Welcome to all parents and caregivers both new to our school and those who have been with us previously.

Thanks to everyone who helped monitor our school over the Christmas break.

On Thursday 26 January 2017, the Kingfisher Recycling Centre was awarded the Ted Tremayne Memorial Award as a part of the Lilley Australia Day Awards. This is a very prestigious award and a wonderful recognition of the important contribution made by all of the volunteers at Kingfisher Recycling Centre. Well done and well deserved.

Please find attached the Department of Education and Training (DET) official 2017 school calendar for all Queensland State Schools. The DET calendar has the mid semester and semester breaks marked.

We will be having more staff professional development time on:

- 11 May 2017 (after school)
- 17 August 2017 (after school)
- 16 October 2017

Note also in the bottom right hand corner the final dates for student attendance:

- 17 November 2017 for Year 12
- 24 November 2017 for Year 10 and 11

You might want to print off a copy of this calendar for your use during the year.

Staff are looking forward to catching up with Parents and Caregivers next Tuesday 7 February 2017 at the Parent Evening. It will commence at 6:30pm in the hall with a short session for all to then be followed by time with your child’s class teacher. All are welcome.

The first P&C meeting for the year is on Wednesday 15th February 2017 at 7:00pm in the school clinic room. All are welcome, especially new members. Our P&C supports your child’s education and makes an enormous difference to learning outcomes at Aspley Special School. The P&C AGM is on 15 March 2017 at 7:00pm in the school clinic room. Again all are welcome. There will be some positions vacant and one that will be vacant is President of the P&C. Trevor has been a fine President but has other commitments in 2017. Trevor or I can chat to you if you would like to know more about the role.

We are currently determining which Year 12 students will be the 2017 School Leaders. Students are very excited and we will let you know the outcome soon.

Cheers
Ches Hargreaves
Principal

Welcome to all our school community, 2017 has begun very hot and hectic but the students and staff have had a very productive and positive start to the year.

This is just a short newsletter to start the year. Please note these items so you can assist us to support each student and their families.
Bus Transport

If you are lucky enough to have your child approved for and accessing bus transport please note:

- If you are moving, please let the office know as soon as you can and provide the address you are considering, so a distance check can be done. If you move closer to another Special School, your child will have to leave Aspley to attend that school if you require transport.
- It is best to have the school check the distance to properties before signing any contracts.

Respite (only for those who already have transport approved)

- If your child goes to respite and requires transport please inform the office as soon as possible. This can be done via phone or email. If you wish to email please phone and speak with Lea, Jo or myself first.

Student ID Cards

- Each year MSP photography take individual photos for student ID cards. These student ID cards are great as photo identification and for use as student discount on public transport, at the movies etc.
- ID cards need to come to school each day, particularly if students are going into the community. For safe keeping, please have them kept in a wallet in the child’s bag or in the sleeve of the communication book. There is a fee for any lost ID cards.

School Uniforms

- Please note that the school uniform is the school shirt (that can be bought from the uniform shop run by the P&C) and navy blue shorts, skorts or trousers that can be bought at retail shops such as Best & Less, Lowes. Please ensure that shorts and skorts are not too short and cover to at least the lower thigh.
- In winter, there are jackets available from the uniform shop. These can be worn with navy blue tracksuit pants. In general leg-ins are not suitable, unless they are worn under shorts or skorts and are also navy blue. Patterned leg-ins are unacceptable.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to phone the school.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Parent Information Evening next Tuesday evening, 7 February 2017.

Cheers

Gayle Morton
Deputy Principal

Absence Notifications

At Aspley Special School, you may advise of an absence by:

1. Text only the following number 0428 665 712 before 9:00am.
2. Emailing absent@aspleyspecs.eq.edu.au before 9:00am.
3. Ring the school on 3867 2333 before 9.00am (leave message if phone is unattended).

