Welcome, Parents and Carers

This is the first of four newsletters (one for each term) this year. These newsletters are designed to inform you of what has been happening in the secondary department during the term, and provide you with information about up and coming events. You will also find information about the release of new apps from local disability services such as the NCDO. We welcome Leisha O’Brien to the teaching team. Leisha has a wealth of experience to offer and has settled in very well.

There has been much to celebrate this term. We have 5 new school leaders and 2 new school captains. Each student had to give a speech in the hall in front of their peers, parents and staff. All students rose to the occasion and roused the audience with each of their speeches. Students, parents and staff then voted on their preferred candidate. Votes were counted and each school leader and school captain were announced during the investiture. The investiture was attended by dignitaries, parents, students and staff. Well done to the following students:

2016 - Captains - Levi S, David O
2016 - Leaders - Talitha B, Billy-Jack SW, Dean K and Anthony.

Well done to all other students for putting themselves forward. We also have a number of new Wheelchair Assistants who have passed a theory and practical test that allows them to help students to and from classrooms. Year 11 and 12 students have had a very successful start to their work and community placements.

Over the page you will find some important dates to add to your diary. These events are great opportunities for you to learn how you can play an active part in your child’s development. There are also some local flyers towards the end of the newsletter.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

We are reviewing what we do in the secondary phase of school. We would very much welcome your opinion about how we can develop our school & parent parentership to enable your child to be as successful and as independent as possible. At the back of this newsletter you will find a questionnaire. Please use this to let us know your thoughts. The information you provide will kept confidential, but will be used inform our review of our secondary school service to your child. A Secondary Information Evening titled “Launch into Life” will be held on Wednesday the 27th of April in the school hall. This will give you the opportunity to learn more about the opportunities in the secondary department and how you can help become partners in your child’s learning.
Pine Rivers Special School is proud to be a “Positive Behaviour for Learning School. We have 5 school values – Safe, Proud, Cooperative, Friendly and Learners. We rotate the focus every two weeks and celebrate the progress students have made at parade. This term, our Gold Pass event is a cinema experience in the Hall for all students who have earned golden tickets for being safe, proud, cooperative and friendly. Well done to all those students who have shown excellent behavior this term. Keep it up 😊

Meet the Class Teams

JS1  Mikahla Steele and Peita Ireland
JS2  Amy Thomas and Juanita Remphrey and Lisa Dent
JS3  Eugenia Ollenburg, Cheryl Foster and Zach Venz
JS4  Maurice Clarke, Fiona Armstrong, Tracey Rae & Sarah Laird
JS5  Isabellla Grobler, Jules Venz & Andrea Ward
JS6  Leisha O’Brien & Sharon Dunbier
JS7  Matthew Johnson and Amanda Davis
S8  Phil Rorke and Gary Lloyd
S9  Megan Cross and Stacey Koch
S10 Liz Grant and Nerilyn Walker

Congratulations to Phil Rorke who has been appointed Sector Leader for the Secondary Department. Phil is very excited about his new role and is looking forward to working with parents to ensure positive outcomes for their children.

Dates for your diary

11th April  Term 2 Commences
13th April  Year 8 Vaccination Day
15th April  Return of Secondary Parent Questionnaire
30th April  DSQ Post School Options Package Deadline
27th April  “Launch into Life” – Secondary Information Night (6-7:30pm)
6th June   Student Futures Disability Expo – Caboolture Special School
15th June  Year 8 Vaccination Day
23rd June  Pine Rivers, Woody Point and Redcliffe Special Schools Next Steps Expo – Hercules Rd School. 9:30am – 2pm.
24th March 2016

Dear Parents,

This is an invitation to attend the following events at school that are taking place early in term 2.

Harmony/Diversity Day
2pm Friday 22nd April, Week 2: Whole School Assembly
We will be spending all of weeks 1 and 2 preparing large canvases in the hall. They will represent every student in the school, and will indicate an aspect of their heritage. If you would like your child’s or yours or your child’s grandparents origins to be recognised, can you please let your class teacher know, and we can celebrate this at school.

