



IPSWICH SPECIAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2023

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Principal's News

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Ipswich Special School

Thank-you for all the support given, contributions made and general togetherness you've shown to make this one of the best starts to the year that I can remember. We've had a full term at school, which given our last couple of years has been unusual, but it has paid dividends by allowing us as a staff much more time to connect with the students in their new classes.

I hope everybody enjoys catching up with how the young people in different parts of the school have been achieving so many milestones, so many great things academically, socially and physically it is hard to contain in one newsletter. This term has seen the introduction many new students from our ECDP to our Senior school. We've also been very lucky to have new teachers/teacher aides and therapists join our team. It has made our positive school even more positive.

In the following few pages you'll hear about our participation and achievement in all the subjects of the Australian Curriculum plus our students' work within the senior phase of schooling, using the Guideline to Individual Learning. Highlights of the term have been various excursions to events held locally and even further afield. New programs that have emerged and been reinstated have included the Forest School, and having P.E. as a separately taught subject.

It's been an honour to come back full time this term to lead this amazing school. I hope all our students, families, staff and friends have a restful break over Easter. I'm looking forward greatly to the rest of the year, and as always please give me a call or drop me a line if you would like to talk about your child's program at school.

Best regards

Rob

Voluntary Contributions

A reminder that there is still time to pay. The financial contribution of \$100 is not a fee and is total voluntary. Voluntary financial contributions are used by the school to provide an enhanced educational service and to supplement resources available for student learning, recreation and comfort. For further information please contact the office. Payment can be made by cash, direct bank deposit or QKT.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- 17 April 2023 – First day Term 2
- 25 April 2023 – Anzac Day
- 1 May 2023 – Labour Day
- 3 May 2023- P and C Mother's Day Stall
- 3 May 2023- Krispy Kreme Fundraiser forms due
- 19 May 2023 – Ipswich Show Holiday
- 15 June 2023 – Ipswich Railway Museum Excursion Junior Sec.
- 23 June 2023 – Last day Term 2

News from The Leadership Ladies

What an amazing start to the year we have had. All students across all sectors of the school have settled well into their classrooms. This year we welcomed 12 new prep students to the school, as well as some new students across other year levels.

This year teachers have been busy getting to know their classes and getting stuck into their teaching and learning for the semester. Teachers have also been completing Individual Curriculum Plans, setting goals, and making sure each student has a ROCC profile (roadmap of communicative competence), which they will use to create class and individual communication goals in conjunction with our school SLP Sophie. If you would like a copy of this for your own records, please ask your child's teacher.

We celebrated the end of term with Hawaiian/ loud shirt day and pizza's which were enjoyed by all! JS3 won the competition for the best dressed class!



This term both our Head of Department's Lisa Morar and Deanne Smith have been successful in being appointed to their roles to continue in the amazing work they have been doing.

We wish all families a safe and restful Easter break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back for Term 2!

Angela, Lisa and Deanne

Announcements

Easter Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated eggs towards our Easter Hat Parade. The Easter Bunny is looking forward to handing out eggs on our Easter Parade tomorrow.

P and C Announcements

P and C Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Please support our Krispy Kreme Fundraiser. Forms have been sent home. If you need another form, please see the office. Orders and money to be returned by 3 May 2023. Donuts can be collected soon after. Come on you know you want to!

Mother's Day Stall

Our Mother's Day stall will be open on Wednesday 3rd of May. Please support us by sending in any donations, and also sending in some money for the kids to buy something for their mum on the day

Chappy Chat

This has been my first term as the chaplain at Ipswich Special. I always knew I would have some big shoes to fill, taking over from Lucinda who served the school community faithfully for over 10 years. I would like to say a very big thank you to Lucinda for laying such a strong foundation for chaplaincy at Ipswich Special and for paving the way for others to follow. I know I will certainly do my best to utilise my strengths to serve the Ipswich Special School community as best as I can. Up until now, I have had the pleasure of spending time with some of the very smallest people in the school, I have had fun doing music therapy with some of our seniors, enjoyed a morning of bush school and had the pleasure of accompanying some of the seniors on travel training. I'm starting to get a feel what Ipswich Special School is all about and I think I'll fit in just fine. As of term two I'd like to introduce a drumming program which I've run across a number of schools over the past 10 years. I know the students will enjoy this and learn a thing or two as well. Breakfast club will, with the support of the YMCA be held on Monday and Friday mornings, starting from week two. As your school chaplain, I am available to the broader school family to support you in any way I can. My role as the chaplain is to support you as a community from a social, emotional, spiritual and pastoral care point of view.

