From the Principal

**BIENNIAL ART AUCTION 2015  SEPTEMBER 11**TH AT SCHOOL
**KEEP THIS DATE FREE AND PRACTISE YOUR BIDDING SKILLS**

This week has an alternate timetable calendar for all classes on Tuesday and Thursday
- Tuesday Student Council Supported EKKA Day at Nursery Road Parents welcome
- Wednesday 12th Show Day Holiday – no school
- Thursday - St Laurence’s Special Olympics Sports Day Thank you very much to Geoff Fellowes and the staff from Sunshine buses for assisting us on the sports day by giving of the use of your buses and staff time. We couldn’t do this exciting whole school activity without the support of Sunshine Buses.

This week of difference will offer all our students, including ECDP children on Tuesday, to practice managing when the timetable changes, to have fun interacting in different ways, with others in the school, and around different activities within environments that are planned to meet their needs. I look forward to seeing the students’ pleasure in taking part in these days.

**Managing Seasonal Illness**
Firstly we think of some of our students who have been very unwell and have had to be hospitalised due to their illness over the past couple of weeks. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back at school soon. August often sees a spike in illness amongst our staff and students so please assist by always following regular hygiene practices when at our school such as washing hands before and after working with students or being in classes as a volunteer. We work very hard in all classes to ensure children and staff practice good hand washing hygiene for toileting and care support. While soap is best, you will note we have extra automatic hand sanitisers around the school to assist in keeping our school community well.
Please keep your child home if they are unwell, including if they have a heavy cold. When children come to school unwell it is hard for them to cope with the school day, and infection can spread easily. When staff is absent we use supply staff, a note is sent home to advise of replacement teachers wherever possible.

**Farewell to Peter Henry**
It was with great joy that Pete Henry took part in this retirement celebration events Friday week ago. The students participated in this event in the outdoor hall, and staff also feted Pete and his years of service in a special event on the Thursday.
Thank you, Pete for your time at our school, you have seen many changes and adapted to the changing and growing school over your 28 years on this campus. Ron Capell is doing the facilities/grounds job for the remainder of this term. In his first week Ron has tackled many areas of the school and bringing wild weeds and trees into order.

**Staffing Changes**

The staff held a combined baby shower for Sissy, Christine and Mikaela last week, with Lauren waiting in the wings for her baby shower at the end of this term.

**Sissy Xiao** has started her maternity leave and is very excited about the imminent birth of her first child. Vivian has joined our cleaning team to replace Sissy. The cleaning team has made Vivian very welcome and we thank her for joining our school. **Christine Watts** welcomes her second child in a few weeks and therefore this week will be her last. Christine will be replaced by a new teacher to our school Sarah Swindell. Sarah is an experienced special education teacher with her most recent job being at the SEU at Park Ridge State High school. **Mikaela Kruse** is due to have her first baby in September and is eagerly looking forward to her break before the birth, starting from this Friday. Advice will be given to Lisa’s class parents once the replacement teacher aide person is assigned. Karin McDowall joined our admin team this term, most of you will have already met or spoken to Karin as she works in reception and will become our HR admin officer in due course.

Lynne Kelly is away on leave for three weeks and Sue Henderson is replacing her. Leesie was doing non-contact for the CE Program and due to health management is not going to be doing this for the remainder of this term.

Welcome back from injury leave Sandra Creevey (CE Program).

Week 5 Music: Some classes will be cancelled or changed due to Tim Hills being on leave this week, for Monday and Friday only.

Welcome to our team Sonja Elliot. Sonja will be doing non-contact and teacher release for coaching or mentoring professional development sessions.

**Joyous News from within our Community**

Jack Stevens in Seniors has been on treatment for leukemia for the past couple of years. During that time he and his family and support circle have been strong and Jack especially has been wonderful in his ability to ride his storms and continue to find joy in his days when he is well. Jackson had his last chemo treatment in a party put on by his parents a fortnight ago. We celebrate this milestone with Jack and keep mindful of the journey the family have a head of them - joy and trepidation.

Welcome Little Princess Sarah; born to Dunia and Ridwan, Ayahs parents a few weeks ago, is now home and well. The family continues to count their blessings from all the support this community gave them, whilst dealing with the hardship of losing the home and all their belongings in the house fire.

