**Principal’s Update**

Hello everyone.

It is wonderful to be the Acting Principal while Chris is seconded to the Discipline Audit team. I am matching names to faces as I get to know everyone around the school. I have found the students to be respectful and willing to have a go. The staff are both friendly and highly skilled. The parent evening and disco was a success from the feedback received. It was a great opportunity for me to meet some of the parents and school community members. I look forward to getting to know everyone better in the coming weeks.

Our school will be having a “Discipline Audit” on 12\(^{th}\) March 2014. Berta Barbe will be the auditor coming to the school. Berta is the substantive principal of Logan City Special School so she comes with a deep understanding of special schooling culture and practices. Some parents or carers may be contacted by Berta for a chat during that day as a part of the audit process.

This Saturday, 1\(^{st}\) March 2014 at 2:00 pm in the Coffee shop the Aspley Lions Club will be presenting Lions Children of Courage Awards to five students and a sibling of a student of our school. You are welcome to attend. Thanks to Sarah Price and Jamie Pascoe from the Aspley Leo Club for continuing this program established in 2002 and for contacting our school.

*Cheers*

*Ches*

---

**Deputy Principal’s Update**

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2014!

As you are probably aware it has been a busy start to the year with Chris heading off to be a part of the State-Wide Auditor team for the rest of this semester. We wish Chris all the best in his new role and hope he learns a lot to bring back and assist the school, later in the year. We also welcome Ches Hargreaves to the role of Acting Principal. Ches has a wealth of knowledge in Special Education, not only as a principal but as the President of the Queensland Association of Special Education Leaders.

Ches attended our Parent Information Evening / Student Disco in Week 3 and many of you may have met him then. He also attended our Student Free Days with the staff in the week before school started so is familiar with a lot of the planning that Chris put in place before he left.

The students have also had a great start to the year. Some have struggled with the change from Middle to Senior but are settling in well now. I would like to personally thank all the staff for the enthusiasm and effort they have shown and for their ongoing commitment to the school community as a whole.

The Parent Information Evening and Disco was a great way to share information with parents at the same time as the students having a bit of fun 😊. Thanks to Ruth, our Chaplain and the Chaplaincy Committee who organised the event, as well as the volunteer staff. You all helped to make the disco and parent evening a huge success.

Each area of the school will be going to a camp again this year. This term the Active Learners will be heading off to Mapleton. This is only a couple of weeks away, so AL 1,2 & 3 better start packing those bags 😊.

In Term 2 the Middle School and some of the Senior School will be attending camps also. More information will be forthcoming on those closer to the time.

As Ches has mentioned in a couple of weeks our school will be having a “Discipline Audit” This will be a great opportunity to for us to showcase our School wide Positive Behaviour Support Program (SWPBS) that has become an integral part of the everyday at Aspley Special. Our Rule of 5, area rules, matrix, consequence set, rewards triangle, raffle tickets, raffle shop, High Five Days and many other strategies all represent the many different approaches we use to support student behaviour in the school.

*Cheers*

*Gayle*
Head of Curriculum’s Update

Communication has always been an important area of focus for many students here at Aspley Special School. Communication in its simplest form is a means of engaging with the world. It includes having the ability to share thoughts, feelings and ideas as well as having the opportunity to make choices and is an important aspect of a child’s development.

At Aspley Special School, we have always worked collaboratively with parents and carers and our Speech and Language Therapists to identify and support our student’s communication needs. In an effort to further improve this process, we have been working for the past six months with staff to develop a school ‘Communication Policy’ which sets out our values and beliefs about communication and identifies the processes and responsibilities of actions in relation to supporting our students with their communication needs.

We would like to share this policy with you and invite you to provide feedback as we greatly value the views and opinions of our parents and carers. You will find a copy of the policy inside this edition of our Newsletter and if you would like to provide feedback, you can do so by contacting the school and speaking to myself. The policy document itself is 2 pages in length and it has been kept this concise deliberately as much recent research has shown that more succinct plans and policies are generally more effective.

We believe that this policy will aid our approaches to communication in the school and if you have any questions about it, please feel free to contact me here at the school.

Cheers
Carl England

A big thank you to all those parents and carers who have returned all that paperwork to the office. Also a big thank you to all who have paid their Voluntary Contributions. We will send you a receipt for the amount paid as this receipt is TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Just a reminder that the coming camp fees are to be paid before your student attends. If you are having problems, can you please get in touch with the office and a payment plan can be worked out. Eftpos is available for payments.

