senior curriculum and always focussing on Communication and Living Skills where appropriate.

The beginning of the year saw two massive projects come to completion and now we have an operating Heated Pool where hydrotherapy programs and learn to swim programs can be followed, and a new Terracotta Room where our students and other groups can meet. The Terracotta has also been fitted out with catering equipment to support the catering program.

There’s no end to the positive feedback I’ve received about the wonderful staff we have working here and I know that has impacted on the success of the programs. Shortly I will be able to confirm the classes for 2013 and the teachers working with them.

Parents and Carers
Parking was an important issue for parents at the end of last year and we have trialled a procedure for using the E Block car park for those students who were able to make their way to the area independently. In 2013 we will need to firm up these arrangements as, for all the work by certain parents including Kerrie, the City Council has not been able to find a better approach to managing the quality of the street availability for wheelchair parking.

Ipad training was offered to parents over several afternoons and the P&C are acknowledged for their support of these.

A Parent-to-Parent planning facilitator has started with the school and will continue into next year. As opportunities arise I would encourage you to be involved in preparation for your child taking his or her next steps. The support of parents throughout the year has been exceptional and we appreciate all the donations of goods for our raffles, the willingness to pick up students if they are having a bad day or are sick, the involvement in programs that are being offered, and the general interest in the happenings of the school. Your cooperation has assisted us to ensure the good running of the school.

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Spring Concert
What a wonderful success the concert was but I must acknowledge that several parents were sad that they weren’t able to attend due to work commitments. If it is at all in our power we will be holding future concerts at night in a venue where we can all fit at one time and enjoy everyone’s performances. The one good thing about having it during the day was that all students were able to attend, which isn’t always able to happen when having the concert at night.

I understand that at this concert the Queen was even able to attend to witness some amazing performances by the seniors. Who will forget the amazing individual performances by Mason, Karley and Brie-Anna My thanks, and the thanks of all those involved, go especially to Ian Lynch for getting the technology working and putting so much into the preparations.

Senior Dinner Dance
Here was another example of how well our students can get on in public and represent the school. We had students from four special schools and a unit from Bundamba High come along and enjoy each other’s company. Next year we will look at keeping the night for the 16 year olds and older but everyone who attended had the best time and the feedback from the other schools has been very positive. Trish from Clermont said that she had the best time and so did the students. I can say the same for us. Again, we thank the P&C who supported the staff attending the evening and as a result we had an amazing number of our dedicated teachers and teacher aides there to enjoy the night with the students. (Special mention to Hannah and Cora for their dancing. Also Tim, Karley and Dylan who all won prizes for their energetic dance moves.)

Our wonderful Home Ec teacher Heather put the arrangements together for the night with able assistance of Donna and Sara. Ian and Sara also took the photos- great job, and so patient. Andrew Thompson even came over for the night and provided the music, as he has done for several years now. Thanks Andrew.

Moving to Senior School
For those of you who have children moving into our senior classes next year there will be an invitation coming home shortly to come to an information session. Please pop along and see how we are arranging the 2013 school year as we are getting closer to the students finishing.

It’s amazing to think that after this newsletter there will only be two more newsletters before the end of the year. Many things are coming to an end, many things in progress and many things to prepare for as we head towards 2013.

Business Services Manager
We now have our BSM for the next two years. Angelene Butler has been through a rigorous selection process and has beaten off the competition to become our BSM. Congratulations Angelene, and it’s great to have you on board.

Graduating Students
Graduating students will be presented with their certificates on Wednesday, 28 November at 7.00pm in the Terracotta Room.

Chaplaincy Service
The Chaplaincy service at Ipswich Special School is provided under the funding the Federal Government NSCSWP National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. This is the school’s decision to participate in the program having been supported by the P&C, and the school has supported Chaplaincy for the past several years. The school community can comment on this service by contacting the school principal or the Chaplain, Theresa Cook.

Lastly welcome to Mandy Stewart-Murphy who will replace Darren as Deputy Principal until the end of the year.

All the best
Bruce

DONATIONS:

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
IMPORTANT NOTICES:
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.

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
0424 506 546
via email childcare@focal.org.au

DATES TO REMEMBER:
Wed 28 Nov - Senior Graduation
Mon 10 Dec - Brothers Christmas Party
Fri 14 Dec - Last day of school

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Tickets for our Multi Draw Christmas Raffle went home this week. Please send all tickets sold or unsold back to school by Friday, 7 December 2012. Thanks to everyone who has donated items towards our raffle.
Cooperation  Respect for Others

Self Control  Respect for Property

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!

GOOD LISTENING  Zachary Grbin

GOOD MANNERS  Zachary Grbin

GOTCHAS  Jordon Bauer
          Harry Smith
          Luke Purkis
          Kimberley Poole
          Karley Wilson

HOME ECONOMICS  Allie O’Meara
                 Rhyley Schultz

LITERACY  Karley Wilson x2
          Kimberley Poole x2
          Jarred Owers

MATHS  Karley Wilson
       Kimberley Poole
       Kurtley Ryan

PAPER FOLDING and DELIVERY  Kimberley Poole x2
                             Helen Stafford
                             Heather Livingstone

WRITING  Eric Vestey
        James Van der Meulen
        Zachary Grbin