Newsletter 26 November 2015

Capital Works Program

Enrolments for 2016 are still coming in and all indications are that we will need to establish 24 class groups and possibly 25. To enable us to accommodate this number of classes, without bringing another modular or hire building onto the grounds, we have applied to the Department to do some refurbishments to existing teaching spaces. The proposal is to remove the free standing partition from E Block where specialist and visiting teachers have their shared workspace and put a dividing wall across the open space to make two teaching and learning areas. The rooms will have a complete make-over with painting, carpets and storage to be carried out before the start of the new school year. A storeroom attached to E Block will be remodelled to accommodate the specialist and visiting teachers. It is anticipated that funding will be provided by either Regional Office or Central Office.

Things have gone quiet in regards to the new building, however, a design meeting is scheduled to occur in the last week of term.

We are currently completing a strategic infrastructure plan for other maintenance and enhancements to gain additional funding above what is received in the school grant for building improvements.

Multicap Vacation Care and Activities

Avegates Social Experience Network, through Multicap have been able to source some vacation care spaces at Mt Ommaney andBeenleigh Special Schools for the periods 14/12/15 – 24/12/15 and from 4/1/16 – 15/1/16. Places for our students are limited and students would be transported by bus from Calamvale. Hours are 9.00am – 4.00pm. With rebates from Centrelink costs per day is expected to be $35.00.

Please find enclosed in this newsletter an Expression of Interest for Avegates to consider. It needs to be returned to school by Monday 30th November.

Also Avegates have proposed that up to four Gala Days / Events be held at Calamvale Special School over the Summer school holidays. The activities could include Hip Hop Dance, Football, Drama Workshop and Water Fun Day. Costs for the days will be based on number of participants. School staff will be invited to supervise students during these activities, which would run from about 1.5-2 hours.

A survey to gain parent / carer interest is also enclosed in this newsletter. Surveys will need to be returned to school by Monday 30th November.

More detailed information will be provided by Avegates once the level of interest is known.

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.

Letter to School Community re Spam

The Department has been informed of a SPAM email that is being distributed to some users in Australia.

The email with a subject “Email Upgrade” encourages users to click on a link to upgrade their mailbox to a larger size.

If you have received this email, please delete it immediately. If you have clicked on the link in this email, please contact the Service Centre on 1800 680 445 and advise you have clicked on a link in a SPAM email containing a virus.

A copy of the email can be found below.
Our Christmas Giving-Trees 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.

**Assembly Awards**

Award recipients for the last fortnight include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EYS</th>
<th>Mia</th>
<th>For excellent work in communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>For excellent work in mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS5</td>
<td>Daisy</td>
<td>Always being kind, courteous and respectful to her teachers and peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reece</td>
<td>Demonstrating maturity during community outings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS4</td>
<td>Kylie</td>
<td>Great work at HELP Industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td>Great improvement in using Auslan to communicate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**P&C Report**

The next meeting of the P&C Association will be held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 commencing at 9.30am. All parents and carers are very welcome to attend.

The P&C Association thanks all parents, carers, staff and family members for their support throughout the year.

**Uniform Shop News**

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

**Upcoming Events**

End of Year and New School Year Dates

- 2/12/15 Senior Graduation – Alagster Sports Club 6.00pm
- 7/12/15 Early Years Awards Night – Calamvale Community College 6.00pm
- 8/12/15 Middle, Junior and Senior Secondary Awards Night – Calamvale Community College 6.00pm
- 11/12/15 Last Day Term 4
- 20/1/16-22/1/16 Pupil Free Days
- 25/1/16 School closed
- 26/1/16 Australia Day Holiday
- 27/1/16 Day 1 Term 1 2016
- 3/2/16 First P&C Meeting 2016
- 24/2/16 P&C AGM

School Improvement Review

The Executive Summary of the School Review has been posted on the school’s website in accordance with Department policy. The full report is available if parents would like to peruse it.

The **Key Findings** were:

- School staff describe the role of the leaders as positive, inclusive and highly involved.
- There is evidence of positive, caring relationships between staff and students.
- School staff and community representatives indicate there is variable understanding of the current improvement agenda.
- The school has introduced a range of leadership positions aimed at developing leadership density in the school.
- Teachers are open to receiving more regular and targeted feedback from school leaders.
- The school offers a broad range of opportunities to support the transition of senior school students moving into the community.

All staff report there has been a noticeable increase in student skill acquisition in the area of communication.