In the past, I have tried to put a little humour into the newsletter so will try again this year so here goes:-

Q: Why aren’t dogs good dancers?
A: Because they have two left feet!

Q: What kind of coat is always wet when you put it on?
A: A coat of paint!

Q: Why do cows have bells?
A: Because their horns don’t work!

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us”.

Cheers till next newsletter!

Leanne, Lea & Beryl

From the Office

Welcome to our first newsletter of the term. The holidays seem to have been such a long time ago as we are already into week 5 of the term.
Birthday Wishes

- Josh A: 7 January
- Alex P: 14 January
- Luke W: 6 February
- Josh P: 9 February
- Raj: 10 February
- Jonathon: 18 February
- Laura C: 19 February
- Daniel A: 21 February
- Olivia: 21 February
- Callum: 22 January
- James N: 22 January
- Ryan S: 22 February
- Riley: 26 February
- Emily B: 27 February

I loved seeing some parents at My Time last week – it was fantastic to hear from Laurel Sands from the My future: My Life program. If any parents would like to know more about this let me know and I can get you a copy of the information. It’s particularly relevant for parents of Year 11 & 12 students as they can access significant funding in these years through this program. I hope to see some more parents at other My Time events coming up.

I look forward to the year and doing the journey with you and your children. Please feel free to catch up with me and have a chat or coffee. I’m working at Aspley on Monday’s and Friday’s.

Email: ruths@chappy.org.au
Ruth (Chaplain)

From the Chaplain

Take a deep breath…
So far this year has been one where I’ve had to hit the ground running and I’m still trying to catch my breath! Between my own family and extended household of 7-10 on any night, chaplaincy at Aspley and teaching in between it has already been a busy few weeks. Some nights I find myself falling asleep as I put my youngest to bed, poor boy, he had to wake me up one night and tell me he’d finished his reader, which I was supposed to be listening to! In the midst of all the “busyness” I’ve been thinking about how I handle this. Some days are good and some I don’t do so well and usually it’s the family who can tell which day is which! So to help myself (and hopefully some others who read this!) I thought I’d share one helpful suggestion a friend told me.

A suggestion for the days when things just don’t go the way you want or it’s all seeming a bit too much: Take a deep breath, shrug your shoulders and say out loud: “Oh well....”

Not exactly rocket science, but funnily enough when the issues are not life threatening or serious this simple suggestion helps. It reminds me that even when things don’t go just as I planned or according to schedule – it probably won’t mean the end of the world as I know it. I’ve used it sitting in traffic jams, cleaning up yet another sink full of dishes and when I’ve noticed the pile of dirty washing growing on the laundry floor. When I’m overwhelmed I struggle to see positives, however, this little suggestion helps me take a step from the negative that’s going on in my head towards a more helpful attitude. Maybe if you’ve got a suggestion you have found that helps on the days that are overwhelming – let me know and we can share some more!

Information for Parents

1. "Get in the game, get started". Funding of $150 per eligible child to participate in a sport/recreation club. Further information from the website www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/getinthegame or email getstarted@nprsr.qld.gov.au

2. Information about a range of camps for highschool students during the Easter holidays run by SU.

Further information from www.sucamps.org.au or email/chat to Ruth (Chaplain) ruths@chappy.org.au

Dates to Remember

- Coffee shop opens: 28 February 2014
- MyTime – Yoga: 28 February 2014
- MyTime – Selfcare: 7 March 2014
- Uniform Shop 9:30-11:30: 17 March 2014
- Active Learners Camp: 02 April 2014
- BCC Immunisation Team: 02 April 2014
- School Holidays start: 07 April 2014
- Good Friday: 18 April 2014
- Easter Monday: 21 April 2014
- School Resumes Term 2: 22 April 2014
- ANZAC parade: 22 April 2014
- ANZAC Day holiday: 25 April 2014

Thursday, March 06, 2014
Immunisation Program comes to school

This year Brisbane City Council’s Immunisation Service is providing free vaccinations for all Year 8 and Year 10 students, as part of Queensland Health’s annual School Based Vaccination Program.

All year 8 students are being offered vaccination to protect against HPV and Chickenpox while Year 10 students are being offered protection against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) Year 10 boys will be offered the HPV vaccination.

