Principal’s Report

At last Wednesday’s P&C Meeting I gave an outline of the school’s strategic direction and the work covered to date in setting the expectations for teaching and learning at Calamvale Special School.

I’d like to share some of that with all of our families, so have condensed the section relating to the school’s curriculum as below:

The Annual Implementation Plan for 2015 has been written and is waiting departmental approval, however key points include an emphasis on communication, reading, writing and numeracy.

Other curriculum foci are around the teaching and learning of science and engaging a part-time science teacher; work readiness and transition to post school pathways for senior students; the best way to reach Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA); Human Relations Education; embedding technology in teaching and learning; and the continued implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support.

Four Blocks Literacy implementation is the key strategy for teaching literacy. It is an evidence based literacy framework developed specifically for students with disabilities. It covers Guided Reading, Self-Selected Reading, Working with Words and Writing.

Student writing strategies are built into the framework and include using an appropriate ‘pencil’ for each student’s needs (keyboard, alphabet board, switches, flip chart, and pen) as an integral part of early literacy skills.

Students can be at an emergent (learning about books, listening to narratives, being exposed to text) or conventional level of literacy. The Four Blocks methodology caters for a range of learning levels.

Part of the Four Blocks framework is ensuring each student has a robust communication system (signing, PODD book, iPad with proloquo2go, verbal, yes/no).

Calamvale Special School has been implementing the Four Blocks framework for 15 months, with some exciting developments in student literacy skills, particularly in alphabet knowledge.

Great Results Guarantee funding for 2015 is $51,280. This funding will be used to expand multi-modal communications systems for all students. It will be used for the explicit teaching of reading using Four Blocks methodology and will also help with teacher professional development to increase student numeracy skills. The Great Results Guarantee will build on the work of the Speech Language Pathologist who worked solidly in 2014 to increase the level of communication and reading for each student. Very good gains were made by many students as a result of this additional funding and we expect the same this year.

I hope you have found this snapshot useful.

Tom Byrne

Parent or Carer / Teacher Meetings

Parents and carers are cordially invited to attend meetings with their children’s teachers next week.

Every effort has been made to accommodate back-to back meetings for parents/carers with more than one child at school, however this hasn’t been possible for all families.

The meetings will provide an opportunity for all parents and carers to visit their child’s classroom and to meet with his or her teacher face-to-face. Teachers will cover their plans for 2015, the class program and for you to become acquainted with the teachers.

Meetings will be during the school day and take about 40-45 minutes. Students will be doing alternate activities while the meetings are being held.

Prep students in EY1 and EY2 have recently meet with their children’s teachers so these class groups are not included in this schedule of meetings.

I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

The meetings will be held in the teachers’ classrooms at the following times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time / Date</th>
<th>Tuesday 10 March</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:45</td>
<td>EY6</td>
<td>SS4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SS3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45-10:30</td>
<td>MY3</td>
<td>MY7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MY1</td>
<td>EY4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15-12:00</td>
<td>EY3</td>
<td>JS5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JS4</td>
<td>MY6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-12:45</td>
<td>MY2</td>
<td>JS1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EY5</td>
<td>SS2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-2:15</td>
<td>MY5</td>
<td>MY4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SS1</td>
<td>MY1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15-3:00</td>
<td>JS2</td>
<td>JS3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please note in student communication books or complete the attached form on the separate invitation you acceptance or inability to attend for the school’s information.

**Assembly Awards**

Award recipients for the last fortnight:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EY1</td>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>Following the rule of the week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY2</td>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>Improved listening and communicating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael A great effort in food play session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY3</td>
<td>Zijian</td>
<td>Great work signing nursery rhymes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY4</td>
<td>Gabriel</td>
<td>Requesting a song without promoting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY5</td>
<td>Mia</td>
<td>Communicating in all lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY6</td>
<td>Izaia</td>
<td>Consistently working to the best of his ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Tasman</td>
<td>Helping to clean up the sandpit when others had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2</td>
<td>Ryley</td>
<td>Mathletics Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kiana</td>
<td>Responding appropriately when communicating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chidinma</td>
<td>Good communication with her PODD book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sophia</td>
<td>Good participation during the Gross Motor Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3</td>
<td>Ariane</td>
<td>Displaying a keen and positive approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda</td>
<td>Applying a greater sense of resilience, in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>completing her work tasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M4</td>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>Showing great improvement in blending sounds and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>reading during Working with Words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M5</td>
<td>Jonathon</td>
<td>Great work in PE and outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>achievement in Mathletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M7</td>
<td>Thelim</td>
<td>Enthusiasm and diligence in all work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hayleigh</td>
<td>Excellent work in all areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS1</td>
<td>Jessica</td>
<td>Participating in the cooking program and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>enthusiastically trying new food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amelia</td>
<td>Participating well across all areas of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>class program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS2</td>
<td>Breanna</td>
<td>Engaging in intensive interaction so well and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>being a happy 12 year old girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isaac</td>
<td>Eating his lunch and sitting at the table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyrese</td>
<td>Engaging in intensive interaction an following</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td>Being a really good helper in class with his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Radika</td>
<td>Doing some good talking and always being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>compliant with her testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS3</td>
<td>Kristen</td>
<td>Great work for independently writing a letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>to a school friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS5</td>
<td>Connar</td>
<td>Making amazing progress at reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reece</td>
<td>Making positive choices throughout the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brianna</td>
<td>Placing words in the correct sequence to make</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SS1</td>
<td>Rhys</td>
<td>Consistently thoughtful of his peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS3</td>
<td>Aiden</td>
<td>Great Effort at Work Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura</td>
<td>Great participation in all class activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leticia</td>
<td>Great work in escorting students to their class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tayla</td>
<td>Great work at helping other students in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS4</td>
<td>Taylah</td>
<td>Taking the initiative to support a fellow student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with enthusiasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leticia</td>
<td>Great effort in PE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Leaders Induction**