**Key Improvement Strategies are:**

- Narrow and sharpen the focus of the school improvement agenda to enhance understanding of and commitment to identified teaching and learning priorities and targets. Communicate the improvement agenda to staff, parents and the wider school community.
- Refine the roles and responsibilities of the leadership team to ensure all leaders are engaged in driving improvement linked to the explicit improvement agenda.
- Provide opportunities for leaders to further develop their skills in coaching and instructional leadership.
- Develop a whole-school approach to building teacher capacity which includes a formalised program of teacher observation and feedback.
- Review, develop and implement a relevant student-centred senior school curriculum, which caters for the diversity of students’ needs, ability levels and transition pathways, investigates an array of certification courses and school-based programs, and is inclusive of relevant systemic curriculum initiatives and processes.

Develop teachers’ skills in data literacy so that all staff can administer assessment items, record findings and analyse student results to adjust their teaching and learning strategies.

**Book Lists 2016**

The book lists for 2016 will be a “Starter Pack” of minimal generic resources based on student learning needs, i.e. a common list for students working at the Australian Curriculum General Capabilities level or students working at the Australian Curriculum Different Year Level, as requirements in materials are quite different. At the parent / teacher meetings in early February teachers will also ask parents to provide the items needed specifically for that class and beyond what was in the “Starter Pack”. The lists will be sent home next week.

**Awards Nights**

This year there are two Awards Nights:

- Monday 7/12/15 Early Years Awards Night at Calamvale Community College commencing at 6.00pm; and
- Tuesday 8/12/15 Middle, Junior and Senior Secondary Awards Night at Calamvale Community College commencing at 6.00pm.

Parent helpers are needed to assist with the selling of drinks and chips as well as Christmas Raffle tickets from 5.00pm on both nights. Drinks and chips are not sold during the event.

If you can lend a hand for about an hour on either night, please advise Denise at reception by email: dbouy2@eq.edu.au or phone 3712 5555.
Pupil Free Days 2016

Staff have elected, through a Local Consultative Committee agreement, to work on Wednesday 20/01/2016 instead of Monday 25/01/2016. The two compulsory Pupil Free Days are Thursday 21/01/2016 and Friday 22/01/2016.

The other flexible pupil free days are 6-8/04/2016. The hours to be worked on these days are for professional development and will be worked after school throughout the year. By doing this the school will have a longer Easter vacation. The other compulsory pupil free day is 17/10/2016.

Predicted Enrolments

I have redone estimates for enrolments based on the number of new enrolments across the term and the high level of enquiries. In 2016 we will commence the year with about 136-140 students. The students have been placed in classes made up of 5 Early Years groups catering for 27 students; Middle Years will have 7 groups catering for 40 students; Junior Secondary has 6 classes for 36 students; and Senior Secondary will have 5 groups (2 x Year 10 and 3 x Year11/12) for 33 students.

Class lists with teacher/teacher aide names will come home next week.

Families on Holidays and Late Returns to School 2016

If you are going on holidays, or your child or young person will be returning to school after Day 1 (27 January 2016) please advise the school of your child’s return date and reason for absence. This is crucial information for staffing and resourcing for 2016. Staffing numbers and grant allowances are based on student enrolments on the 8th day of school. However students who have been away from school prior to day 8 or past day 8, can only be included in enrolment numbers if there is documented.

Staffing Update

The following staffing movements have been confirmed:

- My position as Relieving Principal has been extended for the duration of semester 1 2016.
- Deputy Principal, Mandy Stewart-Murphy is expected to be back at school for the start of the new school year.
- The selection processes for the additional full-time Deputy Principal is in place, and will be finalised next week.
- New teacher appointments are Mr Mat Bray coming from Goodna Special School; Ms Milissa Evans from Claremont Special School and Mr Jesse Bates from Logan City Special School.
- There is still one teacher position to be filled.

Teachers moving include Ms Cassie Cann to Beenleigh Special School; Mrs Kate Eldridge relieving at Sunnybank Special School for 2016; and Ms Sharon Jones relieving at Nursery Road Special School for 2016.

Tom Byrne
Principal

P&C Fundraiser – Christmas Toy Catalogues

Looking for ideas to fill the kids’ Christmas Stockings?

Please support this P&C Fundraiser venture, and place an order from the fundraising books that were sent home last Monday.

There are 2 catalogues – if ordering through Educational Experience – they deliver to your home or school as the fee is the same. Last day for orders for them is 6 Dec.

Parent Direct – take 1 – 2 weeks for delivery. They deliver either to school or home – extra charge of $4 to deliver to home. Last day for Parent Direct orders is 24 November – to allow 2 weeks if delivered to school.

However the orders can be made online by 3rd December.

Transport Reviews

School contracted transport (provided by Townsend) is to be reviewed every year to ensure that transport is maintained. For many of our students who travel to and from school, that time is coming up soon. If your child’s review is due, over the coming weeks, you will receive a copy of the review which you will need to sign and return to school as soon as possible.

Any issues please contact Anthony Kruck (Acting Deputy Principal).