From the Principal

Already Week 3 of the new school year! Every day is a busy day in school and your children and young people have returned or started school with energy and enthusiasm. Our first 3 weeks have been smooth in the main with only some occasional issues to sort through and some patience required from families awaiting their transport arrangements to come into effect.

A very warm welcome to our new families to the school, and to all returning parents. For parents joining the Prep classes the first days of starting school are done, and I trust by now you are experiencing some of the positives with the decision to have your child do this very important first step of schooling here at Nursery Rd. It was lovely to see our new parents at the P and C Coffee Morning last Friday and heartening for our P and C Executive to see so many in attendance and keen to be a part of the school.

The Junior School, including the Prep children, have had a smooth start to the term, with the Preps doing so well with the new experiences and long days. This week all Preps resumed the regular school hours of 8:55 am to 2:50 pm. However if you need to pick your child up prior to 2:50 to manage other children's timetables please advise and organise this with your child's class teacher.

Transport is always an issue at the beginning of the year as it takes time to be put into effect for every new family applying for transport, as the process of application, approval and then organisation with Sunshine Buses is undertaken. Please be patient if your child's transport is still to be finalised, Jeff Watts is working systematically with those parts of the process that he can influence.

Staffing for this year is not finalised until the end of next week. Some of the faces you see around the campus who are not the core class teacher or teacher aide are working across classrooms to fulfil all non-contact time for teachers and in the case of teacher aides, to meet program and support needs of students in each of the blocks. In Week 4 and 5 most staffing allocations will be set based on our final 2015 allocation. A regular non-contact teacher will then take your class, on a set schedule weekly. The school has an enrolment of 128. This is distributed across each of the Stages of learning as Juniors (8 classes), Middle (4) Junior Secondary (5) Seniors and Senior/ Transition (4).

We welcome Amy Cooper back for 2015 as our Music Therapist and invoices for this will come home shortly if you have nominated to have your child participate in Music Therapy. Basketball, Swimming and Drama have started for this term. Next term some classes or groups of children from across classes will be involved in a weekly Dance Program. Drama is delivered by the CP League and Dance will be delivered by Life Stream.
Both these organisations are able to provide these programs under grants and come into the School under our Arts Infused programming and Physical Health and Well Being Curriculum. We are very appreciative for these initiatives which enables us to include the programs without cost to parents.

Thankyou for your prompt response to the provision of class resources as asked for by your child’s teacher and thankyou also for the many parents who have promptly made payment of the Semester 1 Resource Contribution.

Notice will come home shortly about the program of Coffee Mornings for parents. The focus will be for new parents however all parents and carers are welcome as we proceed through a series of information and sharing sessions related to getting know our school, your child’s programs and other matters related to Nursery Rd and our partnership with you.

Engaging Relating and Participating for 2015 in Education – we are off to a good start and I look forward to working in partnership with you during the busy learning lives of every student of NR.

Shauna St George
Principal

Student Absences

Please ensure if your child is absent from school you call the school office on Ph: 3308 6333 or email the school admin on admin@nurseryryspe.eq.edu.au Admin will pass this information onto your child’s class teacher. It is important that we hear from parents or guardians as to a child’s absence on the morning of their absence or prior notice if that is possible. If all notifications of absence could be made by 9:30am that would assist us greatly. The school phone has a message bank for out of hours calls should you be ringing before 8:15am.

Late Drop Off and Early Pick Up

It is important and of course imperative for us to conduct our duty of care for all students to the very best of our ability and to keep all children safe at all times. For this reason if you need to drop your child off after the start of the school day at 9:00am early or collect them earlier in the afternoon then 2:55pm please ensure you let office staff know so they can be marked off their class roll. This can be done by dropping into the office on arrival both for late drop off and earlier pick up. This also enables us to know who is and isn’t on our campus at all times. Thank you in advance for the co-operation of all in ensuring the high duty of care standards and safety we wish to maintain for our students and school campus.