Parent’s Information Night (Secondary School only)
6pm Wednesday 27th April, Week 3
Mr Jayson Gilbert and the secondary teaching team will be presenting different educational options for students and giving feedback on the parents’ and students’ questionnaires that have been sent out. Please come along and ask questions!

Yours sincerely,

Mr P J Rorke
Sector Leader, Secondary School

Mr J M Gilbert
Deputy Principal, Secondary School
The Art Department

The art program has made a flying start with most of the projects involving drawing, painting and collage. One of the main pieces this Term was based around colour identification and the mixing of a variety of greens, oranges, purples and browns. The theme was "different fruits" and the students learnt different paint application techniques to help them copy the various patterns found on oranges, bananas, and apples.

Another mixed media project was in designing their own clown on paper, thinking about the colours, costume, and facial features that they would like their particular clown to have. Students sketched out their idea using pencil and then crayon, moving onto paint to finish off the layering of colour required.

Next Term students will be working on art projects involving printmaking and ceramics. The clay is easy to handle and dries in the air fairly quickly. Art is quite hands on and there are lots of different materials and techniques to become familiar with and that allow for student exploration and a level of individual discovery."

Thanks. Peter Dash
Welcome to another great year at GOTCHA. For our new families, this is Pine Rivers Special School’s major community project and incorporates the subject areas of Horticulture, Home Economics and Certificate II in Active Volunteering. Last year, the project gained recognition as the Regional Winner of the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools from the Queensland Government, and was a finalist for the State Awards. We have had a very busy first term in the garden, weeding, cultivating the soil, planting seedlings and mulching. The students have also been learning about the importance of composting and putting nutrients back into the soil. We have had a visit from our sponsors at Bunnings who kindly donated more seeds and a ‘Buddy Bench’ which will be erected with the new playground and used to encourage the children to include anyone who is having trouble finding friends to play with. Thank you Bunnings!

In seniors, the students enrolled in the Certificate II in Active Volunteering have been working very hard to complete their first module in Basic Food Safety Practices. As part of the certificate, students are volunteering at the local Vineyard Mercy Centre, where they deliver produce from our gardens, meals cooked in Home Ec classes and weekly donations from Aus Harvest. Next term we will also be planting and maintain a few garden beds at the Salvation Army premises across from the school. Our help is greatly appreciated and the students benefit by gaining valuable life and work experience, community contact and the rewarding feeling of helping those less fortunate than themselves. Keep up the great work kids!

Our future projects include a Parent/Community Garden at the front of the school, a Bush Tucker Garden and excursions to Downey Street City Farm, so watch this space!
As at the start of any new school year, we have been working to establish our routines within the classroom and also within the secondary sector. Our focus for the new cohort of students entering the secondary sector is the importance of striving towards independence.

S1 have focused on utilising the data we have collected to move forward in our literacy and numeracy programs. We have been working with the students and staff from S2 and S3 to help us streamline our teaching and learning. This is an exciting opportunity for the students and staff to work with new students to the sector.

The S1 teaching team has included Mikahla Steele, Jo Martens and Peita Ireland. While Peita is on holidays we have welcomed Jean McDonald to our room and have appreciated her help. The swimming program run by our HPE teachers Amy and Juanita have been a highlight each week, as have our Home Economics lessons with Mrs Armstrong.

S1 is looking forward to a great year.
During term 1, S2 has engaged in curriculum that includes sequencing events in stories and characters placement within the story. The students enjoyed retelling stories in their own words and using visuals to help them achieve lesson goals.

Patrick giving the corn some much needed water in Horticulture.

Samantha and companion Marigolds in the

Sarah are planting the garden during Horticulture.
We have made it! We have made it! We have made it to the end of the first term! Guess what? It wasn’t really difficult, as we have been pretty busy. And when you are busy, time flies. To tell you the truth, learning is fun, especially when you have fantastic classmates and helpful staff. We had a lot to learn, which not a surprise when you have quite few subjects in your timetable, that is, English, Mathematics, History, Science and Technology. Well, the more, the merrier. See you next Term!
What’s been happening in JS4?

