From the Principal

Two weeks ago I received a letter from one of our students, scribed by the teacher as the student chose what to write from his PODD book. My name was written on the student made envelope, again scribed by the teacher but spelt by another student of the same class. My name was spelled “Swna”. Both students have limited verbal ability if we note only their traditional voice - their letter and the spelling of my name shows why we have so much passion and drive at Nursery Road for alternate voice and alternate pencils. Just imagine a Nursery Road without the direction and opportunity that voice through alternate means and literacy gives our students. It is so exciting to see such evidence of learning which this letter highlights. Your children are marvellous in their ability to learn given the multiple opportunities based on how they need to learn and use their voice.

We write letters as often as we can in class, they are then posted in the mailbox outside admin or in the postboxes on the doors of I Block classrooms. Bronwyn’s class in Junior Secondary deliver these letters across the school. Parents are invited to write to their child or students in their child’s class or to the teacher or class as a whole and use our postal service to have it delivered to the addressee. You may even get a reply and you, too could then experience the joy and amazement of seeing our alternate literacy and communication program for yourself.

I want to thank our hard working P and C members who work on behalf of the parent community to support our school endeavours and student programs. It is a pleasure to be in a partnership with the executive and regular members who attend the P and C for the benefit of our Nursery Road and ECDP student. This week at the P and C meeting we looked at quotes for the new school community notice board. We are now finalising the quotes and aim to start installation before the end of term. Parent fundraising efforts and support of the P and C’s activities as well as the anonymous donation received during April have made it possible to afford this valuable school community communication method.

School upgrade

The plans to upgrade our school sports and play area provisions are still in the planning and investigation stage. The management of community feedback (residents and local bush area interest groups) has been a significant part of this developing detail. Contrary to popular local belief the school grounds to and beyond the creek and all the way through to Clough Street are for the purposes of the school as state government owned land, and not resident’s local green space, parkland nor is it council owned.

This common belief by some in the local neighbourhood, based on historical patterns of using the school grounds, has led to some of the backlash to the development of the school’s sporting and parking needs. Adaptations to the plan and the intent to ensure a community access route outside a secured school campus should provide an outcome that meets all reasonable needs whilst focussing on our students’ educational needs, safety and security.

I am pleased to advise that the plans are looking promising and if all planning is progressed we will have a large sports field, a running track, a half basketball court, a bike path and a ramp from near H Block to the Junior school playground (D Block Junior School).
This aforementioned is subject to feasibility and approval processes, but it is looking exciting. The P and C are very keen and supportive of the direction of the planning at this early stage.

**Mount Gravatt Rotary**

Geoff Brady, Co-President of our local Rotary Branch attended the P and C meeting this week as they are seeking to build connections with local schools and organisations. As an outcome of this outreach to our school we will be organising our school’s involvement in the Mount Gravatt challenge. Please see flyer at the back of this newsletter. We are following up on some details and Geoff will ensure that our families and their children can take part in activities suitable to their needs if they choose to. It sounds like it is going to be a fun family morning. Please mark the date and event on your calendars.

**CE News**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The students in the Junior group have been working on Red Riding Hood during their Four Blocks of literacy sessions. They have been working alongside their D Block friends in Karen and Elena’s class on filming their retell of the story twice a week in preparation for their end of term celebrations. Be sure to come to the gala event!

Kelly’s class has been participating in the “D Block Buddies” program. It has been taking place once a week, linking students from each class to communicate, socialise and play with a variety of students from other classes in their block.

Our Middle Year classes have been busy working on “Living and Non-Living” science projects. To add to their experiential learning, they have also been using alternate pencils (their PODD books and alphabet flipcharts for example) to write a variety of stories to describe their scientific findings.

The Junior Secondary students have been participating in three different clubs this term: photography, gardening and cupcake decorating. These clubs are formed by students volunteering to join and allow the Junior Secondary students a chance to form friendships and build teamwork skills with different students from across the stage level.

