Hello Everyone,

I hope your Christmas break was safe and happy. It’s wonderful to see all the students smiling and happy to be back at school and to meet the 15 new students who seem to have settled in so well. Already there is so much to report and to let you know about.

The school has made a commitment to two important initiatives for this year. Last year our focus was on SWPBS with the school considering how we can support students’ behaviours that we want to see, and this will continue. This year our focus is on ASDAN (a program for senior students) and on the 4 Blocks approach to literacy development to be used across the school.

The ASDAN programs are starting off. This is a scheme that provides a framework for awarding students as they succeed in gaining various skills and knowledge useful for when they leave school. Each book is approximately $15, comes from England and will be kept by the student as they leave school. If you are concerned about the cost of these books I encourage you to come and see me and I’ll help you to apply for the Education Support Supplement associated with the Pension. This money can be directed into your school account to pay for any school related items and activities for your child. Please see the office for a information pack.

You might have heard of the Great Results Guarantee. This has meant that the Qld Govt has given each school an amount of money based on enrolment to ensure that students have an evidence-based plan, developed by the school, in place to address specific learning difficulties. I will be discussing the spending of our (approximately) $47 000 at the first P &C meeting. At the moment teachers have agreed that some of the money could be spent on a literacy coach to support the 4 Blocks.

HRE is starting up in some classes starting today, particularly where it is urgently needed in two of the senior classes. A letter is on its way with an outline of what is being studied. Please let us know if you have any concerns.

If you have a child who is 16 or 17 you might be able to apply for My Future: My Life money to support programs preparing your child to leave school. An information session is being held Wednesday, 12 February at 2:30pm in the Terracotta room. Please let us know if you are able to come.

Not only do we have quite a number of new students but we also have two new teachers. It’s wonderful to have Bahnu working in the junior area and Bethany working with Trish Predo’s class for 2 days each week and as additional school support.

All the best for this week,
Bruce
**IMPORTANT DATES**

Wednesday 12 February—My Future My Life Information Session.

Wednesday 19 February—Channel 9 Visit.

Friday 21 February—Sun Fish Program Starts.

Monday 10 March to Friday 14 March—Parent/Carer Interviews for Individual Learning Plans (ILP).

Tuesday 25 March—School Photos.

Friday 4 April—Last day of Term 1.

Tuesday 22 April—First day of Term 2.

**IMPORTANT NOTICES:**

All students who are being picked up 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 three key parts of the code. They are:

**We are SAFE**

**We are RESPECTFUL**

**We are LEARNERS**

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

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT WORK**

**LITERACY**

Heidi Vestey
Jaimee McLean
Rhys Bramich
Kevin Daniels

**HOME EC—COOKING**

Telara Curnock
Emily Horsfall
Zac Grbin
Rhys Bramich
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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!

EMAILING THE NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

Any parents who would like to receive their school newsletter via email could you please enter your details in the space provided below return it to school. Thank you

NAME: ........................................................................................................

EMAIL ADDRESS: .....................................................................................