Hello Everyone
A couple of interesting things this week.

Student Leaders
Yesterday I had the pleasure of handing out the badges to our school leaders and to ask them to sign a pledge that they will do their best for the school. It was a lovely ceremony that the students seemed to enjoy. Another presentation of the school leaders will occur on our return from holidays at parade- Tuesday 22nd April at 9am.

Traffic changes
You might have heard or read about in the paper the changes to Milford Street expected to take affect after the holidays. From that time only left turns will be allowed into our part of the street and out of it. This means that you won’t be able to cross the road from Limestone St unless you go down to Thorn St and turn up Brisbane St. To leave our part of the street you will only be able to turn left, and then cross over to the Brisbane St U-Turn facility if you’re wanting to head back into town.

Easter bonnet parade
On Thursday we will again be having a visit from the Easter Bunny and then following this at 12:30pm with an Easter Bonnet Parade. Prizes are on offer.

P&C
We managed to get through the last P&C and to have the AGM with the bare bones of a committee. We are making decisions that affect the students and families and would always prefer to do this with your assistance. We will have one more attempt to hold a daytime meeting and if this doesn’t improve our attendance we will revert to night time. A major decision at the last meeting was to hand the running of the tuckshop over to the school to make it easier to pay bills and for record keeping and auditing.

ILPs and SET Plans
Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) will be ready to be sent home by the end of the week, for most classes. Some hold-ups have occurred for classes and so there might be a delay until after the holidays for a small number of people. Senior Education and Training Plans will be sent home after the holidays.

Website
Remember to take a look at the website and the new information that can be found there. We will also be having some photos up there soon of some of the students receiving leadership badges.

Programs
ASDAN programs have been very successfully implemented into the school. The students involved in the Towards Independence- Cooking Progression have found it enjoyable and beneficial and are looking forward to continuing this next term with Miss Heather.

Junior and Middle have continued to work with the Australian curriculum and have been particularly enjoying the Science- living things. This has also been shown in the introduction of the Stephanie Alexander garden.

The Intensive Interactions team have been investigating the new Geography curriculum. The Junior students have been learning about the places people live in and belong to and their familiar features and why they are important. Middle and seniors have been looking at different kinds of landscapes and their distinctive landform features through the travels of the Rainbow Serpent. In visual arts they’ve been creating their own colourful rainbow serpent.

All the best and have a wonderful Easter,
Bruce
**IMPORTANT DATES.**

Friday 4 April—Last day of Term 1.
Tuesday 22 April—First day of Term 2.
Friday 25 April—Anzac Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 30 April—The Ditto Show; 10.30am
Friday 16 May—Ipswich Show Day

**Griffith University—School of Human Services and Social Work**

Griffith University is currently conducting research to investigate conversations between adult communication assistants and people who use non speech methods of communication and who have a medical diagnosis of Rett Syndrome, Down Syndrome or Cerebral Palsy. Adult communication assistants are people who regularly support someone with conversations where non speech methods are used.

If you would like to find out more about this research or participate in any one of the three stages, please go to http://conversationsswitoutspeech.wordpress.com/

Thank you
Contact person: Jane Remington-Gurney, Phd Candidate. School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University. Jane.remington-gurney@griffithuni.edu.au

**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.

**CHANGE OF STUDENT DETAILS**

Please ensure you make any changes of details eg phone numbers, emergency contact and medical details. ASAP. Thanks

**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
0424 506 546
via email childcare@focal.org.au
OUTSTANDING STUDENT WORK

NUMERACY/MATHS
Heidi Vestey
Lachlan Mears x 2
Rebecca Beeston-Walsh

LAUNDRY
Annabelle Brown
Zac Driver

CO-OPERATION
Annabelle Brown
Ben Savage

PAPER DELIVERIES
Luke Purkis
Darelle Bond
Rhiani McNamara
Jye Smith

GROUNDS WORKS
Brian Freeman

HORSE RIDING
Annabelle Brown

---

My Time Ipswich Men’s Group

You are invited to join the My Time Ipswich Men’s Group for Quiz Night.

The My Time Ipswich Men’s Group is a peer support group for men who are Dads, Granddads, Uncles, Male Adult Siblings or Male friends of a person with a disability or chronic medical condition.

We usually meet four times each school term for dinner or for an activity that we would like to do together. This is an excellent opportunity to catch up and chat in a relaxed atmosphere. For this event we will be returning to the Goodna RSL to share our knowledge and have a bit of fun - Last time we even won!

We hope you will be able to join us at this event or another in the future as new members are always welcome.

Please note: To assist you to join the group we are able to provide a qualified worker on the night to support member’s sons or daughters. If this would be helpful please let us know when you RSVP.

Date: Thursday 1st May
Venue: Goodna RSL
32 Woogaroo St Goodna
Time: 6:30pm to 9:30pm
Cost: $10.00 contribution
To RSVP for all events contact:
Focal Office on 3812 2014,
or Tracey Slater
(Group Facilitator) on
M: 0428 386 442
email: traceys@focal.org.au

UPCOMING EVENT
Event: Mystery Trip Out
Date: Saturday 10th May 2014
Time: 1:00—4:00pm
Venue: Meet at Focal, 6 Canning St, North Ipswich
Book early as places are limited.

Proudly presented by FOCAL Extended Inc.
With funding through My Time and supported from CPI.
What supports are available to school leavers with a disability in 2014?

**Have you had an assessment with Disability Services?**
To be considered for any Disability Services funded supports you need to have an assessment. This will mean that your support needs are captured by the department and can be considered whenever funded supports become available.
It is strongly recommended that you have an assessment before 31 May 2014. You will need to contact your local service centre to organise this. Your booking may be made several weeks in advance and you should make contact as early as possible to meet this timeframe.
It is advised that students and their families interested in support and assistance via Disability Services contact their local Disability Services service centre for information and advice. Please refer to [http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/contact-us](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/contact-us) for the student’s local Disability Services service centre.

**What supports are available to you now?**
For students in their final years of secondary school assistance is available through the My Future: My Life strategy to help students achieve the goals set out in their SET plan for life after school. Further information can be found at My Future My Life - Assistance for young people with a disability [http://www.myfuturemylife.com.au/](http://www.myfuturemylife.com.au/)

**What resources can I access to help with my transition?**
There are various resources available to you and your family to help with the transition. Many of these can be found on the internet.
Disability Services has developed two resources to specifically assist school leavers. **Explore the possibilities – life after school** is a guide which aims to provide a starting point for young people with a disability and their families for exploring the range of options available.
**Supporting school leavers – a guide to understanding your supports** is a guide intended to be used by young people with a disability and their family to assist with the implementation of supports once they have been approved.
These documents can be found at: [Support for school leavers—resources | Publications | Queensland Government](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/contact-us)
or you can ask your local Service Centre for a copy when you have your assessment.
The Department of Education, Training and Employment has also developed a resource to assist students with the transition from school. It can be found at: [The Department of Education, Training and Employment](http://www.myfuturemylife.com.au/)