From the Principal

With just over a week to go until the end of term most parents may be like me and are wondering how this term could fly by so quickly! I feel confident when reflecting on our busy school life and how it is passing by quickly, that our school motto of *engage relate participate* still works to monitor and steer us. It calls us all to take part, connect and contribute to the learning and life of this school every day in the ways that our roles enables us to do. Last year we commenced a focussed translation of *engage relate participate* through a Learning Counts initiative. **Learning Counts** still drives our direction and focus for 2015 as it did in 2014. **Learning Counts** assist us to focus in the classroom and across the school on how we are engaging each student in being able to engage relate and participate in and through learning. Assessment and data gathering is a very central part of the Learning Counts strategy. The information from informal and formal assessments allows teachers to make decisions about the needs of a student in regards to learning opportunities and learning progress. Assessment information will form part of discussions in the Individual Education Plan meetings or Senior Education and Training planning meetings that parents are currently taking part in over these last weeks of term and into the first weeks of next term. By being active in this process parents are certainly doing their part to live out our school motto and thereby contribute in partnership to their child’s program at school. We are fortunate to have many committed families in this process. The program your child will access in the Australian Curriculum will form a part of meetings as well.

In regards to staffing I am pleased to advise that Wendy Windley is doing the role of EPO during Angela’s leave for the next 7 months. Wendy is already undertaking the role well. Jacquelyn Lui has taken up Wendy’s role in the classroom (CE- Nicole’s class). Jacque has spent considerable time in the CE program over this year and last prior to this contract.

ECDP Refurbishment
The parents of the Conductive Education ECDP were able to have a tour of G Block this week and although there is more internal work to be done I’m sure they found the visit useful in terms of seeing the wonderful new learning space that this ECDP group will soon be using.

Parents from the NR ECDP are invited to let their class teacher or Liza know if they would like a group visit to F Block after the Easter Break, just prior to the move into this block. At the Building Meeting this week Northbuild were able to set a date for our move into the G Block and F Block. This will not be after Easter now as the roof in both blocks had to be replaced which was a variation at a late stage of the project. The expected week for moving into G Block (CE ECDP) and F Block is the 3rd week of next term. The classes currently held in H Block will relocate to F Block until H Block refurbishment is completed later in the year.

*In partnership* Shauna
Dear Parents and Carers

As we are fast approaching the end of the Term and classes have well and truly settled in, we have been able to begin some special programs for a wide range of our student population. Recently, we have re-formed some older partnerships and forged brand new partnerships with several community organisations to offer our students some outstanding learning opportunities.

We have annual collaborations with two private schools; these are known as Service Learning Programs with St. Laurence’s College and Brisbane Grammar School. The St. Laurie’s boys have worked with some of our Junior School students in class, providing a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet and practice communicating with new people.

Currently, the Brisbane Grammar students are working across the school in a range of programs. Some of the students have been assisting Tim, one of our Music Teachers in a music and film project, while another group of the boys are supporting the Junior Athletics skills sessions. The final group of Grammar boys are working alongside our Middle School students to assist in their academic programming. The Grammar boys bring an element of excitement and hands-on help to our classes, which increases our students’ motivation and engagement levels.

Starting this Friday is the very exciting QUT dance program. For some of our students in Antoinette, Peter, Anne, Katie and Lisa’s classes, the dance program will offer weekly performance-based activities run by a QUT dance instructor in collaboration with Lifestream. The students will be learning dance moves while working towards their own individualised learning goals such as Communication, Gross Motor, and Personal and Social Capabilities. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the dance program is the culminating Dance Performance in early June which will be occurring on stage at QUT Gardens Point! Family and friends will be invited to attend to watch the performance.

The Screech Theatre Drama classes will continue next term on a weekly basis for the same group of students. The drama classes may also be involved in our big performance as in the paragraph above.

Lastly, our IEP process is now underway. Your family and your child’s teacher will have the chance to meet to discuss your child’s progress thus far, their curriculum goals, and most importantly their priority goals—important skills that your child will work on throughout the day and across different contexts. The meetings are an important process to help ensure that your family, your child’s teacher and other relevant stakeholders are working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child. Arrangements will be made with your child’s teacher to meet very shortly if they haven’t already done so.

Jeff Watts
Acting Deputy Principal
**Sporting Schools Australia Program**
The Active After School Community (AASC) program has been replaced by a new program coordinated by the Australian Sports Commission. The funding under the AASC program helped us last year to run Athletics Basketball and All Abilities Sports. This year we are likely to receive funding under the new program. We have applied for All Abilities Sports (Cricket) and Athletics.

**Mothers Day Stall Notice  Week of 4th to 6th May ($1-$5 gifts)**
*From the Seniors  K Block (Wendy and Antoinette’s Classes)*
Our students put in a request to the Student Council to run a Mother’s Day Stall which the Council reps voted to support. The Student Council reps will help us run it during the week however the Seniors of K Block will be preparing and running the stall as part of their onsite living and working skills programs. The decision making, purchasing and management of the process is providing an excellent learning program related to our goals in the class program.
Our Mother’s Day Stall will be full of small items that students can purchase for their Mum or other significant adult in their home such as their Dad or a relative. More information to come closer to the date.

**P and C News**
**Easter Raffle reminder** Please send back your tickets and money ASAP ready to be included in the draw for these lovely prizes. The raffle will be drawn on 1st April.

Successful Grant to Cancer Council for shade marquee. The P and C were very pleased to be informed about the successful application for a marquee for one of the school’s playgrounds. The school is proceeding with the purchase of the Marquee and its set up.

The parent rep meeting and coffee mornings for parents will be held early next term. We look forward to meeting the reps and getting started on building this aspect of our P and C direction for this year.

**School Events**
**Student Council Update**

**Earth Hour**
The school will be celebrating Earth Hour on Friday the 27th March. The students will be following their class program without using power wherever possible between 9.30 and 10.30. The Student Council has organised to share fruit for morning-tea to celebrate the theme of Planet to Plate and support local farmers. Student Council reps are taking a lead role in this and will ensure their class is fully involved.

**ANZAC Day**
The school will be celebrating ANZAC day on the 24th of April with a parade 9.30 until 10.00 followed by Morning Tea. Parents are welcome to join us. If families have or know of a veteran or member of the Armed Forces who would like to attend please let us know and we will forward a personal invitation, our students would enjoy meeting them. A flyer will be sent home in the first week back after the holidays with details about the day and an RSVP if you are able to join us. Invited guests include Joe Kelly our new local state government MP.

Wendy Windley Acting EPO
School Immunisation Program 2015

This year, Brisbane City Council will be offering free Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and Chickenpox vaccinations to all students in year 8. Diphtheria Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccinations will be offered to all students in both Year 8 and Year 10.

If your child has missed a school vaccination from this year or last year you can have these vaccination’s caught up at one of Council’s free immunisation clinics. To locate Council’s free immunisation clinics please go to http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community/community-safety/council-immunisation-clinics/childrens-immunisation-clinics or call 3403 8888.

To download a School Immunisation Program consent form please visit https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/school-based-vaccination-program or call 13 Health on 13 43 25 84.

If you would like to request your child’s immunisation history with Council, please send your request with your child’s full name and date of birth to immunisation@brisbane.qld.gov.au