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At the AGM, our new P&C Executive for 2014 was elected: President is Paul Wilson, Vice President is Megan Apalais, Treasurer is Mark Powell, Minutes Secretary is Laura Masters and Correspondence Secretary is Nikki Powell. Our new Uniform Co-ordinator for this year is Gail Saw, a grandparent of our school, and we are very grateful for her service. Congratulations to all of those people and thanks so much for volunteering your time and energies once more to support our school.

FOCUS ON CURRICULUM

Introducing Amy Olson, our Curriculum Co-ordinator. This is Amy’s fourth year at Toowoomba West. Prior to that she has worked as an Advisory Visiting Teacher for students with impairments, a primary teacher, acting principal of a small school and a Literacy Coach. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to support our teachers in their planning and delivery of the Australian Curriculum.

Every teacher in our school is developing units of work using the Australian Curriculum. Education Queensland has developed units of work from the Australian Curriculum to support teachers, which cater for all students up to Year 10. These units are referred to as C2C (Curriculum into the Classroom). Within these resources are units of work to cater for students with disabilities (C2C for SWD). Our teachers are using these materials to inform their planning, along with the support of Amy. C2C for SWD looks at contexts for learning which match students’ chronological ages, but then looks at content which is at a developmentally appropriate level for each student.

NEW P&C EXECUTIVE

Thanks to those parents and carers who were able to attend the parent/teacher evening and AGM of our P&C on 26 February. From all reports, it was a very successful evening and gave families an opportunity to find out more about their child’s program throughout the year and share information about students.
In the near future, your child’s teacher will be contacting you to arrange a meeting to discuss your child’s ILP (Individual Learning Plan) and curriculum program for Semester 1.

An ILP is required when a student is provided with a higher or lower year-level curriculum than their age cohort. An ILP documents curriculum content, teaching strategies and assessment provisions for the next reporting period. Decisions are based on collaborative analysis of student achievement data and in consultation with the student’s parent/s. An ILP documents:

- the differentiation and focused teaching already provided to the student
- the year-level of the curriculum to be provided during the next reporting period
- focussed teaching strategies to be used during the next reporting period and any other support to be provided

The purpose of the ILP is to provide you with an overview of the curriculum your child will be covering in the areas of Mathematics (each term), English (each semester) and Science (each semester). This curriculum-based approach is very different to previous plans (such as IEPs) which were very much individually goal based.

**SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT**

Last Wednesday our school’s SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support) Team participated in the first day of training, along with teams from Clifford Park Special and about 7 primary schools. Our school team consists of me, Glenn, Amy Olson, Mary Evans (Teacher Aide), Megan Thompson and our parent rep Megan Apalais (Isaac’s mum and Vice-President of our P&C).

One of the first things that needs to be done is a school audit of what’s happening here at the moment around behaviour management. This will be BASELINE DATA (our starting point) for Racheal Watson, our SWPBS external coach.

This Thursday Racheal will be visiting our school and will have a 30 minute interview with Glenn and me, after which she will be moving around the school talking and observing. She may ask staff and students questions around behaviour e.g. what are our school rules (or as they will be known in future, our ‘expectations’). This baseline data will compare it with data collected throughout the program to see how we are progressing.

Next Tuesday 11 March, I am asking all staff to meet after school with Megan Thompson (our school’s internal SWPBS coach) as she will be administering an Effective Behaviour Support (EBS) Survey which may take 30 minutes.

**THERE ARE 7 ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF SWPBS:**

1. **Leadership** (supports the program)
2. **Common Philosophy and Purpose** (we are all working towards)
3. **Clarifying Expected Behaviours**
4. **Encouraging Expected Behaviours** (positive reinforcement)
5. **Teaching Expected Behaviours**
6. **Discouraging Inappropriate Behaviours**
7. **Ongoing Monitoring** (data collection around behaviour and analysis of that data to inform and improve practices)

We can see how it closely relates to our current version of Positive Behaviour Support that we have been using up to this point.

Our school team (including parent rep Megan Apalais) will be endeavouring to meet each fortnight after school. The values we are considering as ‘expectations’ within our school are RESPECT, SAFETY, and RESPONSIBILITY. Co-incidentally these are the three values Clifford Park Special School are considering and our trainer considers it important for our transitioning students that our two schools align in these values. How we develop these values within the two schools can be very different, but the main values should align. All in all, very exciting and we will keep you posted.

**SAFETY ISSUES AT THE FRONT OF SCHOOL**

- Our front gates can be a point of congestion, especially in the afternoons during pick up time when ALL children are assembled and waiting to depart. Added to that is the fact that from this year, the front gate is now the departure and arrival point for all of our students who use wheelchairs and this can add to congestion at peak times.

For safety reasons (to reduce congestion and the possibility of a child ‘slipping’ through the gates) we have a central departure gate (for students who are accessing contract bus or taxi transport, and to the left a Parent Pick Up Gate (adjacent to the Administration Block) for parents and carers who personally pick up their children.

- Parents have informed me that they have seen cars speeding up or down Gladstone Street at peak times when the School Zone signs are in force. They said that some of these cars are those of families of this school. Please observe the speed signs around our school.

