Hello Everyone,

Thank you to everyone who was able to make Harmony Taylor’s memorial service at the school last week. The personal memories of Marion and Lyn were poignant and warming and appreciated by Michelle, Harmony’s mum. It was also lovely to hear one of our school captains (Maddy Smith) say a few words about how much she had cared for Harmony.

Graduation
Graduation was a wonderfully sad and happy night. Thank you to Heather, Donna and Angelene for putting it together, and to all the staff who attended to say their official farewells to the graduates and their families. Below is a message from Ian Berry who was unable to make the night.

“Ian has asked me to pass on his apologies for not attending your graduation night. Last week was the final Parliamentary sitting week for Queensland, and although Ian had been granted leave to attend your ceremony, there was a late change to the roster that called for all members to be in attendance. Ian hopes that your graduation was a successful and happy evening. Congratulations to all graduating students, and also to those moving into senior year in 2015. Once again, please accept his apology for not being in attendance.”

Awards
Awards Day is Wednesday with a start at 9:15am. We will present awards to everyone at this time so please try to make arrangements to be here if you can. Awards will also be presented by Quota to two of the graduating students for community and school spirit. I wonder who will win.

Night at the Greyhounds
Thanks to Michelle Wendt for all her efforts to put together a night at the Greyhounds to raise money for the P&C. They raised over $2800. What a great result for the school and the P&C. It was also a fun night.

Manual Arts
Next year we will need to approach Manual Arts in a different way. After a Workplace Health and Safety audit of the room carried out by Regional staff from Organisational Health, the majority of the equipment was condemned due to not meeting the very high quality control of the Education Department. Considering the enormous costs associated with bringing the equipment up to standard and considering the needs of the students and the types of programs being offered, staff decided that we would find alternative ways of providing the same kinds of programs.

Responding to this a couple of weeks ago we were able to make an arrangement with Bunnings to provide our students with wood working opportunities at their store and possibly on site here. This is a wonderful service that Bunnings has offered and we look forward to engaging with this in the new year. Some of the hobby equipment from Manual Arts is also able to be used in the shed without causing an issue, we trust. This will mean that we can still enjoy the hammering, constructing and building but not in the Manual Arts room.

The Manual Arts room, until otherwise determined, will become a combination space for the Arts program and the Grounds Maintenance program. Anything that has been made in the manual arts room by students will be going home by the end of the year.

I would like to thank the Manual Arts teachers, Neil and Elwyn, for their efforts. Neil has requested a transfer to another school so that he can maintain his trade skills and Elwyn has taken leave for 12 months for personal reasons. The school thanks them and wishes them well for the future.

If you have any questions about this change I invite you to come in and say hello and discuss the arrangements. You will be very welcome.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2015.

Bruce
**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **December 10**—Whole School Award Ceremony
- **December 10**—Reports sent home
- **December 12**—Last day of school 2014
- **January 27**—First day back to school 2015

**CHAPPY NEWS**

Hi everyone,

Some food for thought as we approach the end of the 2014 school year. Are you one of many people who make a new year’s resolution as the clock hits midnight on December 31st? In the majority of cases, those heartfelt promises are long forgotten by the time you reach February.

So why do ‘New Year’s Resolutions’ usually fail? It may be that the problem lies within the first two words of those promises. When we say, ‘This year I will be a better husband, wife, son, daughter or friend. This year I will work harder at being the best that I can be. This year I will try harder to control my temper, swear less or smoke less.’ whatever the need may be, we are giving ourselves 365 days to get around to making any changes. There is no urgency, no immediate action required.

If there are things about you that you would really like to change, can I suggest that you replace the words ‘This year’ with the word ‘Today’. When a person decides ‘Today I will work harder at being the best that I can be,’ ‘Today I will work harder at controlling my temper,’ this does require urgency and does need action. If you know there are areas in your life that need changing, work hard today at making those improvements. You are the one who will benefit the most.

Have a good holiday,

Chappy Lucinda

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

This Wednesday the report cards will be sent home.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in the students learning throughout 2014.

At the schools recent graduation for the Senior students, it was evident how much of a “full” curriculum the students at school receive. Each student shone in their own way, and we look forward to the students being active, integral and proud members of the community in 2015.

Looking to next year the students will be moving from ILP (Individual Learning Plans) to ICP (Individual Curriculum Plans), these will be developed in consultation with parents/carers, teachers and school staff, you will receive these in term 1 and 3, 2015.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Darren Greenway - Deputy Principal &
Alex Wallace - Head of Curriculum

**VACATION CARE — JUNIOR and SENIOR PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**

Focal Extended Inc. is pleased to provide information about the Summer Vacation Care Programs.

**Junior** Vacation Care Program will operate 9:00am-3:00pm, as follows:

- Monday, 15 December to Friday, 19 December 2014
- Monday, 5 January 2015 to Friday, 9 January 2015

**Senior** Vacation Care program is open to young people with a disability, attending school and aged between 12 years to 18 years.

will operate 8:30am-5:30pm, as follows:

- Monday, 15 December 2014 to Friday, 19 December 2014
- Monday, 5 January 2015 to Friday, 9 January 2015
- Monday, 12 January 2015 to Friday, 16 January 2015

Please contact the OSHC Coordinator on (07) 3812 2014, 0424 506 546

CHECK OUT OUR IPSWICH SPECIAL SCHOOL WEBSITE — www.ipswichspecs.eq.edu.au
Sports at Ipswich Special – 2014

As 2014 draws to a very successful conclusion for Ipswich Special School, it is worthwhile reflecting on our schools’ sporting achievements.

We have acquired the best sports equipment on the market and Ipswich is being transformed each day into a functional learning environment with exciting new sporting opportunities for our students.

This year Ipswich emerged as the dominant force in sports against other special schools in the Metropolitan West Region, having achieved first position in various carnivals including swimming, indoor cricket, indoor soccer and touch football.

Other exciting activities at school include swimming, dance, softball, hockey, golf, cricket, soccer, touch football, basketball and junior sports. Our students continue to benefit from the outstanding and fully funded coaching programs provided by industry coaches in hockey, golf, softball, athletics, cricket and touch. Our Monday and Wednesday sports programs were developed and funded by the AASC and the Australian Sports Commission. The funding included providing the students with a healthy diet of fruit after each sports session.

However, winning is only part of our motivation at Ipswich Special School. It is important to remember that irrespective of the very high level of our achievements in sport, our students play sport to have fun, make new friends, play the game and learn new skills.

As a dynamic and visionary school, we have worked hard at achieving the right balance between academic learning and sporting activities. It is these objectives that are the underlying principles on which our sports programs are developed and encouraged by management.

Abdulah Bakharia (AB)