Welcome to the 2017 School Year
How nice is it to be back at school, and with a beautiful new administration and senior secondary building?

My answer is, “awesome”!

We are feeling rather spoilt with the amazing accommodation provided by the Queensland Government. I can assure you it is a very functional and attractive work environment. If you haven’t had a chance to have a look over the building, just let us know and we will gladly take you for a tour.

So, welcome back to all of our returning students and families and a big welcome to the many new students and their families. We are off to a great start with very settled and happy students, right across the school.

As you know, I had some leave at the end of last year, that ran into the holidays. It was a really good break and gave me the chance to manage family concerns and take a trip to Europe. I am really appreciative of how well the administrative team and staff worked together to deliver a great end of school year. I have had a lot of positive feedback about the Year 12 Graduation and Awards Evenings and I’m sorry to have missed these important events. Thank you everyone for supporting each other and ensuring the Calamvale Special School students had a wonderful end to their school year.

Currently we have 142 students enrolled for 2017. At this time last year 136 students were enrolled. As today is Day 8 of the school year, Census Enrolment Day, we will be staffed and resourced by the Department on these numbers. I expect there will be little or no changes to class groupings as this figure is very close to what we expected.

There are five new teachers this year, with 23 class groups. Numbers of students in each sector are a little different this year with Junior Secondary having the largest cohort of 46, while the early years’ students have the smallest enrolment.

This year the administration team consists of myself, Deputy Principal, Mrs Mandy Stewart-Murphy; Deputy Principal Mr Anthony Kruck; Head of Curriculum, Mrs Elle Angwin; and Mrs Kathy Harris, Business Services Manager.

As part of our break down of duties the admin team has responsibilities for the management of students, supervision of teachers and parent contact of particular sector levels. This year the age group responsibilities have been divided up as follows: Early Years – Mrs Stewart-Murphy Middle Years – Mr Byrne Junior Secondary – Mr Kruck Senior Secondary (Years 11 &12) – Mrs Stewart-Murphy.

Parents are asked to make contact with the relevant administrator regarding enquiries about their children.

Thank you for the manner in which you have prepared your children for school, for purchasing the required materials and for ensuring they have the school uniform, including a hat. It really makes a difference to successful learning when parents support the school as you do.

Staffing Update
I am pleased to welcome five new talented and hardworking teachers to Calamvale Special School. Ms Emily Brazier, Ms Jenna Bartlam, Ms Pamela Sandford, Ms Rebecca Robinson and Ms Leonie White have joined our team. I’m looking forward to working closely with our new teachers.

Parent/Teacher Meetings
This week Parent/Teacher information sessions have been held across the school to enable teachers and parents to meet in the teachers’ classrooms, as a get to know you and introduction of the 2017 program. A big thank you to parents and carers who were able to make the meetings. If you would still like to catch up with your child’s teacher, please contact them to make a time.

Individual Curriculum Plan and Senior Pathway Meetings
From next week teachers will be making a meeting time with their students’ parents / carers to complete the students’ Individual Curriculum Plan (P-10), or Pathway Plan (11-12) for Semester 1. These are important meetings that provide an opportunity for parental input. If you are unable to make the meeting, teachers will call you to discuss the plan and to gain your endorsement.

Congratulations to Local Legends
On Monday 23rd January Ms Jill Hole, who has been the Senior Secondary Transition’s Officer for the past two years was honoured by Federal MP, Dr Jim Chalmers for her community work and support of local organisations. Jill was awarded the Rankin Electorate “Local Legends” Award for her hard work and commitment to people with disabilities, by ensuring all of our senior students had a post-school pathway and relevant support. Well-deserved recognition Jill!

Tom Byrne
Principal
Welcome to the 2017 school year.
For returning families and those joining Calamvale Special School for the first time, I wish you all the best for a great year.

The Queensland Government is working to ensure our state schools provide the best-possible education for our local students and that's why we are employing more teachers in every school.

We are also investing $667 million to improve and expand schools across the state.

While we were all enjoying a well-earned rest over the school holidays, local tradies have been busy helping make your school a better place for learning.

At Stretton State College, holiday work included $555 000 for additional accommodation and learning spaces.

For more information or if I can help you with any state government issues please contact me at 3414 3110.

Duncan Pegg MP
Email: Stretton@parliament.qld.gov.au Facebook Twitter

Newsletters
Again this year, we intend to publish the school newsletter every second Thursday, commencing today. It will go home with the youngest child in the family. It will also be uploaded onto the school's website each Friday following its distribution. The website address is: www.calamvalesspecialschool.eq.edu.au

Procedures for Dropping off and Collecting Students
For security reasons the procedure for collecting students is for parents to come to reception in the new building, sign their child out and wait until your child comes to the office. The gates at school are locked between 9.00am and 3.00pm.

If someone other than the parent, or regular "pick-up" person is collecting students then authority for this to happen should be provided. If you haven't advised the school of the names of people other than your immediate family, please email or send a note in the communication book to say who you authorise to collect your children.

Students travelling to school by bus are supervised during the journey, on arrival and at pick-up time at the end of the day. Parents dropping off and collecting students from the service road entry off Beaudesert Rd are asked to not bring the children too early as they can become unsettled waiting for staff to escort them to supervised areas from 8.30am.

At the end of the school day students are supervised by staff until 3.15pm. Those not collected at this time are escorted by staff to the office, where parents should collect them if running late.

Thank you for your cooperation with this as it ensures the safety of our students.

Transition focus!
It's great to be starting a new year at Calamvale Special School in a new role. My name is Rebecca Gater and I have replaced Jill Hole as Transition Officer this year after 5 years of teaching in the Senior Secondary section of the school. In this role, I will be supporting Senior Secondary families in their efforts to put together a plan for a meaningful post-school life. I am at school 5 days a week and contactable via phone on 0428 400 644 or via email on rgate5@eq.edu.au.

One goal I have this year is to help families feel equipped to work with NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) to support their child when it comes into effect in Brisbane in July 2018. This new system will place the responsibility on families to coordinate funds and make arrangements for their child's needs. It is wise to be prepared!

I encourage ALL Calamvale Special School families to attend an NDIS workshop to learn about how NDIS will affect them. One such opportunity is a Carers Queensland workshop, on Tuesday 14th February at Kensington Junction, 25 Julie St, Crestmead. I hope to be there so we can learn together. To register, see the information below from Carers Queensland's website.

NDIS workshops: Full Scheme Ahead
Carers Queensland is hosting a range of free NDIS workshops for carers who care for a person with a disability. They focus on the following topics:
1. The NDIS and you
2. Your future with the NDIS
3. Caring beyond the now
Our workshops start at 10am and finish at 2pm. Morning tea and lunch is provided.
REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL, DROP INS CANNOT BE CATERED FOR. Register by calling 1800 242 636 or emailing ndis@carersqld.asn.au.
Please provide us with your name, email and phone contact details. A range of dates and locations are available at: http://carersqld.asn.au/services/ndis-full-scheme-ahead/ndis-events. Please register for a session that suits you.

Warm regards, Rebecca

P&C Report
The school's P&C Meetings are held at 9.30am on the 4th Wednesday of the month, in the Hub. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd February.

The P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 22nd March, commencing at 9.30am. All parents and carers are very welcome to attend P&C meetings.

Coming Events
6-10/2/17 Individual Curriculum Plan Meetings
22/2/17 9.30am P&C Meeting
17/3/17 Swimming Carnival and Meal Deal
21/3/17 Harmony Day
22/3/17 P&C AGM
31/03/17 Last day Term 1
18/4/17 Term 2 commences