Hello everyone and a belated welcome back to Term 3! I have been on leave for five weeks, during which our family visited parts of Europe. During my absence, the school was in the capable hands of Glenn Gatehouse (Acting Principal) and Larissa Vale (Acting Deputy Principal) who did an excellent job keeping our school on track and acting proactively.

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY TIMELINE EXTENDED!

The suite of School Opinion Surveys are undertaken each year to give parents/caregivers, students and staff in state schools an opportunity to have their say about what their school does well, and how their school can improve. Responses are confidential.

The 2014 School Opinion Survey deadline has been extended and will officially remain open till close of business tomorrow, FRIDAY 8 AUGUST.

To access the survey, please select the survey link below, and enter your unique survey access codes:

[Survey Link]

When I checked on Monday via the principal's SOS monitoring site (which gives raw numbers of people who have responded) only 13 out of 75 families had responded, despite every family receiving a code enabling them to complete the survey.

FOCUS ON CURRICULUM

On Wednesday 17 September (during the final week of this term) we will be having a Celebration Day where we celebrate the achievements of our students through highlighting the curriculum in which they are engaging. This is our version of an Education Week celebration, just a little later than most schools! Do come along, have some morning tea while you wander through the displays which will be in our hall. Parents and carers in the past have told us how much they have enjoyed this event and how much more they have learned about what curriculum in a special school looks like these days! There will be further notices about this event closer to the date.

CATCH UP MORNING TEA 9.30 WED 19 AUGUST

CLIFFORD PARK / JUNIOR SECONDARY GUEST SPEAKERS

Megan Apalais (Vice President of our P&C) will be hosting another Catch Up Morning Tea on Wednesday 19 August at 9.30am. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. Morning tea will be provided and it is a great
opportunity to share and support each other, as well as catch up on what’s happening in our school.

Andrew Hawke (Principal of Clifford Park Special School) and Corina Searchfield (Deputy Principal) will be speaking on the transition of our students to high school at Clifford Park, in light of the current Junior Secondary which is happening statewide. They will be able to answer any questions or issues you have as well.

Megan will be providing an update on the school’s SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support) implementation planning. Glenn and I will also be there to let you know about current happenings and answer any questions you might have of us, so please drop in for a chat, information and a cuppa. You are most welcome!

For those of you who can stay afterwards, there will be a short Race Day planning meeting. All ideas and offers of support are very much appreciated. Our Race Day is the major fundraising activity for our P&C this year: the more hands to help spread the load, the better. If you can lend a hand to prepare for this event, let Megan know to come along on this day and stay for the meeting.

The P&C’s Race Day event will be held on Saturday 15 November in the marquee at the Toowoomba Turf Club. The Race Day usually starts mid-afternoon and finishes late at night. It will be a great night with a two course meal, multi-draw raffle and a live band for entertainment so do try to organise child-minding / respite for this event!

## The NDIS

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME AND MY CHILD?

A ‘must attend’ information session for parents of school age children with a disability.

**WHEN:** 20 August 2014  
**TIME:** 9.00am START  
**SPEAKERS:**  
- Helen Ferguson, Regional Director SW Region for Disability and Community Services  
- Desiree Francke, Manager, Service Access  
- Sharon Boyce, NDIS Recipient who self-manages care.

## PYJAMA DAY!

Earlier this term staff and students donned their pyjamas and slippers in order to raise money for Asthma Australia. Prep teacher Eliza Watt Co-ordinated the event and said that we raised just over $100 towards Asthma Australia. On the last day of this term, we will be asking students and staff to dress up and ‘Talk Like a Pirate’ in order to raise money for Childhood Cancer Support.

## Sailability Darling Downs Inc

**Come and Sail with us**  
**Sunday 17 August**

**Our Mission**  
“To provide people with Disabilities the opportunity to participate in the sport of Sailing in a safe, fun and supportive environment.”

**WHERE:** Darling Downs Sailing Club, Cooby Dam  
(Straight ahead through the gates Loveday Cove)  
**WHEN:** 9.30 am until 2.00 pm approx.  
**COST:** $8.00 per person for 30 mins (approx.) sail time
$15 for 2 in a family
$20 for 3 in a family

Tea, coffee, slices, sausage sizzle and drinks available to purchase or bring along a picnic and enjoy the beautiful surrounds of the foreshore while watching. We encourage all to come and have a look, even if you are not sailing, and enjoy an idyllic, relaxing day near the water.