Using our literacy folders to make sentences

Zaidyn (Jake) washing up!!

Eboni searching for information

Jasper conducting a heat energy experiment

Term 1 is over and we have enjoyed our industrious class. While they have been learning much, our standout moments include a keen enthusiasm to read and find out information in books....

Did you know germs need hot soapy water to be cleaned off your hands? And they multiply at such a fast rate (every 20 minutes) you can have two million in seven hours! Our students really enjoyed our video of germs in jail and we’ve had lots of discussion about where germs lurk and how to manage them. We also discovered they fall asleep in the freezer but die in heat. This fitted in nicely with our Science unit about heat and how heat transfers from hot bodies to cold.
The class that started out as S7 at the beginning of the year is now known as S5. We welcomed a new student, Lauren, who recently passed a theoretical test in order to obtain her wheelchair license, to our school and class.

Ingredients such as respect, helpfulness and a good dose of humour contributed to a calm and pleasant class environment throughout the term. News from home, such as Connor’s camping trip, Grace’s scouts’ participation, Tiffany visiting her horse Elvis, weekend visits to family or Marissa feeding the ducks, is shared with the whole class during our morning routine. We also learned that Ben is practising swimming for the Paralympics and we shared Abbie’s talent for numbers.

Cross curricular integration guided our learning. For example, the exploration of an African folk tale “Anansi and the pot of beans” during English lessons and planting of beans during Science led to much excitement and delight of the learners who could see their beans grow.

S5 wishing all a very happy holiday.
In S6 we have been very busy reading poems and learning how to create our own. We have composed poems about ourselves, transport, things we like and Easter themes. During our literacy lessons we spend time gathering ideas as a class about our chosen themes, then we help each other out to make a class poem. Once we have the hang of it, we then come up with our own individual poems. In S6 we use our technology time to edit and publish our poems and then decorate them to print and display around the classroom. Here is a photo of some of our favourite work.
The class of S7 have had a wonderful term, full of many different learning experiences. One of our favourite activities is science. We love investigating how different chemicals react to each other and why those reactions occur. One of our most favourite experiments so far this year has been exploring how clouds are formed using shaving cream and food dye.

We are all looking forward to another exciting term packed full of learning.

Matt Johnson
Work Experience to Endeavour Clothes

Georgia, Jay and Jacob have been twice to Endeavour. They have had a fantastic time doing varied tasks. This includes tidying, polishing, vacuuming and disposing of rubbish. They have also been involved in sorting books alphabetically and helping to price items. This is helping the kids with initiative and various life skills, and we will continue the placement into next term.

ICT in the classroom.

S8 have used iPads and laptops extensively in class. ICT has helped us to cover aspects of the curriculum such as literacy, numeracy, civics (through current affairs broadcasts). They have also started to take and sort their own images and videos, to help with their ICT lessons. The pictures show Patrick and Ryan using numeracy apps on our class iPads. Cheers Phil
Term 1 in Senior 9

This term students have been working hard on getting out to Transition and Work Experience. With 4 girls and 4 boys this has been no easy feat. Tim has been away for term 1 but we are looking forward to having him back with us for term 2. Earlier in the term we had school captain/leader applications and speeches where students wrote and delivered a speech to the senior school students and staff. Levi was voted as school captain and Talitha as Student Leader for PRSS. Congratulations to all students who applied for leadership positions.

