Principal’s Update

It must be because it is just a short term of 9 weeks but hasn’t Term One for 2013 flown past! I would like to thank all staff for their efforts and commitment to the planning and implementing of the curriculum and individual programs for this term. Thanks also to the parents and carers for your support in this process. Senior Education Training Plans and Individual Learning Plans should have been sent home to be read and signed. Please return this signed original copy to the school and we will provide you with a copy.

Thanks also to Marg Maume, our school health nurse who has provided us, with the help and support of parents, the Emergency Health Plans for the relevant students. Marg and Jacinta also help to provide health training for the staff. In fact this week they presented a refresher course in Epilepsy Management at the school so that staff did not have to travel. Health and Medical Management is a critical part of the school day for many students and the support of parents, doctors and our Health Nurse is vital in keeping our records and procedures up to date. If your child requires ANY medication during the day or night, please ensure the “Request for Administering Medication” form is completed and signed off by your doctor before your child goes on any camps.

Another group of professionals who assist and support the staff, students and parents are the therapists. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Trish Taylor, our long time Physiotherapist, Jessica Wardle, our Occupational Therapist and Beth Campbell who is presently working in the role of our Speech Therapist. All therapists have to share their time around other schools and have limited time on our campus, however their support and knowledge in assisting staff to support and assess students and develop resources is invaluable.

While I am thanking people I would like to mention our Guidance Officer, Peta Matthewman. Peta is now mostly based on our campus two days each week, Tuesday and Thursday, and plays a vital role in supporting staff, students and families through assisting with verification and enrolment and in providing support and counseling for students and staff as required.

As your child moves closer to graduating many parents and staff are also provided advice and support from our Regional Advisory Visiting Teacher for Transition, Megan Toppenberg. Aspley Special School has been very lucky to have had Megan based here for many years and her support through providing information about processes and outside agencies as students approach that transition to post school is invaluable.

As you can see there are many roles played to keep a school running smoothly. The Ancillary Staff also provide an important role. I would also like to thank David, our Janitor/Groundsman, for his ongoing commitment and efforts and Robyn, Tanya, Frank and Gary our hard-working cleaners, for all they do in the daily management of the school and our facilities.

This term we moved into our brand new Administration Block. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful new complex. The Admin staff are the frontline of the school and having such wonderful new facilities does not lessen the significant role they play, though it is significantly better than how we worked in the old Admin block! So, to our Business Service Manager, Leanne and to our Administration Officers Lea and Beryl, thanks for your time and support, it is truly appreciated by staff, students and families.

There have been many highlights for Term One - Moving into the new Admin block, Think Pink Week, the Active Learners Camp are just a few. The Shave for a Cure assembly where Jake Barnes, one of our wonderful relief Teacher Aides had his head shaved was another highlight.

Term Two will no doubt be as eventful and exciting as this term just gone. There are two camps to begin the term – Senior Learners in week 2 and Middle School in week 3. In week 2 we will also have a special Anzac Day Assembly before the Anzac Day public holiday on Thursday 25th April. The YMCA after school care is also planning to begin in Term Two. If you are interested in enrolling your child the enrolment packages are available at the office.

I would especially like to thank Carl England and Janine Hussey for their support as acting Deputy and HOC while Chris has been on leave, and also Leena Sanderson and Yolanda Fenton for their added assistance as Area Coordinators.

To all staff, students and families - have a safe and enjoyable Easter break – we will see you back in Term Two on Monday 15th April.

Cheers
Gayle Morton
Acting Principal
Deputy Principal’s Update

With Term 1 hastily coming to an end, it is amazing that we already have so many highlights to look back on fondly for 2013.

Recently we held a ‘Think Pink’ week which ran in conjunction with the McGrath foundation’s ‘Pink Stumps’ day, a fundraising initiative to support and make a difference to the lives of Australian families experiencing breast cancer.

Being a whole-school project, all of our form classes contributed activities for fundraising including the sale of pink shirts, bandannas, slices and cupcakes to the organising of an intra-school cricket match and many more. Through this combined effort we raised in excess of $800 for the McGrath foundation (who have to date raised over $500 000 from this year’s event), which will all go to very worthwhile causes. Thank you very much for your support and contribution towards this initiative!

Another highlight of Term 1 was our extremely successful Active Learner’s Camp which took place at Mapleton in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Our staff and students were treated to a brilliant photo display on assembly detailing the fun and new experiences that our Active Learners were exposed to on their camp and all our staff who attended agreed that it was a tremendous success. This is another example of how our new school structure based upon their needs and we are looking forward to more fun and successful camps in Term 2 when our Middle School and Senior School camps will take place.

Term 2 will also see further roll-out of our ‘Sexuality & Relationships Education’ (SRE) program across our school. Last year we worked in close collaboration with the staff of Family Planning Queensland to trial a new SRE program, and due to its success, we are now expanding this further across our school. SRE is an important part of any child’s development and we working hard to develop appropriate programs for our students.

Our recent SRE Parent and Information evening was a great success and an opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about the importance of SRE and gather strategies or information for use at home. We are working towards making this a regular annual event and are excited about the progress that we are making as a school in this important area.

In looking towards Term 2 I’m sure by its end we’ll also have a host of positive memories to reflect back upon.

ANZAC day will arrive soon after our return from the Easter break and has always been an important event at our school. This year we will again run a memorial service with support from our local RSL and will engage our students beforehand with meaningful activities around the importance, sacrifice and meaning of this important event. As mentioned above, we will also a number of school camps and we look forward to sharing our experiences of these with you as they happen in Term 2.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Easter!