Please include the following information:

- Name of student
- Reason for absence
- How long they will be away for

If your child leaves early due to illness and is then away the following days, you must still advise the school of why they are away. The school does not and cannot assume the child is still ill.

Alternatively if you know in advance that your child will be away you can either text, email or phone as above in order for administration staff to be formally notified of any upcoming absences – it not sufficient to only notify the teacher in the communication book.

This year, if your child is away from school and you have not notified the school formally either by texting, phoning or emailing administration, you will receive a text message to alert you to the unexplained absence of your child from school with the option to reply via text message.

If you are advised by the school that your child is away without a reason, please contact us via reply text or phone call as soon as possible to let us know about your child. We will follow up with parents if no response is received.
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We are offering an information session about the PODD communication system in Week 6 (Monday 27 February) and a follow-up session in Week 8 (Monday 13 March) this term. We can offer sessions at 9:30-10:15am and a repeat session at 6:00-6.45pm on both days.

If you are interested, please RSVP to us at cmacu5@eq.edu.au or tell your child’s class teacher to let us know what session time you could make. We will run both session times if parents RSVP to both times. The first session will be a brief introduction to the PODD communication system and how the PODD is being used in your child’s classroom. The second session will be a follow-up focusing on discussing the suitability of creating an individualised PODD system for your child.

Thanks,
Camilla and Bronte

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>7 February 2017</td>
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<td>8 February 2017</td>
<td>Tuckshop begins</td>
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<td>15 February 2017</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>20th-24 February</td>
<td>Chaplain Fundraiser – Great Coin Challenge</td>
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<td>27 February 2017</td>
<td>PODD Information Session 1</td>
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<td>8 March 2017</td>
<td>Year 7 Immunisations</td>
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<td>10 March 2017</td>
<td>“Excuse me I was Here First” Performance</td>
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<td>13 March 2017</td>
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<td>15 March 2017</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>17 March 2017</td>
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<td>31 March 2017</td>
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<td>17 April 2017</td>
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<td>18 April 2017</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
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Frothee Coffee Shoppee

Our famous coffee shop will once again be opened to the public this term. The ‘Frothee Coffee Shoppee’ is a fantastic training program for students with disability from our school and from our local region. With incredible coffee, food and amazing customer service, a visit to our coffee shop is an insightful and enjoyable experience.

If you would like to attend the ‘Frothee Coffee Shoppee’, please be aware that bookings through our office are essential. The Coffee Shop seats a maximum of 25 customers per sitting so the earlier you book, the better. There are two sittings for the Coffee Shop at 10am and 11am. Unfortunately without a booking, you will not be able to visit as we limit the numbers to enable the students to learn. Please contact the school on 3867 2333 to make your booking. Term 1 coffee shop dates are:

- Friday 17 February 2017
- Friday 24 February 2017
- Friday 3 March 2017
- Friday 10 March 2017
- Friday 17 March 2017
- Friday 24 March 2017

Mindful Parenting – Taking Care of You

ABIQ is holding a mini-workshop on Mindful Parenting: Taking care of you on Saturday 25 February 2017, 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm at The Autism Hub, Woolloongabba.

Parenting can be filled with joys and its fair share of struggles. For families with one, or more, children who have a developmental disability parents/caregivers can experience increased levels of parenting stress.

Understandably, many services are child centred and, as parents this is the primary focus. Taking care of yourself as a parent/caregiver sometimes seems to go against this primary instinct, yet there are times when this is the very best thing you can do for yourself and your children.

This mini workshop aims to equip parents and caregivers with a different perspective and some effective strategies for coping with parental stress in an alternative way.

We invite you to join us and take care of you.

The presenter of this mini-workshop is Leslie McGahan, B.Psych, MSpPath, CPSP, BCBA, Clinical Director, Treetop Learning Clinic, Certified Practising Speech Pathologist, Board Certified Behaviour Analyst and ACT Therapist.

Cost $22 members, $55 non-members. Please register at this link by Monday 25 February 2017.

http://abiq.agileway.net/events/register/74