Thankyou!
From the Deputy

Dear Parents and Carers

It’s hard to believe that we’re already three weeks into the 2015 school year. I’d like to welcome our new students and their families to the Nursery Road School community - it’s wonderful to see new faces and to get to know our new recruits! Our students have been busy working on mini-units “About Me” in an effort to share how they communicate, their interests, their previous understandings and to learn the School Rules. An important part of these mini-units is the explicit teaching of the School Rules which are a part of Nursery Road’s Positive Behaviour Support framework. The Rules are:

- Use your voice
- Be safe
- Stop and listen
- Be a learner
- Play your part

The teaching staff have had the opportunity to begin planning for the rest of Semester One. The units of work will be highly motivating for our learners and will provide many rewarding experiences that inspire the students to “use their voice” and “be a learner”. This semester, each of the Primary to Junior Secondary classes will be studying English, Maths and Science from the Australian Curriculum as well as other outstanding programs that our school delivers such as swimming, music and the Arts. The Senior School staff are planning a range of outstanding learning experiences tailored to their students’ individual learning outcomes. Families can expect class timetables to come home in the next week if they haven’t already done so.

School staff are organising parent/teacher evenings which will occur in the next two weeks. Keep an eye out for more information in your child’s communication book. Your child’s communication book is a fantastic way to maintain strong home and school links - I encourage you to use it. In your child’s communication book or bag, you may have found an “OT/PT Parent/Caregiver permission form” or “Speech Language Parent/Guardian Form”. Please return these permission forms as soon as possible as it allows our therapists to support our teaching staff with strategies and/or programs relevant to your child’s development.

Again- welcome everyone to another exciting year here at Nursery Road. I look forward to working with you and your family this year.

Jeff Watts
Acting Deputy Principal
Conductive Education Corner

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a wonderful first month back at Nursery Road. So many things have changed since I was last teaching at the school in 2006. Even the name has changed! Even so, there are many familiar faces including some very young students who have grown into very tall young men and women over the past 9 years.

Of course one of the key changes in the school has been the incorporation of the Xavier Conductive Education Program. I had a short but fondly remembered period of teaching at the Xavier Special School in 1996 when I first returned to Brisbane from my country service. The staff and students have all been very welcoming and I have enjoyed meeting many of the parents as they drop their children at school each morning.

The team has jumped straight into the year with some wonderful collaborative planning across the CE program and the rest of the school. I am encouraged and excited by the professional and caring work throughout the school. It is a privilege to work with such positive people who love and respect our children. The students show us very clearly how much they enjoy coming to school and learning in such a warm environment.

I have been very fortunate to have the support of Jeff who has very much set us up for the start of the year as I find my feet. I looking forward to learning and growing together with the students, staff and parents in 2015

Regards
Simon Hill
Acting HOSES CEP

School Fundraising

The Athlete’s Foot (Garden City) and Nursery Road Special School have forged a new and exciting fundraising partnership. When our school’s friends and families purchase a pair of shoes from the Athlete’s Foot Garden City store, they will donate $5 to the school. Just mention “Nursery Road State Special School” when your make your purchase
From the P and C

P and C AGM  3rd March 2015 7:00pm  Staffroom in Administration Block
Please note that the next P and C meeting on 3rd March is also the Annual general Meeting of the P and C. Please note this date in your diary and come along and join the P and C. More information will come home shortly re nominations for executive positions and becoming a member if you cannot attend. However you attendance would be very much valued.

Parent Reps for P and C and Networking
The P and C have voted to have parent reps as part of the wider community building within the school, to assist in the work of the P and C, to assist parents to network and generally get to know each other and to build our community through this extension of the P and C.

Parent reps would receive, with the permission of each parent/carer the contact details of parents/carer of the part of the school they are representing. Once parent reps have been identified we will have a morning tea with members of the P and C to clarify some aspects of the position, and reps might start some informal parent get togethers for those interested.

Please let us know through email to the schools email admin@nurseryrdspecs.eq.edu.au if you would like to be a parent rep for either Prep, Juniors 3-6 classes. Middle School, Junior Secondary or seniors and Senior Transition. This is not intended as an onerous role in anyway just an enrichment of networking and the school community. If you wish to chat about it further please contact the school and we can put you in touch with a member of the P and C or another parent who can explain it further.

The Election Day Sausage Sizzle and Cake Stall was an amazing success in a number of ways. The number of parents who responded through bring cakes or giving some time on the day was wonderful. Thankyou to everyone who was able to give some goods or time. The P and C were able to raise over $1600 for the day after costs. This money will go towards resourcing specialised equipment or other identified needs for our children in their school programs.

The new Bikes have arrived and are now being used by students in the Bike Program. These bikes were gained for the school from successful fundraising last year. Watch the Nursery Rd School FaceBook page which will soon have photos of these bikes in use. It’s exciting to see the outcomes of our hard work go into such an important and enjoyable learning area for our students.

P and C President Andrea Jost