Limited spaces so please contact us to book and also to discuss needs.

Contact: ddsavailability@gmail.com.au
Or call if you have no email access
Glen Garvey: 0419 176 441

*Weather conditions permitting. Contact us after 8.00 am on the day if in doubt.
*Also a spare set of clothes is recommended in case of any splashes on the water.

TBDA 30 AUGUST – get your tickets now!

Our P&C’s third annual Toowoomba Disability Business Awards (TBDA) will be held on Saturday evening, 30 August. P&C President Paul Wilson has overseen the development of a website dedicated to this event. You can find it at: www.tbda.net.au

From the website, Paul writes:
“An initiative of the Toowoomba West Special School P & C, the Awards were first held in 2012. Bigger & better in 2013, and growing annually, the Awards recognise local businesses who employ people with a disability, and showcases the commercial benefit of making this decision.

An extremely progressive and forward-thinking P & C, we have a strong focus on the future of our young people. In 2012, we saw the need to recognize those businesses that support, educate and employ people with a disability in the Toowoomba region. Thus the Toowoomba Business disAbility Awards were born.

The Committee has a strong commitment to the future of our students, and indeed to the overall employment of people with a disability in the mainstream workforce – as both a community benefit, and a viable commercial decision. We believe in encouraging engagement between local businesses and people with a disability, to gain meaningful employment in our community.

Businesses in the Toowoomba region can either self-nominate, or be nominated by a third party. A panel of professionals within the disability and business sectors will adjudicate each of the nominations received, and find the winner of each category.

The four (4) categories are:
- Employment
- Innovation and Access
- Community Group Engagement
- Outstanding Individual

In its third year, the Toowoomba Business disability Awards have already grown significantly and attracted an enormous amount of community support and media interest.”

Keynote speaker at the awards will be Ron Delezio, father of Sophie Delezio who was severely burned at the age of 2 when a car ploughed into her daycare centre. Three years later Sophie was hit by a car while crossing a pedestrian crossing in her wheelchair and thrown 18 metres. Ron Delezio and Carolyn Martin (Sophie’s parents) founded the Day of Difference Foundation in response to their shared experiences with parents of critically injured children across Australia. We have recently had confirmation that Sophie herself will be attending with her Dad!

Local speaker on the evening will be Scott Templeman. Scott is the President of the Down Syndrome Association of Qld (DSAQ). He is a specialist in Governance, HR and Economic Development. Scott has a daughter who is in high school, and like many parents of children with disabilities, Scott is ‘forward thinking’ and has been a huge supporter of these awards as both an adjudicator of the nominations and assistance with planning.

MC for the evening is Rod McGregor (The Old Fella) who has mastered the craft of comedy with his clever and often risqué blend of Aussie humour entwined within his stories.

If you know of local businesses or organisations that employ or cater for people with disabilities, or a person who has made an outstanding contribution to support people with a disability in this community who deserves to be recognised, please nominate or encourage them to self-nominate online via the website.

Tickets for this event are now on sale on the website: www.tbda.net.au

Tickets are $110 each or $800 for a table of eight.
**SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT**

Our school SWPBS team (including parent rep Megan Apalais) continues to meet each fortnight after school. Our school's SWPBS Action Plan (outlining our positive expectations that we will have for student behaviours in different areas of the school across the entire day) has now been finalised. The next step is to develop lessons around each of the behaviours which will be explicitly taught in all classrooms. This will take time during our meetings after school throughout the rest of the year as well as working on other aspects such as professional development on the elements we have covered so far on our SWPBS journey.

Lea on behalf of the TWSS SWPBS Team

**NEW AUTISM APPS WEBSITE!**

Autism Association of Western Australia is proud to launch an exciting new initiative: the **Apps for Autism Website**. iPads and tablet devices have become commonplace in the community. Over the recent years, The Autism Association of Western Australia has received an increasing number of enquiries on how best to utilise an iPad or tablet for a person with Autism. There are so many Apps available that families can have a confusing time knowing which App delivers what it promotes and which one is best suited to the needs of their child.

In response, we have developed the new Autism Apps website that will take away much of the confusion families often experience in knowing how to choose an App suited to their child’s age and skill level. It will also give them the tools to assess Apps against criteria relevant for their child and it will assist them to choose between recreational and educational Apps.

