Newsletter 29 October 2015

Capital Works Program
The design phase of the new administration and learning areas building is progressing really well, with sign off on the design expected to occur within the next couple of weeks. The project manager and architect have been really great to work with and take particular notice of the ideas, concepts and recommendations that come from the reference group.

When available for publishing, the design and siting plan will be included in a newsletter for the information of parents and carers.

Expected completion data has moved into the 2016-2017 financial year as the funding is over two funding periods. I expect end of Term 3 2016 will see handover.

Yesterday, P&C endorsed having the new classroom spaces and learning/therapy areas purpose built for Senior Secondary students. The reason for this is to give this group of students a purpose built, age appropriate space. Also it would be a place for the younger students to look forward to being part of as they progress through the years of schooling. The design team went to MacKenzie Special School to view the senior section of that school and have a good idea of what is needed to make it purpose built.

Multi-cap Vacation Care
Representatives from Multi-cap attended yesterday’s P&C meeting to have further discussions around provision of affordable vacation care for the Christmas vacation. Several possibilities were discussed regarding the type of service and educational and fun days that could be offered to our students. A separate information brochure will be forwarded home when Multi-cap have completed the programming.

School Improvement Review
Three special school principals have undertaken the School Improvement Review from 23rd – 27th October. Thank you to parents and P&C representatives for participating in the process.

Amongst the many verbal recommendations, commendations and suggested areas for improvement came six key strategies to be built into the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.

These are:
- Have a narrower, sharper school improvement agenda communicated to all of the school community
- Refine roles and responsibilities and teacher/team leadership roles
- Opportunity for team leaders to develop their skills in coaching
- Formalise teacher observation and feedback
- Improve the senior secondary curriculum
- Develop teacher skills in data literacy

To Learn, to Live, to Grow
Would you like to be a Host Family to an AFS exchange student arriving in February?

Are you ready to get an unforgettable experience, get to know another culture, make a lifetime friendship by adding a new member to your family from different country?

If your answer is YES, then log on to our website www.afs.org.au/host and get to know our amazing students arriving in February. We have students from a variety of different countries eagerly awaiting any kind of information regarding their future host families who will host them here in Australia for the length of their program.

If you believe you can be such host family for 5 or 11 months, then please contact the Hosting Coordinator at the AFS National Office: on 1300 131 736

Book Lists 2016

Booklists are currently being finalised for 2016. Every effort will be made to individualise booklists to meet each student’s learning needs.

Changes to Proposed Bush Dance

Unfortunately other commitments, including preparation for the school review, Term 4 assessment and practice for graduation and awards nights have meant that we need to postpone the Bush Dance proposed for Friday 6th November.

Instead, students will have a Bush Dance Themed Disco on Friday 13th November, from 1.30 – 3.00 pm. Parents are welcome to attend and the students may come to school in clothes suitable for the bush dance.

An after-school dance will be held in Term 1 2016 at a date to be set.

2015 School Opinion Survey

The comparison data for the 2015 School Opinion Survey arrived last week and shows pleasing improvements in a number of areas, particularly in the staff opinions. Parents remain mostly satisfied and students score well above all other special schools in their level of satisfaction with the school.

Survey results will be available on the school website in the near future.

School Expectations Regarding Students Makeup

It is an expectation of State Schools that students do not wear nail polish or face makeup, lipstick, etc. to school. Our lunch time “Girl’s Club” will continue with grooming and deportment and make-up application, but just for these sessions that the children enjoy so much. They will clean it off before returning to class. Thanks for your assistance with this.

Staffing Update

Last week Mrs Mandy Stewart-Murphy informed the school that she was taking extended leave until the end of the school year. Mr Anthony Kruck is continuing to act as Deputy Principal for this time.

As Mr Kevin Grace has formally lodged his notice to retire later next year, I will continue to relieve in his absence until the region decides how they will fill the position permanently. I am very happy to remain in the Principal position into the future.

