This year Calamvale Special School is required to complete its Strategic Plan, 2016-2019 as part of the State Schools continual improvement process. We will be assisted to do this by the Department’s newly formed School Improvement Unit. Three members of the unit will spend time at our school from 23rd to 27th October reviewing a number of functions and student learning outcomes from the work we do. Part of the review will be to consider the school’s focused actions to improve teacher performance and student learning.

Earlier this year we developed the “School Improvement Agenda” which has strongly linked a few, purposely identified priorities that we all work towards. Professional development of staff and targeted funding to support these priorities is aligned to achieving them.

Following is a brief summary of the School Improvement Agenda based on the three priorities of:
- Communication – every student having an effective communication system
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Quality teaching

The Curriculum:
The curriculum at Calamvale Special School is the Australian Curriculum, delivered to students from Prep to Year 10 based on needs, developmental stage and individual learning characteristics.

Individual Curriculum Plans for students under 16 are developed twice yearly in consultation with parents and carers. For consistency of practice student curriculum plans draw on the school’s Curriculum Framework and the Queensland Curriculum to Classroom resources for Students with Disabilities, complementing the Australian Curriculum.

Students from Prep - Year 10 are offered either a curriculum at a lower year level, or General Capabilities for Student with Disabilities, determined through a thorough individual and cohort assessment process and data analysis. The process is referred to as “CAPLAN”. Data for each student is discussed at regular planning meetings, principal goal setting meetings and represented on the school’s Data Wall. Knowing each student and putting faces to the data makes the teaching and learning process an ever evolving journey aimed at continual improvement.

Senior Secondary students have a Planning Alternate Tomorrow with Hope (PATH) plan, which prepares them for life after school. At Calamvale Special School the senior students have begun the ASDAN journey which replaces the need for an Australian Curriculum focus and Individual Curriculum Plan. These students are on a pathway to meaningful post-school options.

Quality Teaching
All teaching staff have a current performance development plan that is linked to the school’s Explicit Improvement Agenda, focussed professional development, coaching and mentoring, with a strong curriculum leadership approach. Professional Development of staff outside of the mandatory requirements for all school staff is linked to the 2015 school priorities.

2015 School Priorities
The School Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) is drawn from the work of previous years, the school’s Strategic Plan 2012-2015 and Departmental expectations. The 2015 priorities have been selected by refining AIP goals, data from the school’s Headline Indicators and Performance Dashboard to select the most important strategies to explicitly drive school improvement.

The selected priorities are the result of ongoing discussion, professional problem solving, data analysis, evidence based research (Mazzone, Sharrat and Farrall) organised to build on the successes of previous years. They are focused on the continual improvement of student learning outcomes through strategies that maintain student wellbeing and promote staff morale and wellbeing.

Core Learning Priorities are:
- Communication for Learning: every student will have an effective communication system
- Literacy: reading and writing using Four Blocks.
- Numeracy: implementing the Australian Curriculum using Curriculum to Classroom resources and School Numeracy Framework, or ASDAN for senior students.

Quality Teaching for Learning
The school priorities align with the Department’s model for successful learning for every student.

Should you wish to discuss the priorities or to look at the full document of the Explicit Improvement Agenda, I’d be pleased to discuss it with you.

Additional Administration Support
We learnt today that the Department has approved an additional allocation of a half-time Deputy Principal from the beginning of the 2016 school year. As well, Special Curriculum Co-ordination time 3 for days / week will commence in 2018 as part of the government’s Extra Teachers initiative. This is very welcomed news.

School Support Day
On Friday 4th September we celebrate the wonderful work of our very important teacher aides and support staff on School Support Staff Day. I’m sure you join with me in wishing all of our school support staff an enormous THANK YOU!!

Sick Students
As you are no doubt aware, this winter has brought with it the most dreadful influenza infections Brisbane has seen in a very long time. Accompanying the colds and flus have been a number of complications including asthma, ear infections, chest infections, sinus infections and gastro bugs.

Our school has had more than its fair share with both students and staff being hit badly. On most days we have many staff away sick. On several occasions this term we have not been able to source supply teachers or teacher aides to provide relief for staff too unwell to come to school. On many occasions the school has also had to call parents to collect students too unwell to be at school.

Hopefully the warmer weather and the Spring Vacation will bring an end to the continual cross-infection that seems to be happening at our school and across Brisbane. In the meantime I ask you all to keep children home if they are showing signs of the flu or colds, or are generally unwell. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

Tom Byrne
Principal

Previous Events:
- September 3rd–4th: Father’s Day Stall
- 9th Parent Group Workshop—“Successful Toileting”
- 17th Sports Day
- 18th Last Day Term 3
- October 6th Term 4 begins
- 14th Parent Group Workshop—“Alternative and Augmentative Communication at Calamvale”
- 19th Pupil Free Day

Upcoming Events:
- September 3rd–4th: Father’s Day Stall
- 9th Parent Group Workshop—“Successful Toileting”
- 17th Sports Day
- 18th Last Day Term 3
- October 6th Term 4 begins
- 14th Parent Group Workshop—“Alternative and Augmentative Communication at Calamvale”
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November
- 6th Bush Dance (6.00pm-8.00pm)
- December
- 11th Last Day Term 4
Canberra Trip
We all (students/staff/parents/carers) had an amazing time in Canberra. There was so much to see and do!