Congratulations to the students selected to be student leaders for 2015. They are Ricky Strachan, Miracle Fitiseemanu who are the senior leaders and to the junior leaders, Connor Rawlinson and Daisy McConchie. We are very proud of these students and look forward to them assisting with many events throughout the year.

**Harmony Day**

The school will celebrate Harmony Day on Wednesday 18th March in middle session, commencing at 11:30am and concluding at 1:00pm. Harmony Day is (21 March) and celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Our focus is also disability and cultural harmony. Parents, carers, grandparents and friends are welcome to join us as students participate in a range of activities across the sectors of the school during this time.

The Harmony Day theme colour is Orange. Students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt or a national costume.

The school website will contain further information closer to the day.

**Bust a Move**

Bust a Move Dance, the leading dance school in Brisbane for children and young adults with disabilities, is running classes at Calamvale Special
School in Term 2! Classes are tentatively scheduled for Fridays at 3.15pm and are open to all ages. To find out more register your interest with Anne Chapman - Guidance Officer, at achap10@eq.edu.au When Anne has an idea of numbers a registration form will be sent home for completion and return. Cost is $12.50

Meal Deals Change
Please note that the cost of Meal Deals has been increased to $3 from next Monday.

Staff News
Last week we said farewell to Mrs Maria Tapinos, the school’s AUSLAN teacher aide who is on maternity leave.
Welcome to Ms Linda Donnelly who is replacing Mrs Tapinos.

Mrs Mandy Stewart-Murphy is on leave until Thursday 12th March. She will be replaced by Mr David Love.

Mr Tom Byrne will be on Long Service Leave from 18th March to 2nd April. Mrs Mandy Stewart-Murphy will be Acting Principal for this time. An Acting Deputy Principal has not been appointed at this time.

Calamvale Carnival Tickets
The Calamvale Community Carnival will be held on the grounds of Calamvale Community College on Saturday 25th July from 11:00am – 9:00pm. Our families have the opportunity of purchasing Early-Bird discounted armbands that allows access for all rides and concert pass. Cost is $65 for Adults and $40 for children. All day ride armbands are $50 for adults and $25 for children. All ages pass for the entertainment zone access only are selling for $20. These are discounted by as much as $20 by buying them early, however they will be for sale on the day. For more information and to purchase the discounted armbands check out: www.calamvalecarnival.com.au
Parents and carers of students at Calamvale Special School will be able to purchase parking at our school by pre-booking. Information regarding the parking will be sent home closer to the day.

Senior Students Canberra Trip Fundraiser
The P&C are holding a fund raising sausage sizzle at Bunning Underwood on Sunday 9th March. Helpers are still needed, so if you can lend a hand for a short time on Sunday it would be really appreciated. Please let Denise know by calling 3712 5555 if you can help.

Parkinson Family Festival
The Parkinson Community Event will be held on Sunday 29th March at Calamvale Park. There are a range of fun-filled family activities including an Easter Egg hunt

Chappy News
Our Parent Support Group is on again this coming week and you are invited to come along. We are meeting in the new look Chill Zone at 1:45pm on Wednesday 11th and if you’re unsure where that is, Denise will give you directions. This week one of our parents, Rachael Woods (Radiographer) will be discussing what to expect and how to prepare your child for medical imaging, blood tests and dental check-ups. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers as well as school staff over a relaxed afternoon tea.

Our Calamvale Care-hampers are finding their way to homes within our community and being gratefully received. Please register yourself or a family you feel would benefit from a gift of a $50 food hamper. The registration book can be found at the front office.

Due to the success of the visit of Wide Eye Puppet Show last year, featuring our own & much loved Speechie, Catriona Pine, I have arranged for them to return for an Easter presentation to be held on Monday 30th March, to kick off the final week of Term 1. This child-friendly presentation of the traditional Easter Story is funded by Chaplaincy and therefore free to community. Parents are very welcome to join the fun. If you would prefer your student not to participate, please alert your class teacher or admin. Session times will appear in the next newsletter.
Coming Events
8/3/15   Canberra Fundraiser BBQ  
          (Bunnings Underwood)
11/3/15  Parent Group Meeting (1.45pm)
18/3/15  Harmony Day
30/3/15  Wide Eye Puppet Show
3/04/15  Good Friday/ Easter Vacation
20/4/15  Term 2 commences

Disability Services Needs Assessment
Parents and carers are advised that changes are being made to eligibility for support services. You may like to look at the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services website for further information. The link is: http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/disability-and-community-care

Congratulations to our School Leaders

[Images of students and a cake with the text: Congratulations School Leaders 2015]