I look forward to meeting with many of you in the near future.

Chappy Bill

willie.schneider@suchaplaincy.org.au

Notes from our Speechie

Hi everyone, I'm Sophie your school Speech Language Pathologist. I'm really excited to be back again servicing the school after returning from maternity leave in term 4 last year. This term getting to know the preps and new students to the school has kept me busy! I've also been lucky to attend the PODD alternate access one day training this term. I look forward to implementing these communication strategies next term with our students who would benefit from alternate access methods to communicate. On 16th March it was *Swallowing Awareness Day* as hosted by Speech Pathology Australia and the theme was : *Dysphagia. A difficult diagnosis to swallow! Swallowing Awareness Day 2023* was an opportunity to bring attention to swallowing disorders and to connect people with speech pathologists, the professionals who can help. I am passionate about mealtime safety and look forward to continue supporting our students to have safe and enjoyable mealtimes in the school environment.

News from Early Years 1

EY1 have done so well this term, settling into coming to school 5 days a week. We have made so many friends and are learning to share. We've enjoyed counting to and from 20, learning letter sounds and names and having fun Friday.



News from Early Years 4

Early Years 4 has had a great start to 2023.

Students have explored different areas of the school, including Forest School, the pool and different playgrounds. We have been busy learning about word families, the alphabet, rhyming words, shapes and numbers. We enjoy learning through interactive stories and sensory exploration. Every day we practice the schools PBL behaviour expectations of being Safe, Respectful Learners.



News from Early Years 3

This term, our class has enjoyed lots of different activities. In Maths, students have been focusing on numbers and shapes and have particularly liked singing different number songs.



English, students have been focusing on rhymes, letter sounds and sequencing.

In HPE, students have been looking at body parts and how we grow as we get bigger.

Early Years 3 have also been very busy with sensory play, gross motor activities, fine motor activities, cooking, craft and swimming.



News from Early Years 2

It's been a busy start to 2023 in EY2 with our four new preps adjusting to life at school. We are busy learning new routines and trying out different activities. In Maths, we've been exploring numbers, shapes and patterns. In English it's all about rhymes and the alphabet. We've explored a variety of digital technology and are looking at how we grow. It's been fun sharing photos of ourselves at different ages. With a very hot term, we've particularly enjoyed swimming and water play. It's been fun exploring numbers and shapes in the water.



Early Years Science

This semester in science EY2 and EY3 have been looking at materials and their properties. We've talked about how things smell, taste, sound and feel and have had a great time with different items to explore these concepts. Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Building Inspector Wolf has been a lot of fun. The pigs-built houses from paper, fabric and plastic and wore their hats made from paper, fabric and plastic. We have made chickpea foam and explored different foods and how they smell, feel and taste.

During this term, EY1 and EY4 have been exploring different materials during science. Students in both classes have explored a range of materials that include wood, paper, plastic, metal and fabric. Students have been labelling objects as being plastic, wood, paper, metal or fabric. The story of the 3 Little Pigs has been used in discussions on the strength or weakness of different resources. The students have also been exploring what senses they can use to identify different subjects.



News from ECDP

What a busy term it was for ECDP. We have welcomed many new children, looked at vehicles, farm, zoo and gardens with our stories and had loads of fun with so many activities! Happy holidays to our ECDP families. We look forward to seeing you all for more fun in term 2!



News from Middle Years 2

MY2 have had a great start of the year getting to know each other. They thoroughly enjoy their swimming sessions and been working hard in class.



News from Middle Years 3

Term 1 has been an extremely busy term, settling in to a new classroom, making new friends and learning new routines – we are all very proud of how far our students have come! The students have been working hard on their curriculum subjects and have enjoyed learning about Rhyming words through a variety of different stories. A favourite for all was definitely “The Cat in the Hat” by Dr Seuss. We have all enjoyed learning about Colourful Semantics and learning how to build sentences using pictures and words.