Students have been studying timetables in English, Measurement and Money in Maths, Weather in Science, Road Rules in Civics, Swimming in HPE, Home Economics and Horticulture. With 5 of our students graduating this year Miss Stacey and Miss Megan are really looking forward to preparing these students for their final year at Pine Rivers Special School. We are very happy to see students in senior 9 settling in so well. We hope everyone has a great Easter Break 😊
It’s hard to believe that it is already the end of term one. S10 students have been heads up and tales down into literacy learning and functional maths. The students all have their own individual morning routine which caters to each of their literacy needs. As a group we have been practising our road rules for those students who want to take on the challenge in the future. S10 has also been practising how to look up a bus and train journey to various places of interest, as well as working out how much the fare will be. Our subtraction and addition skills are improving as we all problem solve money situations when working out the cost of items and how much change we should receive. Science has been a lot of fun with hands on experiments and learning about safe practices within our environment. With Summer being such a long hot one, students have appreciated the fact that they have had swimming this term. Work experience is now full steam ahead as are transitions, students are well settled in their placements and the school has already received positive feedback about how our students are conducting themselves in the community.

Liz and Nerilyn
St Patrick’s Day Celebrations
PARENT/CARER INVITATION

Futures Expo

An invitation is extended to all Parents, Carers and interested parties to attend our annual 2016 Futures Expo.

To be held on: **THURSDAY 23rd June 2016**

Hercules State School Hall, Anzac Avenue, Kippa-Ring

9:30 am - 2pm

*Expo will open at 9:30 am with a Key Speaker from NDIS*

Trade Hall open from approximately 10:30 with a wide variety of service providers including:


This will be an **ALL DAY EVENT** with

Guest Speakers scheduled on a rotational basis in the adjoining conference rooms:

*Dept. Communities and Disability Services / NDIS / Centrelink / Commonwealth Careers*

This will be the start of your child’s journey for Senior and life after school.

Don’t miss this opportunity to see what FUTURE OPTIONS are available!!

Please RSVP Pine Rivers Special School by the 19th May 2016

Email: dford41@eq.edu.au OR Phone: (07) 3285 0555

HOSTED BY

PINE RIVERS SPECIAL SCHOOL

Queensland Government

WOODY POINT SPECIAL SCHOOL

Time to Learn Redcliffe Special School
The NDCO Qld mobile app is available for iPhones, iPads and Android phones and tablets. The app brings together all the major national and Queensland resources that have been developed by NDCO’s to optimise the training and employment outcomes for people with disability.

The app is an important resources for students and their families, jobseekers and service providers in the education, training, higher education, employment and community sectors that support the transition of people with disability.

Download and install the app on your phone and tablet, fill in the form within the app and go into the monthly draw to win great prizes and the main prize of an iPad Mini.

You can also get additional entries in the prize draws by subscribing to our discussion groups within the app.

Download the app from: app stores, scan, or www.ndco.stepscs.net.au

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New app makes seeking help a goal for teens

Dubbed Goalzie, a new free app has been developed to promote the idea that getting help from peers, developing a positive social network and setting and achieving goals is not only healthy, but fun.

The app targets young people aged 12 to 17 years old, and reinvents the old-school ‘Truth or Dare’ game for the next generation, all to help maintain their wellbeing.

“Evidence shows us that 75% of mental health difficulties occur before the age of 25, and that 70% of girls and 80% of boys don’t seek help for managing their mental health issues. Through apps like Goalzie we are trying to break down stigma and instil help-seeking behaviour using humour and gamification.”

Associate Professor Jane Burns, CEO of the Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre

As an added bonus, Goalzie also includes access to The Toolbox – a resource created by ReachOut Australia in partnership with the Young and Well CRC to further help young people seek help through identifying goals. The Toolbox provides a collection of over 50 health and wellbeing tools and apps endorsed by professionals and reviewed by people under 25 years old. www.goalzie.com.au

Australian Apprenticeship Pathway App

AusAppPathways is a free app that will help students and jobseekers explore the many careers that can begin through an apprenticeship or traineeship pathway. http://www.ausapp.com.au/

This app is backed by the Australian Apprenticeships Pathways website aapathways.com.au.
Fresh Futures Market
Connect With Local Resources and Support For Your Future

Are you living with a disability or mental illness?
Are you wondering what to do once you’ve finished school?
Are you caring for a young person or adult with a disability?
Are you looking for realistic options for your future?
Then this Market is for you!

