Welcome back to Term 4

By the time you read this there will be 8 weeks of schooling left for 2015 or for some the end of the education of your child at Pine Rivers Special School. Term 4 is a busy time in schools with staff seeing the end in sight of a productive year with your child and also working on the tasks at hand in preparation for 2016.

Pupil Free Day

This coming Monday 19 October is a Pupil Free Day. Staff will be undertaking Team Teach Training on this day.

The aim of Team Teach is to promote the least intrusive positive handling strategy and a continuum of gradual and graded techniques, with an emphasis and preference for the use of verbal, non-verbal de-escalation strategies being used and exhausted before positive handling strategies are utilised.

Classes 2016

To help us in our preparations for 2016 it is asked if any families intend on moving to another school to make contact with the Office. Moving schools requires information to be passed on to the new school to ensure the enrolment process happens quickly. It also allows us to confirm our student population and staff the school appropriately.

To be able to form classes for 2016 the school staff go through a numbers of stages.

1. Confirming the total student population
2. Number of classes and school structure
3. Allocating students to sectors and classes
4. Assigning Teachers and teacher aides

In forming classes we want to ensure that over time students are exposed to a range of different people so that they learn to form and reform relationships. This is an important developmental skill for life after school. We also strive to ensure parents have the opportunity to build trust in a wide range of staff.

How can parents and families help?

Firstly, prepare for change. I know that change can cause disruption and anxiety but there are also many benefits.
New teachers, new staff and new classmates each year is an important part of the school journey as our young people build resilience, learning to work with a wide variety of people (as they will in other areas of their life), build their network of familiar adults and learn to make new friends.

Special schools are often smaller and at times you may end up with some familiar class mates, teachers, teacher aides and staff. That's nice too, but can't be guaranteed for any length of time.

**Connecting learning at Home and School requires:**

- Teachers and parents having an understanding that children ‘learn everywhere’ and there are important overlaps between home, school and the community.
- Teachers and parents understanding the benefits that come from effective partnerships – for children’s learning and outcomes, and for parents and teachers themselves.

**Swimming**

It has been a wonderful first week in the pool! All our students have enjoyed the upgrades to the local Lawnton pool and are working very hard to be safe. We have 4 more weeks of swimming. Could I please ask for parents to name your child's swimming equipment including towels. Sometimes items can be mixed up in the excitement of the event and students are not always able to help us with what is theirs.

If your student has not yet joined us for a class return your swimming notes and come and join us for week two. New students to the program require a returned medical form. The water is absolutely divine!

Amy Thomas (PE Teacher)

**Parades**

Early Years Parade held every Thursday 2:00pm
Primary Parade held every Friday 2:00pm
Senior Parade held every Friday 9:00am

**Important Dates**

Trivia Night – Saturday 17 October – 6:00pm – School Hall
Pupil Free Day Monday 19 October
Panel Interview for Showcase Award- Thursday 29 October
Gala State Finalist Showcase Award Evening – Friday 30 October
Graduation – Friday 20 November

https://pineriversspecialschool.eq.edu.au
Do less, not more, for your kids

With school-aged children we can find ourselves making lunches, getting kids out of bed and cleaning out schoolbags rather than giving these basic tasks of living over to them.

The basic task of parenting, whether you have a two year old or a twenty-two year old, is to work yourself out of a job at the first possible chance.

REDUNDANCY should be the aim of the game! We never become redundant in a relationship sense – the emotional connection between our children and us is never severed.

In a practical, physical way we need to make children less, rather than more, reliant on us.

Developing independence is really about stepping back to allow children in. Doing less rather than more.

We develop greater independence in our kids one job at a time. Recently I gave my 22 year old son a job that I had been doing for a while. He lives in North America and I had taken on the job of being the connector between him and one of his sisters, who lives in the UK. It had been my job to pass messages on between the two via telephone and emails. I would update each of them about how the other sibling was going.

Frustrated being the go-between I made sure he had contact details and let him know that it was his job, not my job, to connect with his sister.

WE EASILY TAKE ON CHILDREN’S RESPONSIBILITIES

It is easy as parents to take on the jobs and responsibilities that really should belong to our children. With toddlers it is so easy to dress, feed and clean up after them rather than give these jobs over to them.

With school-aged children we can find ourselves making lunches, getting kids out of bed and cleaning out schoolbags rather than giving these basic tasks of living over to them. And as I discovered, it is easy to still do the basics of life for adult-aged children.

TIP NO. 1 for developing independence:

Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

TIP NO. 2 for developing independence:

Never be more worried about a child’s job than they are, otherwise it becomes your job, not theirs.

This mum remained very clear that it was her job to wash the clothes but not to place them in the washing basket. She would remind kids about washing night, but never nag them to put clothes in the basket. She knows that as soon as she keeps reminding them, it becomes HER job rather than her children’s job to put the washing in the clothes basket.

The school holidays provide a good opportunity to reflect on the whole notion of job-sharing. It’s also a good time for kids to increase their job load when they are not burdened with schoolwork and extracurricular activities.

Here’s my challenge for you: Think of a job that you regularly do for your child that he or she can do for him or herself. Then step back and enable your child to do that for themselves on a full-time basis. Do less not more for your kids.

If you do that, then you can congratulate yourself as you have moved one step more toward REDUNDANCY.
ROTARY CLUB OF PINE RIVERS DAYBREAK INVITES YOU TO...

GIVE YOUR BRAIN A WORKOUT

TRIVIA NIGHT SAT 17 OCTOBER 15

PINE RIVERS SPECIAL SCHOOL HALL • 6 FOR 6.30PM • $15 P/P

BYO LIGHT REFRESHMENTS • DRINKS ON SALE AUCTIONS • RAFFLES • GAMES • PRIZES

COME ALONG, HAVE FUN WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS AND SUPPORT ROTARY & PINE RIVERS SPECIAL SCHOOL RAISE VALUABLE FUNDS.

GET YOUR TEAMS OF 8 TOGETHER, SIGN UP AND BE PREPARED TO GIVE YOUR BRAIN A WORKOUT!

BOOK YOUR TABLE BY CONTACTING: GLENN 0416 292 154 / GLENN@PRECISIONWM.COM.AU