Another favourite activity for our students has been our weekly swimming sessions where the students are developing their water safety, awareness and confidence.

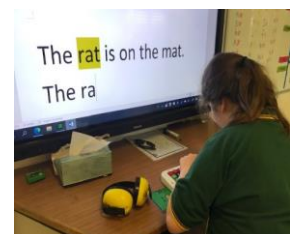
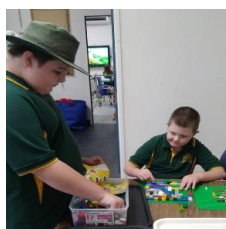
Well done MY3!

Miss Sharon, Miss Natalie and Miss Lan.



News from Middle Years 4

It has been a great start to the year 😊 Both Tina and I are so proud of what our little class has achieved thus far, working hard, following a new routine and making new friendships with classroom peers.



News from Middle Years 1

What a wonderful start to 2023!

MY1 is a group of great students Dominic, Nicolas, Matthew, Jake, Aurora, Ariette and Faith who love working together with their teacher Gay and aides Leonie and Sarah. We enjoy beginning our week in the swimming pool and end the week learning science with Miss Suzie. We have lots of fun creating rhyming words and learning about special places.

Our Hello song involves fist bumping and high fiving all our friends before deciding what zone we are in so we can learn



News from Junior Secondary 1

Justin, Kirri, Elliott, Ishka, Lucas and Delaney would like to say a big welcome from JS1. In our class the students know that a little progress each day adds up to a big result. Term 1 has taught us that learning is never done without mistakes which are the stepping stones to success. We have learnt to never allow what we can't do yet, interfere with what we will accomplish with time. We strive to ensure our day is filled with positive thoughts and actions in the morning that help us through the day. We encourage parents to continue enjoying and commenting on our informative pictures and updates available regularly on SEESAW. That's the way we invite our families into our class. The best is yet to come, so continue to stay tuned to JS1 through SEESAW app



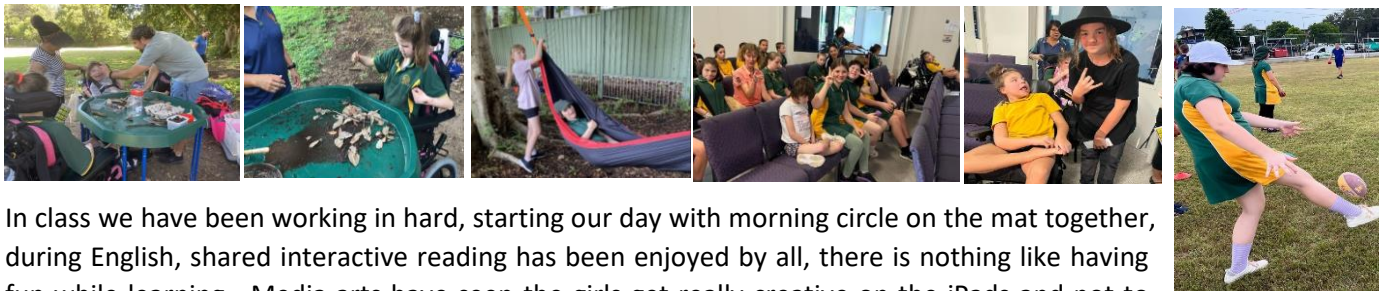
News from Junior Secondary 3

This term the students in JS3 have hit the ground running and have engaged in a variety of learning activities. Students have loved completing science activities do identify and describe different materials. They have done this through cooking experiments and other sensory based activities. English has seen students learn about rhyming words, they have been able to pair rhyming words and create sentences that rhyme. They have also taken the opportunity to get outside of the classroom and learn in different ways with forest school. Some students in the class have participated in an AFL program run at Clairmont special schools, they have loved building relationships with other students.



News from Junior Secondary 4 (Girl Power!)

This wonderful group of young ladies have settled into their new class well and had some exciting new experiences already in term one. On Monday mornings we participate in Forest School with Mr Jon, where curriculum is linked to outdoor learning.