Parent Group Get-togethers – “Successful Toilet Training”
The next Parent Group Information Session is being held on Wednesday 9th September at 9:15am in the Hub. The session is being coordinated by the school’s Occupational Therapist Hannah Tipman, who will be providing helpful information and answer to parents who would like to know more about “successful toilet training”. Parents and carers interested in attending are asked to contact Denise at reception to let her know if you are coming for the provision of resources and catering. Denise can be contacted on 3712 5555.

On Tuesday 10th November at 9:15am the school will host an informal morning tea for parents and carers to connect with each other and just have a catch-up with other parents and school staff. More information will come home closer to the time.

Senior in-school Camp
While the majority of the senior students went to Canberra on their adventure, the students who didn’t attend had an in-school camp. They had many adventures of their own as they discovered Brisbane using public transport and visiting the museum and going sailing. Everyone had a great time.

Book week parades
It was wonderful to see so many students and staff get dressed up as their favourite story book characters at last Friday’s “Book Week Parade”. Thank you parents for the effort and thought that you put in to the costumes. We had some amazing characters on the day.
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>Year Group</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EY3</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>For listening and following instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY5</td>
<td>Kayla</td>
<td>For doing great work in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY6</td>
<td>Jayden</td>
<td>For great communicating in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>For great work in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M5</td>
<td>Tiarna</td>
<td>Great trying and having a positive attitude towards her learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aaron</td>
<td>Great trying and displaying good behaviour at the Fun Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kaeden</td>
<td>Great trying and displaying good behaviour at the Fun Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>Great trying and displaying good behaviour at the Fun Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jonathon</td>
<td>Great trying and displaying good behaviour at the Fun Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS5</td>
<td>Dylan</td>
<td>For working extra hard during kitchen cleanup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NDIS Planning Resource
There is a myriad of information available through the Internet re NDIS. The following link provides a great planning booklet, which is easy to read, and assists you to plan for your child’s future. You may wish to download for future reference.

Positive Learning Behaviour Update
It is the goal of the PBL program at Calamvale Special School to establish a learning environment where students feel safe, and know that someone believes in them and cares about them and their learning. Positive behavior is a direct outcome of fulfilling these needs within our students. In order to achieve these goals, it is important that we understand the purpose of inappropriate behavior. The PBL philosophy recognises that behaviour is a form of communication and serves a purpose. By understanding the purpose of behavior we better understand how to respond and intervene. More importantly, students behave more positively when they know what is expected of them.

At Calamvale Special School we have 5 Expectations: I can listen, I can ask for help, I can communicate, I can wait, I can share. But positive behaviour doesn’t just happen. Students also need to know these expectations and what they look like. At our school, staff provide students with daily lessons on the 5 Expectations.

Rewards are provided for students who demonstrate behaviours consistent with these expectations, while replacement behaviours are taught for unwanted behaviours and our staff strive to respond consistently with predictable consequences that match the behaviour. But The 5 Expectations at Calamvale Special School don’t have to be restricted to just school. These expectations can also be useful at home. Why not take a few minutes to discuss the 5 Expectations with your child? Think about how they can be used at home to help make a positive difference!

Woolworths Earn and Learn
Just a reminder to collect Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers if you are shopping with them. Collect stickers to place on your sticker cards. Once the sticker cards are completed they can be placed in a collection box, either at school or the local Woolies. These completed sticker cards can be redeemed for school resources and equipment. This community program enables learning centres across Australia to earn educational resources from shopping at Woolworths. Support us by collecting the stickers, completing the sticker cards and placing them in our collection box. Please note this program will be ending very soon so please get your stickers into school as soon as possible.

40 Hour Famine Event
Some of our junior and senior secondary classes have decided to get behind this year’s World Vision effort to help alleviate global hunger. Taking part in the “I’m Standing For Hope” campaign, our students will be giving up some of their comforts in order to raise awareness and sponsorship.

JS5 will continue doing without by adding a rustic-sleepover to the mix as they live and eat like a remote African village for 2 days.

You can support our courageous students (and their teachers!) by sponsoring them. Simply return the tear-off slip below.

Thank you!
Chappy Sharon

I would like to sponsor the students taking part in World Vision’s 40 Hour and enclose $_________________

[All donations of $2 or more are tax-deductible]

Signed__________________________________ Date________________

PLEASE RETURN TO BY TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER.