From The Principal

G20 Public Holiday: School will be closed as required.
A new School Flag was kindly donated to us by our local state member Mr Ian Kaye. Ian came to the school last week and in the presence of many of the students, presented the flag to a group of students. The flag was then raised on the flagpole followed by the singing of the National Anthem. It was a small but symbolic occasion for our students who seemed to enjoy it and we are very appreciative to have the new flag.

As the term progresses and summer approaches, the heat of the day prevents some of our students being able to go outside at lunchtimes. We want to maximize outdoor times for children at their break times but have some challenges with being SunSafe with our limited shade areas. We have a large and new shade sail that we acquired from the closing of Nyandra SHS earlier this year. Last night the P and C offered to provide the funds to have this shade sail installed in the middle school playground. This will be a welcome addition to this area of the school and the donation to have this proceed is a generous gesture from the P and C. Thank you to the P and C! Any funds the P and C are able to provide to assist students programs and the school overall area raised from all the fundraising efforts throughout each year.

The ECDP refurbishment is proceeding fairly much to plan. The asbestos removal went well with the job being done by an excellent contractor two weekends ago. The colour scheme has been determined and a color board will go up in H Block in the coming weeks. Liza, Jeff and I are meeting fortnightly with the Building Group for input and updates. At present the white ant problem is being addressed as part of the project progression.

Our school is one of a number schools across the state to be used for inclusion in the Statewide Principals Conference 2015. This is for principals from all sectors and the video vignettes will be used to showcase exemplary practice in a diverse arrays of schools from across the state. Filming occurred on Tuesday, and the students and staff managed the flexibility required very well. The short clip that will eventuate from the 2 hours of time that was spent collecting great footage in every area of the school, will give us a video as well for use in a range of ways.

It was lovely to start the journey of meeting and partnering with our 2015 Prep parents at the Information Session today. We will be welcoming about 10-12 new Prep aged students next year at this stage. The next step is for the children to have some orientation visits, this will occur later in the term.

My final piece of news is to advise that Claire Sheehan, Deputy Principal will be taking leave from the school from the beginning of 2015 for 18 months. Claire and her family are moving to Bundaberg where her husband will be furthering his medical career. The process to have an acting Deputy Principal for that period will commence shortly. We will all miss Claire for all that she brings to our school in many ways, in relationships, her work with staff, students and parents and due to her wonderful leadership contribution. We will look forward to her return in the expected timeframe.

Yours in Partnership
Shauna

7th November 2014
Dear Parents and Carers

As we move along towards the end of the year, there are many exciting events and activities happening in the Conductive Education Program. Our teaching staff are busy collecting data on how each of our students are accessing the Australian Curriculum and demonstrating their understanding of what they’ve learnt. After they have assessed your child’s learning, they will begin to write report cards, which will clearly indicate what your child has learnt, how they have accessed their learning and how far they have come in this learning throughout the semester.

Our students have been working within the History learning area of the Australian Curriculum this semester and have clearly enjoyed the topic of “Celebrations”. Towards the end of the year, each class will be celebrating their learning in various ways. Your child’s teacher will be informing parents about how these celebrations will be taking place soon.

It’s camp time again- currently, Lynne’s Junior Secondary students are on camp at Lake Moogerah. At the end of November, our Middle school classes will be going, led by Kelly and Sarah. Both the Junior Secondary and Middle school camps are attended by all of the Nursery Road students in their cohort, which makes for fantastic inclusive fun.

Four of our ECDP students are busy participating in transition programs to prepare for their entry to Prep in 2015. I have had the pleasure of working with two students who are moving on to mainstream school, while two have also been supported during lessons here at Nursery Road. I believe that the transition programs are very important- they allow the student to become familiar with their new school, their new teaching staff to meet the student, and new friendships to develop before the start of the school year in 2015. It’s great to see the students beginning to settle into their future school environments.

Extravaganza is one word to describe the atmosphere in the Multi-Purpose Room on a Wednesday. This is due to the ECDPs highly motivating, completely engaging “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” power mobility clinic. Five of our ECDP students are immersed in a sensory world based on the classic children’s story while having the opportunity to experience movement in a power wheelchair. This week, our students were all over the room, learning how to move in the wheelchairs with independence while grabbing, squishing, feeling, and scratching items in the various sensory stations. I would like to thank our outstanding specialist team, the CP League, Nora and Sandie for their efforts to make this program so well planned and valuable for our families.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or comments about your child’s program.

