Welcome to the 2016 School Year

This week we have seen a number of new students arrive at Calamvale Special School. Therefore, I’d like to extend the welcome message I sent last week to families who had returned or started at school.

Currently we have 138 students recorded to commence school this year. Last year I predicted 140 students, but there are a large number of late starters and the approval process is proving to be very trying right now, as we endeavour to have all eligible students in class by Day 8 (Friday 5th February).

Day 8 is the resourcing day for staff and Departmental grants and funding. If we don’t reach the target there will be some disruption to staffing, but I expect this to be minimal.

It is now mid-week of the second week of school and I am happy to report that Calamvale Special School is settled and running smoothly.

There are 3 new teachers this year, with 23 class groups. Numbers of students in each sector are similar with fewer early years’ students this year than last.

This year the administration team consists of myself, Deputy Principal, Mrs Mandy Stewart-Murphy (on leave) with Mr Anthony Kruck acting in her position; Mrs Elle Angwin Acting Deputy Principal; a vacant Head of Curriculum position to be filled in the next week or so; 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 Angwin
- Middle Years – Mr Byrne
- Junior Secondary and Year 10 – Mr Kruck
- Senior Secondary (Years 11 & 12 – Ms Angwin

Parents are asked to make contact with the relevant administrator regarding enquiries about their children. However, Mrs Angwin’s days with us are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

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 three new talented and hard-working teachers to Calamvale Special School. Ms Milissa Evans, Mr Mat Bray and Mr Jesse Best have hit the ground running and are doing a fantastic job with their classes. All three teachers are in Junior Secondary and come with experience and knowledge of working with this age group.

While Anthony Kruck continues in the role of Acting Deputy Principal, which will continue for Term 1, his designated class is being taught by Ms Anu Kalapurra.

Ms Trish Mercer has commenced long service leave and is being replaced by Mr Logan Padayachee.

Congratulations to Local Legends

On Thursday 21st January P&C Secretary, Sue Kille and Deputy Principal, Mandy Stewart-Murphy were both honoured by Federal MP, Dr Jim Chalmers for the community work and support of local organisations. Both Sue and Mandy were awarded the Rankin Electorate “Local Legends” Award for their hard work and commitment to people with disabilities. Well deserved, I must say.

Tom Byrne
Principal

Newsletters

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 is also going to be uploaded onto the school’s website each Friday following its distribution. The website address is www.calamvalespecialschool.eq.edu.au

Facebook Page

For further information, please like our Facebook page – Calamvale Special School

QSchools App

The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from Queensland state schools. Please see separate flyer for further information.

Procedures for Dropping off and Collecting Students

For security reasons the procedure for collecting students is for parents to come to reception, sign their child out and wait until your child comes to the office. Please do not go directly to classrooms to request that children be allowed to go home early.

If someone other than the parent or regular “pick-up” person is collecting students then authority for this to happen should be provided. A form for this was available at this week’s parent/care/teacher information sessions. However, 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.

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.

**P&C Report**
The school's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 24th February commencing at 9.30am. All parents and carers are very welcome to attend.

Morning tea was held on the first day of school. It was really an enjoyable morning meeting old and new families and friends.

Please note that uniform orders sent into school may take up to a week to be processed from now on.

**Easter Egg Raffle**
Each year the P&C run a Monster Easter Egg Raffle to raise much needed funds to support the school's Chaplaincy program. The success of this fundraiser depends on family and community support. The best way to help is to donate Easter eggs. These can be dropped into school anytime in the lead up to Easter. The multiple draws will be held at school during one of the Easter events, commencing Monday 21st March. Please support the raffle as it is the major fundraiser for Chaplaincy. If you are able to lend a hand with putting the raffle tickets together and completing the registry, note in your diary Wednesday 17/2/16 in the morning for a working bee to do this.

**Coming Events**
- 24/2/16  9.30am P&C AGM
- 18/3/16  Swimming Carnival and Meal Deal
- 24/03/16  Last day Term 1
- 11/4/16  Term 2 commences

**Special Olympics**
Do you know someone with an intellectual disability or ASD who is 8 years or older and would enjoy participating in sports training and competition?

Special Olympics provides regular sports training and competition for athletes (8 years and older) who have an intellectual disability and/or ASD. The Special Olympics Logan Allstars Club was established in 2013 and now has sports programs in aquatics, basketball, futsal and tenpin bowling in the Logan area. As membership grows, new sports will be added to the offerings. An information evening is being held for all interested athletes, coaches, families and carers on Monday 15th February at 7pm at Logan Metro InSports (357 Browns Plains Rd, Crestmead). You will have the opportunity to learn more about Special Olympics and hear from current athletes and coaches.

Please register your interest in attending the information evening by email at info@soqlogan.com or contact our club registrar, Joy Gavin on 3208 0174.

**School of Spark!**
Friday Afternoon Dance Class
Classes are taught by an experienced teacher and promote confidence, respect, positivity and are loads of fun!

Classes are $12.50 per class and invoices are sent out at the end of term.

3.15pm-4.15pm every Friday after school

Email info@schoolofspark.com for more information and check out our Facebook page!

Bridge