The Apps for Autism Website provides a range of information about specific Apps which the Autism Association’s multi-disciplinary team has reviewed and evaluated. Apps will continue to be reviewed and added to the website by the team as they come on to the market. This website is one of the ways we can open up a world of learning to the child and save parents the time and expense of trawling through endless Apps that may or may not be suited to their needs.

This is one of many services provided by the Autism Association committed to improving the lives of people with Autism and empowering families.

**STAFF CHANGES**

We welcome back Eliza Watt who has been away for six months rehabilitating after knee surgery. We also welcome back Alison Green, our Business Services Manager who returns after her knee surgery.

Recently we honoured our ancillary staff – Mike Krautschecki and our cleaners Christine, Kerrie, Elenor (and Geoff who is on leave), who do a brilliant job to create and maintain a clean, safe, orderly and aesthetic environment in which we are fortunate enough to work. Not only that, but they go ‘above and beyond’ what is expected on a regular basis, and it is appreciated.

**P&C PIE DRIVE!**

Last week a small band of helpers worked feverishly to package up orders of pies and a range of other goods from Homestyle Bake. Thanks go to Tina Wilson who co-ordinated this fundraiser. About $2,000 worth of product was distributed, netting the P&C a profit of $350. Tina would like to thank Megan Apalais, Kat Wilson, Brenda Steger and Paul Wilson for their help on delivery day.

Do come along to the Parent / Carer Catch Up on Tuesday 19 August if you can to learn more about the transition to Junior Secondary (Year 7 being the first year of high school) which is happening in all schools around Queensland.

Regards from Lea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>★★★★★ Coming Events ★★★★★</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurs 7 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 8 Aug</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 19 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 19 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 19 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 20 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 30 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 17 September</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 19 September</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 15 November</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On Wednesdays Gail Saw, our Uniform Co-ordinator, comes in to collect and place orders for uniforms.
ACCESS TO JP

Mr. Glenn, our Deputy Principal, is a registered Justice of the Peace (Qual.). Should you need the services of a JP (Qual.) please enquire at the office to make a time to meet with Mr. Glenn.

Visits to Paediatricians or other specialists:
If your child has a paediatric or neurologist’s visit 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 and other specialists 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.

THE DREAM HOUSE – ABC TV 9.30 TONIGHT!

In this refreshing six-part series narrated by Adam Hills, three young adults with intellectual disabilities fly the nest and move into a new home for 10 weeks. Experiencing life away from parents and learning to live more independently is a dream for all of them. And if it works out, they can stay on and call the Dreamhouse home.

Justin and Sarah have Down syndrome. While Justin is confident and cocky and keen to assert his role as house alpha male, Sarah is a practising Christian and is more docile and conservative. Kirk, the youngest, is very loud and energetic and hopes to make new friends, but his autism means that social relationships can be challenging.

The Dreamhouse is life-changing for Justin, Sarah and Kirk, and also for their parents, who watch their children grow in self-confidence and flourish in unexpected ways that will affect their lives profoundly. Give people the opportunity and watch them flower.

Over ten weeks, these three very different people are faced with a huge learning curve as they explore how to manage a house and how to live with each other. They party, fight, flirt and, above all, grow exponentially in the process, revealing a vibrant new world that is theirs alone.

Bursting with humour, conflict and tenderness, The Dreamhouse provides a bold insight into a world rarely seen on television. For more information about The Dreamhouse, contact Karen or Brittany at Artemis International on (08) 9228 2852.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

Parents of children with and without disabilities aged between 6 and 18 years are invited to complete a questionnaire about their parenting experiences. This research is being conducted in collaboration by a team of researchers from the University of Queensland and RMIT University.

This research is interested in investigating the inter-relationships between parent wellbeing, support, coping, and child behaviour; predictors of positive parenting experiences for parents of children with or without disabilities. The research findings will support the creation of profiles of the parenting experience, which could enhance current disability services (e.g., improved identification of families and children in need of additional supports, enhanced support strategies for parents, children and their families).

How you can help: Complete a 30 minute online questionnaire [http://goo.gl/7djwRS]. The password to access this questionnaire is profiles. For a paper questionnaire, please contact Maria [(07) 3247 5080, maria.vassos@uq.net.au] or Susana [(03) 9925 7710, susana.gavidia-payne@rmit.edu.au].

To thank you for your time and effort: Those who participate can go into a raffle to win one of four $100 Coles Myer gift cards! If you have any questions: Feel free to contact Maria (details above) if you have any queries about this research.

We hope that you choose to participate in this study!