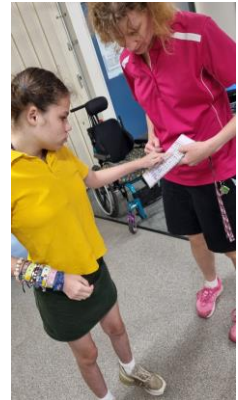


In class we have been working in hard, starting our day with morning circle on the mat together, during English, shared interactive reading has been enjoyed by all, there is nothing like having fun while learning. Media arts have seen the girls get really creative on the iPads and not to forget JS4 girls look so forward to catching up with all their friends for girls club with Miss Simone on Wednesday mornings. For History, JS4 and the rest of the cohort can look forward to a visit to the Railway Museum late in term two, keep an eye out for permission forms next term. Have a great Easter break.



News from Junior Secondary 2

We have had a great start to the year getting to know our classmates and developing school routines. In English the focus has been on rhyming texts. We enjoyed regular visits to the library, explored rhyming books and songs, and worked with concrete objects relating to rhyming words. During Maths we worked on number recognition, counting objects and identifying 2D shapes. Auslan was incorporated into different lessons throughout the day. We also managed to fit in swimming, Forest School, History, Media Arts, Health and Science, so we have been busy!



News from the Forest School

This term Ipswich Special School started their Forest School programme. Forest School gives students the opportunities to learn all aspects of the curriculum whilst out in nature. This term the Junior Secondary students have been the lucky students who got to take part and they have had a great time. Over the 10 weeks students have been involved in lots of activities including building shelters, making Wombat stew, creating mud portraits of themselves and constructing river channels. It has been fantastic to see how well all the students have engaged in all the activities and learned a wide range of concepts.



News from Senior Secondary 4

The boys in SS4 are always busy. If we are not holding a pen or pencil, we are working with tools. Each day, the students are constantly engaged with functional literacy activities like learning to send text messages, conducting internet searches, and practicing road safety while studying for their Learner's Permit. Some of the functional numeracy the students are using daily is reading timetables, measuring items and counting/using money. In addition, all of the students in SS4 are currently participating in transition programs to assist them to be ready for life after school.



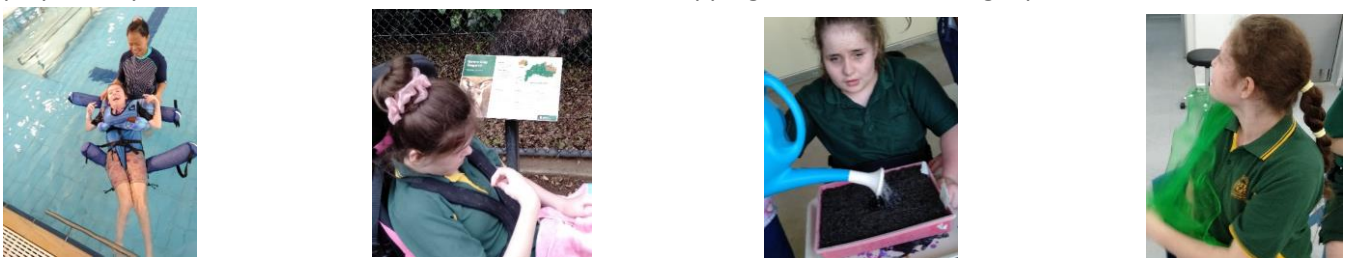
News from Senior Secondary 1

This semester, students in SS1 access P-10 curriculum which includes Maths, English, Science, History, Health, Media Art Auslan. As part of their history unit, students visited the Art Gallery to compare things from the past to present. Students enjoy learning and participating in all areas of the curriculum. They practice signing the words of the fortnight and discuss PBL expectation of the week.



News from Senior Secondary 2

During this term the students of SS2 have been very busy and engaged in their electives. These include Pottery, Horticulture, Tasty Trolley, Community Access, Travel Training, Thrift Shop, Work Experience Healthy Relationship Education and Participating in swimming or hydrotherapy. As part of the programs, the students have worked on numeracy particularly understanding money and its value. Students went pretend shopping in a pretend shop using play money and then as an add on the students went shopping another time using a pretend debit card. This was to



help them understand that a debit card is like having money. Students were able to practise their writing skills by discussing and writing about their community access activity, with support.

Well done SS2 students!