The Seniors have returned from a great camp experience. The class went with the rest of the senior group and participated in activities such as canoeing, swimming, and the hair-raising flying fox.

In the ECDP we have three new enrolments in the pipeline, which will boost our Program’s numbers significantly. Later this term, we will be teaming up with the Nursery Road ECDP and the Senior Guidance Officer to hold a parents’ morning tea to discuss the transition to Prep for our students for both special schools and mainstream settings. All ECDP parents are welcome, regardless of your child’s age, as it will offer an insight into the sometimes intimidating, hugely important transition to school.

Have a lovely weekend!

**EPO News**

**Wicket 5 cent Challenge**

There has been a huge response to this challenge and we have almost hit our goal targets. There are just six weeks left to send in your remaining coins. Student Council will be counting coins at their next meeting in readiness to send the coins to the bank. Thank you for the ongoing generous support of this challenge.

Team 2 of Student Council has been voted in: Congratulations to Brayden, the new Captain!

Students have been working hard on the celebrations of this week acknowledging the P & C, Volunteers’ and Nurses’ Day.

In a few weeks the reps will be working on QLD week activities.
Thank you to the many dedicated people for spending time with our students!
Your support is invaluable, and very much appreciated!

12 May is Nurses Day

As a school we are very fortunate to have a team of Nurses (Jenny, Caitlin, Wendy and Sarah) that support us with great care and professionalism. These ladies provide sage advice and thorough training to ensure the best levels of care for our students and staff. Thank you for everything that you do for us at Nursery Road.

Senior School

Work Experience & Placement Sampling is now fully underway for students in the Senior School. Students are out and about trialing different activities that may be suitable post school options. All students gain a great deal from participating. Through a successful application with My Future My Life funding Cortney has started travel training to and from work experience at Coles on Saturday. Great effort Courtney!

If any parents / carers can find an opportunity in their local community that will support the transition of their young person in year 11 or 12 please contact the school to support you apply for the ‘My Future My Life’ funding.

An EPIC Effort

Carl has commenced his traineeship at the Coffee Club with the support of EPIC Employment. He is having enormous success and enjoying the role immensely. Carl now features on EPIC’s latest advertisement video. To watch the full version go to https://youtu.be/HSNbpsO_czg. Well done, Carl!
Senior Camp

The Senior Camp was held at Mapleton last week. The five senior classes thoroughly enjoyed the new experiences and interacting in a different way with their peers. All students exceeded our expectations often moving well outside their comfort zones embracing the outdoor camp experience. There was non-stop action including rock wall climbing, canoeing, flying fox, swimming, Indigenous activities, bushwalking, treasure hunts and archery as well as team, art and drumming activities. A great time was had by all. A huge thank you to the staff from Mapleton, the AMAZING Nursery Rd staff and Antoinette for organising!
On Friday 22nd April we at Nursery Road observed ANZAC Day with our School Service. It was very well attended by parents, carers, family and friends. Thank you for supporting this school event.

Well done to everyone, staff and students, on a wonderful Anzac Day ceremony. Our students did a great job taking part, connecting and contributing to the event! Engage Relate Participate is well and truly strong in our school. Congratulations to our Student Council Class Representatives who did a wonderful job participating in their tasks. We would also like to thank the students from Loreto College who attended the service and engaged with students in the classrooms afterwards.

We thank Captain Michael Corvalan from the 7th Combat Services Support Battalion at Enoggera Barracks for attending our Service and making it very special for our students. After the service he visited many classrooms for questions and photo opportunities which our students wholeheartedly embraced.

Thanks also to Matthew Sellars for attending and representing Joe Kelly MP and for William Daley’s grandfather Brian for attending in his capacity as a Veteran.

This event is one that we at Nursery Road are very honoured to participate in and each year our student’s awareness and significance of the event grows as they become more familiar with the purpose and meaning of the day and remembering our soldiers.
Invitations to download and sign up to the QParents App have now been emailed to all parents who provided us with email addresses. Parents whose email we do not have should have received an invitation letter home with their student.

Please contact the office if you have not received either email or letter.