**From the Deputy Principal**

**Special Olympics**

The whole school are participating in a District Special Olympics day on Thursday. The day will be held at the St Laurence’s College Playing Fields, Nathan Road, Runcorn. Students participate in age groups in a variety of sporting activities. The day starts at 10am and finishes at approximately 1pm. All students need to be at school by 8:55am ready for departure on buses from 9:00am. We will be transporting students in 2 shifts. Junior 1, 2, 4
all Middle, Junior Secondary, Seniors and the majority of Senior Transition students will aim to leave here at 9am and will leave the grounds at 1pm. The Prep classes, Junior 5 and 6 as well as a small number of Senior Transition students will leave at 9:45am and leave the grounds at 12md. Parents and students meeting us on the day report to the drop off zone and you will be directed to where the various groups will be. The first group of students and staff will arrive at approximately 9:45am and second group at approximately 10:15am. St Laurence’s College have provided toilets, shade structures and are putting on a sausage sizzle for the students and light refreshments throughout the day for visiting parents. Sunshine buses are providing buses and volunteer drivers to support the whole school to be able to access the event. We are indeed privileged to have such amazing partnerships with St Laurence’s College and Sunshine buses and are extremely grateful for their continued support of our school. The weather forecast is for sunshine all week. It would be great to see you there! If you are taking your child away from the class at any time the teacher must be informed and if taking your child home from the grounds also inform the teacher prior to doing this.

Reports

All report cards should be home by now. There may have been hold ups if your child was ill or at respite in the last week. If you would like to discuss any aspects of the report please make an appointment directly with the class teacher.

Student Absence

As part of Education Queensland policy Student absentee must be recorded in OneSchool. This includes late arrival and early departure. Therefore parents or caregivers should be forwarding a reason for absentees; this can be relayed by a note in the communication book or a phone call to the administration. Once a student has been absent for 3 days without communication from parent or caregiver a letter will be sent that parent/caregiver requesting a reason for the absence.

From Monday 21st August 2015 if you arrive after 9am you will be required to come to the administration office to receive a slip to give the teacher, the same goes for a student being picked up prior to 2.55 pm. This will enable us to manage students transport and duty of care to the school. There have been frequent occasions where we have no knowledge that the student has already been taken home.

Department of Education Policy Statement

Each parent of a child who is of compulsory school age has the legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attends a state school or a non-state school, on every school day for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse.

From time to time a student may be absent from their educational program. Parents comply with their compulsory schooling or compulsory participation obligation by providing a satisfactory reason for these absences, unless the student is an adult or it is not appropriate to contact the student’s parents, in which case an explanation should be sought directly from the student. Parents should provide a reason for a child’s absence as soon as possible after the absence.
**P and C Corner**

Come along this Friday for our second fundraising group meeting. Last meeting was a great sharing of ideas and meeting others whilst planning future events for fundraising to support school programs and social activities to help build our ever-growing community.

It’s easy, it’s fun, and friendly, come along!

I Block Parent room

Time: 9.00am – 11.30am

At this month’s P and C Meeting the P and C decided to support a Trivia Night as a social and fundraising event for this year. The tentative date for this is: Friday 10th of October with Halloween as the theme.

The P and C also voted to support an application by the school to have a Companion dog for the school. We look forward to this plan coming to reality and know it will provide wonderful advantages for our students.

Joe Kelly, our local state MP came along to give feedback on the community stand he held at our school last week, to speak to locals about the changes to the fencing and gate access to the school. He supports the school in its increased security and reduction by way of locked gates to passer-by’s and local residents for using the school grounds for recreational and other purposes in school and out of school hours. He also offered his support to our community in a number of ways.

**From the CE Program**

Dear Parents

With so many outstanding programs and activates occurring in the Xavier Program, it is hard to keep it to our allocated space in the newsletter! Here are some highlights:

Several of our Junior Secondary students have been involved in an exciting power mobility group on Wednesday afternoons. The program has been designed by our therapy team in conjunction with class teachers. The students practice their power wheelchair skills to move towards desired objects, activities and their friends. I often encourage them to catch me if they can... but not run me over! These sessions are so valuable to target the emergent and existing skills that the students have to help ensure that they are able to move as independently as possible and to participate in their own decision making as they move.