Wednesday, 26 August 2015
9.00 am – 1.00 pm
Ipswich Showgrounds Pavilion
Warwick Road, Ipswich
Wheelchair friendly venue
Event will include over 60 stall holders, workshops, food, live entertainment and give-aways!

facebook.com.au/IpswichFreshFuturesMarket

For more information contact Focal Extended Inc. on (07) 3812 2014 or freshfuturesmarket@gmail.com
NORTH LAKES LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday 5 April 2016
10am - 12pm

QDN’s North Lakes Local Support Group for people with disability

North Lakes Community Centre, 10 The Corso, North Lakes, Activity Room

This meeting is an opportunity for people to connect together, get information and share their experiences.

People with disability living in the local North Lakes area and the surrounding area are welcome to attend.

Morning tea will be provided

RSVP: by Friday 1 April 2016
Phone 1300 363 783 / 07 3252 8565 or email dso@qdn.org.au

Support: Let us know if you require a support worker, Austlan interpreter or other support to attend.
Limited assistance with transport may be available upon request.

BRISBANE LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 20 April 2016
10.30 am - 12.30 pm

You are invited to a meeting of QDN’s Brisbane Local Support Group for people with disability.

New people with disability are warmly invited to attend to find out about our group. This meeting is an opportunity for people to connect together, get information and share their experiences.

What: Brisbane Local Support Group Meeting
Date: Wednesday 20 April 2016
Time: 10.30am – 12.30 pm (morning tea provided)
Place: QDN office, Suite 11/7 O’Connell Terrace, Bowen Hills
RSVP: By phone by Monday 18 April 2016 on 07 3252 8565/ 1300 363 783 or email dso@qdn.org.au

People with disability living in the local Brisbane area are welcome to attend.

Support: Let us know if you require a support worker, Austlan interpreter or other support to attend.
Limited assistance with transport may be available upon request.
Are you interested in networking with other providers?
Have some info you would like to share?
Please join us in our themed quarterly forum.

Dates for 2016:
24th February
Fri 27th May;
24th August;
16th November

8:30am-11:30am
QCC Training Room,
Chermside Community
Health Centre,
Hamilton Road,
CHERMSIDE QLD 4032

Please Contact:
THERESA MADSON
National Disability Coordination Officer
Region 18 – SE Qld Inc Brisbane and Ipswich
P: (07) 3817 3271; M: 0437 205 850
E: theresa.madson@tafe.qld.edu.au
Secondary Parents Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short questionnaire. The information you provide will be used to inform a comprehensive review of secondary programming at Pine Rivers Special School. We will also seek the views of students, teachers and local partners.

Please return this questionnaire to Jayson Gilbert (Deputy Principal) by 11th of April.

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<th>Child’s name:</th>
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<td>Please circle the year your child is in:</td>
<td>7</td>
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| Q1 | Are you satisfied with how we are preparing your child for adulthood? (if no please add additional information in the Q10 box) | Yes | No |

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<th>Q2</th>
<th>Please tick below the top 10 life skills you would like your child to learn:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Travel</td>
<td>Healthy Cooking</td>
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<td>Money Skills</td>
<td>E-Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>My future choices</td>
<td>Personal care – routines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport and Leisure</td>
<td>Positive relationships</td>
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| Q3 | My child and I have created a list of their personal interests. | Yes | No |

| Q4 | I have access to a local my local disability service. (if yes, please let us know which in the last section) | Yes | No |

| Q5 | I would like to know more about Vocational opportunities for my child. | Yes | No |

| Q6 | I would like to know more about ASDAN programs. | Yes | No |
| Q7 | I would like to attend parent workshops on developing my child’s communication, literacy and numeracy. | Yes | No |
| Q8 | I would like more information on the School’s Getting Out There: Community Homeless Assistance Program. | Yes | No |
| Q9 | Do you know what the National Disability Insurance Scheme is? | Yes | No |
| Q10 | I have attended a National Disability Insurance Scheme information session? | Yes | No |

Please use the space below to share any other thoughts you may have that will help us plan for the future needs of your child:

Please return this questionnaire to Jayson Gilbert (Deputy Principal) by 11th of April.