Male and Female students in Year 8 and male students in Year 10 are also being offered Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to protect against the Human Papillomavirus.

The vaccinations will be conducted by a team of specially trained registered nurses.

A consent form for each vaccination offered will be given to your child to bring home. Please read the information carefully, sign the consent form irrespective of whether you wish your child to be vaccinated or not and return the consent form to the school.

Parents are encouraged to ensure their children have breakfast on the morning of vaccination.

For more information about diseases, vaccines or the School Based Vaccination Program, visit www.health.qld.gov.au/school_vaccination/ or call 13 Health on 13 43 25 84.

Kate Bokma, Physiotherapist

My name’s Kate Bokma, and I’ve just started as the new physiotherapist here at Aspley Special School. I’ll be spending two days a week at the school. I’ve recently moved to Brisbane from Townsville and I’ve found the school to be a welcoming and friendly community. I look forward to working closely with the students, staff and families at the school!

From the Kingfisher Centre

We had a good two and a half months of recycling during the months between December and February.

Listed below is what was recycled and weights.

- Light Steel: 6,980 tonnes
- PVC Wire: 288 kg
- Power Circuit Boards: 79 kg
- Aluminium Cans: 630 kg
- Power Supplies: 254 kg
- Extruded Aluminium: 142 kg
- Domestic Aluminium: 201 kg
- Brass: 23 kg
- Electric Motors: 293 kg
- Batteries: 131 kg
- Stainless Steel: 24 kg
- Copper: 68 kg
- Gold Ic’s (CPU): 1.65 kg
- Board Ends (RAM): 1.85 kg
- Cardboard & Paper: 21.10 tonnes (Dec)

**TOTAL**: 30,216.5 TONNES

Thank you to our clients for the donation of these items. Also thank you to the volunteers for their help. Another thank you does to my son Daniel who worked 3 days a week at Kingfisher Recycling Centre during the school holidays. It is great to see the students coming up and doing well at recycling.

Well done!

Graeme Agius
Education Support Officer

The Frothee Coffee Shop

Coffee shop dates for Term 1 2014

- 28th February
- 07th March
- 14th March
- 21st March
- 28th March

Please note, there are two sittings for the Coffee Shop 10am and 11am. The Coffee Shop takes a maximum of 25 customers per sitting so early bookings are essential. Unless you have booked a table through the OFFICE the Coffee Shop will not be able to seat you.

Thank you.

Thursday, March 06, 2014
Recipes from the office

Broccoli and Tuna Rice Pie

- 1 cup cooked rice (see note)
- 425g can tuna in springwater, drained well
- 1/2 cup capsicum, roughly chopped
- 250g broccoli, cut into small florets
- 1/2 cup grated pizza cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives
- 8 eggs
- 1/3 cup milk

Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan-forced. Grease a 6cm-deep, 24cm round (top) pie dish.

Place rice, tuna, capsicum, broccoli, cheese, basil and chives in a bowl. Stir to combine. Spoon mixture into pie dish. Whisk eggs and milk together in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Pour over rice mixture. Tap dish on bench to remove air bubbles. Bake for 1 hour 10 minutes or until firm, covering with foil if over browning during cooking. Stand for 5 minutes. Cut into wedges. Serve.

Note: The rice can be cooked in salt reduced chicken stock for extra flavour.

Hokkien Noodle Salad

- 450g fresh hokkien noodles
- 1 carrot
- 1 Lebanese cucumber
- 1 red capsicum, thinly sliced
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh coriander
- 2 tablespoons salt-reduced soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons sweet chilli sauce

Cook fresh hokkien noodles following packet directions. Rinse under cold water. Drain.

Cut carrot and Lebanese cucumber into matchsticks. Toss noodles, carrot and cucumber, thinly sliced red capsicum, shredded cooked chicken, chopped fresh coriander, salt-reduced soy sauce and sweet chilli sauce together. Refrigerate for up to 2 days

Great Results Guarantee

Our school has received additional funding from the Great Results Guarantee and we need to decide how we can use this money to better support our students and improve their outcomes.

We are now working to develop our own Great Results Guarantee with evidence-based strategies and actions to improve literacy and numeracy.

Read more about the guarantee at www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee.

If you have an idea on a way to support our students to learn more or if you would like to take part in the discussion please get in touch.