Regional Office clarified that Calamvale Special School is entitled from Day 1 2016 to have an additional 0.5 Deputy Principal. We will convert some unused fractions of teacher allocation to additional Deputy Principal time, making the position 1.0 FTE. The advertising for this may go across the State.

World Teachers’ Day

We celebrate World Teachers’ Day on Friday 30th October. I’m sure you join with me in acknowledging and thanking all of Calamvale Special School’s teachers for the care, teaching and support they offer all students every day. Thank you, you do make a difference!

Tom Byrne
Principal
**Assembly Awards**
Award recipients for the last fortnight:

Congratulations to these students and to the others not listed who also received awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Ashley</td>
<td>Great progress in reading his Magic 100 words and in reading less familiar books without help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
<td>Developing into a mature and confident member of our school community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M7</td>
<td>Nyialok</td>
<td>Great improvement in all writing tasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS4</td>
<td>Madisyne</td>
<td>Great trying for making an attempt to respond and communicate during lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS5</td>
<td>Connor</td>
<td>Staying calm and working through problems when feeling angry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BaoHan</td>
<td>Great effort for responding well in lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dylan</td>
<td>Great work for being an enthusiastic and willing learner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**P&C News**

**Coming soon** – Next Monday, P & C will be sending out Educational toy & gift catalogues that you can do some Christmas shopping from. The school will then benefit from the “host” vouchers received to be used on resources for the school. Information about ordering and return timelines will accompany the catalogues.

**Next P&C Meeting:**
The next meeting of the P&C Association will be held in the Hub on Wednesday 25th November, commencing at 9.30am

**NEXT PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

Parent/Carer “chat time” – 9.00 – 10.30 am

Dear Parents/Carers

The next parent support group meeting provides an opportunity for you to discuss any concerns you may have in raising your child and still being able to look after yourselves!

This meeting provides an opportunity discuss a range of issues in an informal setting with other parents/carers who may be having similar experiences.

All welcome!

*Please contact Anne Chapman, (Calamvale Special School Guidance Officer)*

*on ph 3712 5555, to confirm your attendance*

**In anticipation of the spirit of giving that accompanies the coming Christmas season, we thought you would appreciate continuing the newly-formed tradition of supporting the following projects:**

**Christmas Project #1:**

**Operation Christmas Child:** a unique international project that provides Christmas gifts, collected & placed in a shoebox and sent to children who have very little, in both remote parts of Australia as well as overseas. Last year we, at Calamvale, participated in this lovely project raising $600 in donations from within our school community and sending off 35 boxes packed full of goodies. Once again we have the chance to participate and you are invited to make a donation. All money received will enable our senior students to purchase the items and pack the boxes on behalf of us all.

Further information is available at the website: [www.operationchristmaschild.org.au](http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.au) or give the school office a call and ask for Chappy. The more money we raise the more children we can bless with a gift.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR CONTRIBUTION BY FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6th in an envelope marked: ‘Operation Christmas Child’ together with your child’s name and class.**

**Christmas Project #2:**

Our Christmas Giving-Tree will, once again, be placed in the front office in order to receive donations of tin and non-perishable food items from our school community in the lead up to Christmas. Donations can be sent to school with your student and each class will place their contributions under the tree each week. As our students watch our tin castle grow they will know that our generosity is helping others in a practical way. These will then be given to a local charity during a special presentation on assembly at the end of term, for distribution to our local community.

**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bush Dance (1.30 – 3.00pm)</td>
<td>Senior Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Early Years Awards Night - 5:30pm for 6:00pm start</td>
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**Uniform Shop News**

**School Shorts:**

Parents are advised that short prices will rise at the start of the new school year, however there are shorts in stock now.

**End of Year and Holiday Uniform Hours:**

Thursday 3/12/15 10.00-12.00 (Prep Orientation Day)
Friday 4/12/15 9.00 – 10.30
Thursday 10/12/15 9.00-10.30
Thursday 21/01/16 10.00-12.00
Friday 22/01/16 10.00-12.00