In conjunction with our Nursery Road therapy team and with CP League input, Lynne’s class’ students have been taking part in an afternoon switching group. The group aims to give Lynne’s students explicit teaching time to work on their switching skills in a fun group environment. Not only does the development of switching skills enhance their ability to engage in leisure activities, but the skills acquired can lead to independent communication.

Kerrie McLean (Speech Pathologist) and I will be meeting this month with Jeff Souter (a technology advisor for Ed Qld) regarding support and guidance to extend our eye gaze program. Jeff is well known for his understanding of the use of technology in the classroom and we hope to gain some insight on how we can extend our rapidly developing eye gazers from using the device as a game and/ or basic communication into a much more dynamic communication tool.
When your child is visiting with their GP, specialist, or other agencies, we ask that you request that the school is sent either an electronic or paper copy of any pertinent information from the visit. Often this can be achieved by making a request at the reception desk. The benefit is that our therapy team, myself and class teachers are aware of any medical or therapeutic changes that are occurring; this helps ensure that each professional supporting your child is working towards the same goals and that collaboration is occurring inside and outside of our school.

On a final note- remember that your child PODD and/or communication device is their voice. Please have their PODD book on hand to allow your child to express themselves at home and in the community. If an acquaintance isn’t sure how to use the device, show them- it’s a great opportunity to show that person and especially your child how important it is that “their voice” is used whenever they “have something to say”.

Jeff Watts
A/HOSES
From School Finance

I would once again like to thank families for the payments of the School Levy & Music Therapy this term so far. Music Therapy is sourced from a private music therapist, therefore if you have signed an agreement for your child to attend the music therapy this payment needs to be brought up to date if it is to continue for Term 4.

I understand that some families have had some difficulty with the new B Point payment function, so we apologise for that inconvenience.

We would like to make a couple of points to assist the school and the families when making any payments

The B Point can only be accessed by using VISA or MASTERCARD for payment.

When making the payment the CRN has 13 numbers starting with 3084, all numbers must be entered along with the invoice number under the CRV number. Please see the diagram below. **Please make only one payment per entry matching the invoice amount.**

You can still make Direct Deposits into the schools bank account. If you do this payment method please use only the invoice number not the CRN number or alternatively please use the student’s last name so we are able to match your payment to the correct student.

Finally we can still do transactions through the school EFTPOS and cash, if that is your preferred way, but we would encourage the online transaction where possible.

The school would also like to inform families that we are implementing payment days meaning only payment will be processed on the following days Wednesday, Thursday & Fridays. If we receive money on the other days they will not be receipted until the given days.

If you need any assistance please call the school.

Leanne Pedemont BSM
Student Council Ekka Day Tuesday 11th August

A very big thank you to all of the families that have been able to support the Ekka day by sending in donations for the show bags!

Student Council has been working really hard to make this a really fun day.

Please return the permission forms as soon as possible.

Our EKKA day is a free dress day – please bring a gold coin donation.

School banking

School banking is now established. It’s not too late; if you would like to start an account for your student please ask for the paperwork to be sent home.

Earn and Learn

Keep sending in your Earn and Learn stickers from Woolies, the school will be able to claim some great sporting equipment at the end of the promotion.

‘Light My Way’ Art Auction 2015 Friday September 11th

Your students are working on their art projects, I have seen lots of fantastic work, and the finished pieces are going to be spectacular. There will also be a range of merchandise where you will be able to have your choice of art work printed as a special memento of the event. Tickets for the night will be on sale soon at $20.00 for the evening including wine, cheese with a great Jazz band. We have been fortunate to receive some donations of paintings and wine that will be used for a multi-draw raffle, look out for more details about this in the next few weeks.

Wendy Windley Acting EPO
SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015
TERM 3/4

P and C Meeting 1st September 7.00pm

Art Auction Friday Night 11th September

Show Day Public Holiday Wednesday 12th August

School Holidays Monday 21st September 2015 To 2nd October 2015

Public Holiday Monday 5th October

School Resumes Monday Tuesday 6th October

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