Regards

Jeff Watts
School EVENTS for the end of the year

Senior Dance  Friday 21st November 5:00pm BBQ  6:00pm Dance
Parent information letter has been sent home or posted home this week. Student invitations will go out this Friday and Monday next week.

Graduation Dinner Thursday December 4th
Carson Room Mt Gravatt Bowls Club Logan Rd 6:15pm-10:00pm
DATE Claimer has been sent out to families, Invitations will proceed out this coming week to our four graduating students and their families; to senior student cohort, staff and P and C reps. This event is put on by the school, supported by the P and C, with graduating families being given two free tickets in addition to their young person’s ticket and then asked to pay for additional family members and guest beyond this. Once the information comes home to families please contact us if you have queries re ticket numbers, we encourage graduating families to invite further family members and friends for this very special occasion in the life of their son/daughter.

Awards Ceremonies
Junior Awards Thursday 4th December 11:00am Multi -Purpose Room
Middle School Awards Day Tuesday 9th December 10:00am Multi -Purpose Room
Senior and Junior Secondary Awards Tuesday 2nd December 10:30am – 12.30pm to be held at St Laurence’s College Hall. Information will be sent home next week regarding arrangements and map to venue.

Public transport disruption during G20
Travel into and across the city will not be as easy as usual over the G20 long weekend from Friday 14 to Sunday 16 November and in the lead up to the event.

• The South Brisbane train station will be closed from Monday 10 November to Sunday 16 November. Students can use South Bank station as an alternative.

• There will be major bus disruptions from 7pm Thursday 13 November to Sunday 16 November, including the closure of busway stations between Royal CH Herston and Woolloongabba stations and many CBD bus stops. If your child commutes to and from the city and surrounding suburbs by bus, he/she should aim to leave the city before 6pm Thursday 13 November to avoid disruptions.

• Translink is working to ensure Brisbane’s traffic and public transport network will be operational for the morning peak on Monday 17 November; however, disruptions should be expected as services return to normal after the summit. Buses will operate as normal following their regular routes, however delays and congestion in and around the city should be expected. Students should allow extra time for their journey.

Visit translink.com.au for further details of the public transport changes or visit www.g20.org/community_information/brisbane_locals/traffic_and_transport for more general information on traffic, parking and road closures.

Public transport into and across Brisbane City will not be as easy as usual over the G20 long weekend. translink.com.au.
A Brisbane ballet school is giving special needs children in the southwest region the chance to express themselves through dance.

The Tippy Toe Co, a non-profit classical ballet school at Sherwood, offers ballet classes for boys and girls aged 3-10 years.

It was started in 2013 by 21-year-old University of Queensland business student Zac Fook and co-founder Courtney Crack after a successful trial program involving several Brisbane Special Schools. Ten-year-old Gemma Voogt, from North Booval, is one of 25 students who attends weekend classes.

Her mother Suzanne Voogt said the program had helped her daughter, who has autism, feel special and included.

“Gemma has difficulty in social situations but because of all the girls’ needs, she’s not really any different there,” Mrs Voogt said.

“It makes her feel like a normal child.”

Mrs Voogt said there were limited activities specifically for special needs children.

“She just loves it, she’s a really girlie girl,” she said. “It’s a chance for her to be like other little girls. She is learning to listen better and we use it as a form of physio and occupational therapy.”

Dance teacher Shannon Lovell, 21, said the class offers the chance “to be like any other little girl”.

“These girls can’t go into a mainstream ballet school but we accept everyone no matter what their abilities,” she said.

“We have four girls in a walker and one in a wheelchair.”

Ms Lovell said Gemma had improved dramatically since commencing classes.

Mr Fook said some families travel from as far as Redbank and the Gold Coast to attend the classes.

“Because the activities for these kids are few between parents are willing to travel,” he said.

“It’s really inspiring to see, the kids are dancing not just at the class but when they’re at home and when they’re at school.”

Visit thetippytoeco.com for information and pricing.