- We have a No Standing sign (during peak arrival and departure times) just in front of the school, near the concrete pad where the minibuses stop to deliver or pick up our students. While our P&C has been advocating very strongly for our school to have modifications to the front of our school so that we can eventually have a drive through area instead of the current turnaround area, we must use this bus zone on Gladstone Street for our minibuses. Vehicles have been seen parked on the footpath in this zone. Please do not park on the road or footpath in this zone during those peak times.
ARTS COUNCIL

Last week students experienced a delightful Arts Council production called ‘Sarah’s Heavy Heart’. This performance was adapted from Peter Carnavas’ beautiful picture book. Through music, movement and interaction with our students we were able to follow Sarah on her search for love and friendship. On her journeys Sarah meets a boy and together, as new friends, they realise they are a perfect match. With someone to help Sarah to carry her heart, she realises it’s not so heavy after all. Students were exposed to discovering a sense of emotional understanding of empathy for Sarah. Students demonstrated enjoyment of this production especially the performers beautifully singing.

Michelle Troughton (Arts Council Co-ordinator)

SOCIAL SPORTS NETWORK UPDATE
(from Michael Pratt, based at the Police Youth Citizens Club)

Social Sports Network – 2013 winner of the Toowoomba’s Australia Day Sports Award, and winner of Toowoomba Business disABILITY Awards (Community Engagement) and Top 3 in Queensland for PCYC State awards for Excellence.

WHAT’S COMING UP

Tennis – Interest sought for those wishing to be more knowledgeable and certified to coach kids with disabilities. No intent on extra commitment after the course. This would help parents / siblings/ carers / support workers with an interest in helping kids with disabilities learn how to play. We have 3 different groups now receiving coaching every week here in Toowoomba. You may also know someone who wishes to join. All Abilities.

Swimming – Glennie Aquatic centre is holding a swimming Block Bonanza whereby for four weeks kids with disabilities can swim/splash from 11am till noon. The four weeks costs $15 and runs from 8th March to 29th March inclusive. Parents / carers are required to support their kids. Activity / practice cards will be placed on side of pool for your information. No hoist (yet).

Spotlighting sessions – that’s right, Friends of the Escarpment have Spotlighting sessions around dusk and looking for native wildlife and are holding a couple of sessions specifically inclusive for kids of all abilities.

Sailability (info only at this stage) – Yep. Amazing but true. Darling Downs now has an incorporated club Sailability Darling Downs whereby we sail at Cooby Dam in larger trailer sailors, catamarans and most importantly, unsinkable dinghies (2 seater sailing boats) for kids and adults with disabilities. Facilities for wheelchair use and accessibility are still being worked through with TRC (Judy Antonio is our patron) along with other fine tuning before the official launch but we have held 2 trial days for ambulance persons and all has gone very smoothly. Incredible experience!!!!!!

Attached is also a timetable that displays our weekly sessions that over 140 kids and adults with disabilities attend every week for tennis, basketball, circuit workouts, swimming, triathlons, futsal, boccia, croquet, ten pin and more.

Please contact me for more info at michael.pratt@pcyc.org.au

Regards, Michael

Michael Pratt
Social Sports Network
Toowoomba PCYC & Queensland State Government

★★★★★ Coming Events ★★★★★

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 27 March</td>
<td>Toowoomba Show Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Tues 22 April</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
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<td>Fri 25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day</td>
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Visits to Paediatricians or other specialists:

We are aware that children regularly visit their paediatrician. If your child has a paediatric or neurologist’s appointment coming up, please let your child’s teacher know. This will enable us to provide an update about your child’s progress at school. Paediatricians tell us that they find information from school to be very valuable e.g. in relation to a child’s behaviour, ability to concentrate, cognitive and physical skills, energy levels etc. while at school. It would be desirable to have at least one week’s notice for a report.

PTO}
Aspect's Positive Behaviour Workshops have been designed using contemporary evidence based strategies by Aspect’s Positive Behaviour Support Team as part of our direct work with families, organisations and people living with ASD.

Recipe for Success is a unique autism specific Positive Behaviour Workshop. By the end of the workshop each participant will be guided to write their own autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Plan.

Participants will:
- Develop an in-depth understanding of the autism spectrum
- Learn how to write a positive profile of their child/client and develop a range of evidence based strategies matched to their individual needs
- Learn step by step how to write a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Plan for one of their child's/clients behaviours, including assessment and good practice interventions
- Learn step by step how to write a Behaviour Response Plan and respond confidently when challenging behaviour occurs, including developing strategies for themselves.
- Learn how to support the implementation of their PBS Plan, using our Implementation Checklist
- Receive a CD with information, visual supports and re-usable resources
- Connect with other families and professionals and be linked to a range of local supports and services

Who should attend:
Families and professionals supporting or working with people with ASD. For example carers, direct support staff, managers, educators, respite staff, supported employment and Allied Health professionals.

Effectiveness:
The workshop has been running for the past 9 years and in 2010 was independently evaluated with very positive findings. The evaluation “showed evidence of an extremely significant decrease in challenging behaviours … and evidence of an extremely significant increase in parental self-efficacy following the 3-day workshop and again at the 4-6 week follow-up.”

Recipe for Success Workshop – Toowoomba

Where: Toowoomba Golf Club
235-323 Rowbotham St, Middle Ridge QLD 4350

Dates: 12 and 13 November 2014

Times: 9:30am – 4:30pm

Register: www.autismspectrum.org.au Click here to register

Contact: Jodi Woodward  P 02 6628 3660  E jwoodward@autismspectrum.org.au

Cost: $450.00 Professionals
$350.00 HCWA Resources Funding, $100.00 per extra family member
$225.00 Family/carer, $100.00 per extra family member