Carl England
Acting Deputy Principal

Senior School Update

Our senior School Parent Information Evening took place earlier this month and we were happy to see so many of our parents there to hear more about our programs and the support available with regard to your child’s plans for life after school. One of the points to highlight is that we encourage parents to put a plan in action as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition and the best opportunities and outcomes for the students.

Some of our senior students have started work experience this term. We have a few groups of students going to Red Cross as groups and on an individual basis. We also have students at HELP, Multicap, Kokomos Coffee House and Cantina, East Coast Apprenticeships and a school based workshop. We have limited transport available and a limited number of staff to support students at work experience so at times we will need parents to transport their own children. Thank you to the parents who have already been very accommodating and supportive in this regard.

We have recently made contact with “Connected” who are a charity that supports storm and fire victims by giving them basic requirements. They have welcomed us to help them to package goods that will be sent to victims as well as preparing hampers to sell to the public in order to raise money to assist them to pay for boxes and transporting of goods. This will be a school-based work experience opportunity and a chance for our students to see how satisfying it is to give back to the community. We would appreciate any donations of baskets or nice boxes that would be suitable to use in hampers.

Thursday, March 28, 2013
We are also looking for donations of cellophane paper. These can be delivered to the school office. Thank you. Anybody wishing to support Connected by purchasing these hampers please contact Janine Hussey.

**Happy, Healthy staff means Happy Students!**

This is why our staff well-being committee have put together a plan to maintain the welfare of our staff in what can often be a challenging environment. A few weeks ago we enjoyed a “Healthy Summer Lunch” where staff contributed to a delicious buffet of fresh and healthy dishes. Patrick, our new relief teacher, and Luke, one of our teacher aides and also band member from “The John Steel Singers,” entertained us as we tucked in to our meal on our new balcony. We were able to do this over 2 sittings so that there were still enough staff on duty. It was lovely to see everyone relaxing and enjoying the amazing talent we have at our school. Later on in the year we will be entering a team in the Bridge to Brisbane, attending wellbeing conferences, participating in yoga classes and sharing our hidden talents!

Exciting times do not end there. Our **Art and Wine Show** will be held on **Friday 13 September**. **Diarise this event now!** Join us for a night of elegance, good food and wine and of course the auctioning of some original artworks by students and our guest artist, STARR. This event is only held every alternate year so you do not want to miss out! It is also our main fundraising event and this year the profits will go towards a much needed school bus.

**Cheers**  
Janine Hussey  
Acting HOC  
Senior School Coordinator

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**Thankyou School Community**

Thank you to all the families who Supported the senior camp hot cross bun fundraiser. We have ordered 122 packs.  
Thank you to the Steinmuller, Chrisp and Mac Namee families for their Kind donations in lieu of an Order. Thanks also to Yolanda. Congratulations to Leena Salmon And M4 for the most orders.

**Typed by Jordan Jenner S4**

**Refund Policy**

If a parent wishes to apply for a refund due to their child’s non participation in an extra-curricular activity, they may do so by completing a **Request for Refund** form available from the school office. The request should include the receipt relating to the payment for which a refund is being sought. It is preferred that refunds be made as a credit against the student’s account at the school, and used to offset any future charges.

**Dates to Remember**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>29 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Resumes Term 2</td>
<td>15 April – Monday</td>
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<td>Senior Learners Camp</td>
<td>22 April – 24 April</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>24 April</td>
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<td>ANZAC Day</td>
<td>25 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle School Camp</td>
<td>29 April – 01 May</td>
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<td>Mothers’ Day Stall</td>
<td>10 May</td>
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**Thursday, March 28, 2013**
Birthday Wishes

William  4th March
Natasha   9th March
Thomas V  17th March
Richard   20th March
Melissa   20th March
Lily      22nd March
Tammy     23rd March
Tanya     23rd March
Laura     25th March
Thomas A  29th March
Liam      29th March
Lachlan   29th March

A Big Thankyou . . . .

A big thankyou to Monaghan Signs for their donation of a Sandwich Board and a large outdoor sign for the Coffee Shop area.

From the P&C

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all have a safe, fun and relaxing Easter break.

Our next P and C meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th April....hope you can come along...the more the merrier!!

PS: DADs don’t forget our Mothers’ day stall on the 10th May.....

Cheers
Sharon Cameron

Recipes from the office -

Risotto Mexicana

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 small red chilli, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
2 onions, sliced
2 cups Arborio rice
½ butternut pumpkin, cut into chunks
1 litre vegetable stock, heated
1 stalk celery, chopped
2 tomatoes, chopped
1 red capsicum, roughly chopped
6 spring onions, chopped
100g raisins
60g pumpkin seeds
1/3 cup taco sauce
½ cup parsley, chopped

1. Heat olive oil and add the chilli, garlic and onions. Cook for 5 minutes until softened but not brown.
2. Add the rice and stir to coat. Add the pumpkin and stir well.
3. Add 1 cup of stock, stirring until all the liquid has been absorbed. Add another cup of stock and the celery and tomatoes, stirring constantly until all the liquid has been absorbed. Continue adding remaining stock in this way, stirring thoroughly after each addition. When all the stock has been absorbed, remove the pan from the heat and add the capsicum, spring onions, raisins, pumpkin seeds and taco sauce.
4. Stir very well and serve immediately, garnished with the parsley.

Wishing you all a safe Easter break!

Leanne, Beryl and Lea
Welcome to the Active Learners

We like to explore and experiment.