Hello Everyone

There has been some conversation around our school community, including at the recent P&C meeting, about the school becoming a reading school. It is wonderful that people are talking about the important things and so I would like to take a few minutes to clarify the school position.

Reading and Communication

Communication is the single most important skill that we can develop with our students. We will always put communication at the very top of the list of things we are working on and we know that improvements in communication will lead to improved behaviour and general understanding of the world around us. We often have visual supports to enhance our communication and we use AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) approaches to improve our engagement with others.

Reading can be seen as part of the communication domain and described in several ways but most importantly as a way of interpreting symbols, signs and pictures to improve a person’s engagement with and understanding of the world. Reading can give immense enjoyment, can convey messages and can answer the questions we may not have even asked yet. Some of our students may never read effectively but to be given the opportunity to engage in whatever way is most meaningful has been shown to improve understanding.

IPads

We are now ready to put the IPads into class. We have 11 tablets that students will have access to across the school and teachers will look for the apps to download that are most useful. The Parents and Citizen’s Association is supporting the introduction of IPads in the school and is keen to see how we can use them to improve students’ literacy and communication.

SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support)

This school has been using Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) as the basis for making decisions about supporting students’ appropriate behaviours, and to develop this the school has agreed in the QSR to be a part of the SWPBS program. This will involve the school getting to know more about SWPBS (and PBS in general) and then nominating to join the program for the beginning of 2013.

In our surrounding area Ipswich West Special and Claremont Special are using the approach and I believe this has been a success for both. It is not a miracle approach but it is ethical, scientifically proven to provide long term success and evidence-based. It often does mean that we have to rethink how we do things because we are not looking at punishment for behaviours we don’t like, but at reinforcing the behaviours we do want to see. Quite a shift in thinking.

HOC (Head of Curriculum)

The school has been through a process to select a replacement for Phoebe as Acting HOC and I am happy to announce that Alex Wallace will take on the role for 4 days each week and Yura for 1 day until the end of term. This means that classes are affected and the following arrangements have been decided until the end of term.

Alex will be replaced by Jenny Bargewell (Mon and Tues) and Angela Rimmington (Wednesday to Friday).

Yura will be replaced by Dim Baveas on Tuesdays.

New Gardens

Over the Easter Break Tanya Smith and her husband Col came in to the school and constructed 2 Vegetable gardens that are specially designed for the students in wheelchairs to be able to access. We can’t thank the two of them enough for their interest and commitment. If you get the chance, please come in and take a look.

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](http://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**

**“Tell Us What You Think About Parenting”**

The Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland is conducting research into parents’ thoughts about parenting and parenting programs around the world. If you have a child between 2 and 12 years, we would love to hear your views on your parenting and the services that are available to you as a parent. We are looking for parents with a child aged 2-12 to complete a short survey. To find out more or to participate please visit [http://psy.uq.edu.au/ips](http://psy.uq.edu.au/ips).

**Entertainment Books**

If anyone would like to order an entertainment book this year please visit [www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/228n212](http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/228n212)

To order your book online or contact the school on 38135777. Books cost $65 each.
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

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 5 inch

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.

OLD SEWING MACHINING
If anyone has an old sewing machine that they could donate to the school for the Therapists please drop it off into the office. This will help with splint making and the production of equipment to be used with the kids in hydrotherapy.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

7 May—Labour Day
18 May—Ipswich Show Holiday
11 June—Queens Diamond Jubilee
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.

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 18years
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

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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!

Shredding
Darelle Bond

Craft
Zac Driver

Literacy
Karley Wilson
Chantelle Peters

Paper Delivery
Carly Williams
Kimberley Poole

Card Making
James Van Der Meulen

One of our students, Kirsten Dwyer, watering the new veggie garden.