SAFETY RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY

SWPBS Purpose Statement:

Toowoomba West Special School is committed to promoting a safe, respectful and responsible school community that enables our students to reach their full potential.

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FOCUS ON CURRICUM

On Wednesday 17 September we held a Celebration Day where we celebrated the achievements of our students through highlighting curriculum engagement. Classes in each of the three Cohorts and our Early Childhood Development Program displayed photos, materials and artefacts to demonstrate examples of student engagement in their work around the Australian Curriculum and for the ECDP, the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines. There was a steady stream through the displays with very positive feedback. Thanks for coming!

DISCIPLINE AUDIT

As part of an initiative to strengthen discipline in Queensland State schools, Discipline Audits will be conducted in every...
Queensland state school by November 2014. The purpose of the Discipline Audits is to provide quality feedback on how the school is ensuring a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment and to inform school behaviour management planning processes.

Toowoomba West underwent its first Discipline Audit earlier this month. During the audit, an independent, experienced special school principal visited the school to collect a range of data and information about school wide programs and procedures in the area of discipline. Interviews were conducted with staff, students and parents to gather a range of perspectives on school strategies and practices in relation to behaviour management. We were very pleased with our results on that day across the five audited domains. The summary of our 5 page Profile:

1. Principal Leadership ➔ high
2. Parent and Community Engagement ➔ high
3. Data Informed Decision Making ➔ medium to high
4. Clear Consistent expectations for behaviour ➔ medium to mainly high
5. Explicit teaching of appropriate behaviours to all students ➔ medium to mainly high.

Our Executive Summary from the day is yet to arrive. It will have affirmations, commendations and recommendations. This, along with our 5 page summary (in full), will be published on our school website. The adoption of School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support has helped to position us for a positive result!

**DROP OFF AREAS TO UNDERGO TRANSFORMATION**

Over these school holidays we will be having some major works done at the front of our main drop off areas. At last we will have a one way, drive through drop off area (instead of a turnaround circle). Coupled with this is the widening of the minibus drop off zone (adjacent to the front pedestrian gate). This will relieve congestion and the narrowing of the street in front of the school at peak times, and will streamline the vehicle drop offs inside the school and minimise queuing etc. This has been a collaboration between the advocacy of our proactive Parents and Citizen’s Association, our EQ Facilities Manager, the Toowoomba Regional Council and local member Trevor Watts. It has been a long time coming! Thanks also to Glenn Gatehouse who has also played a major role in facilities advocacy around this much-needed development.

**DENTAL CARE IN BETWEEN DENTAL VAN VISITS**

The School Dental Service, provided by the Toowoomba Oral Health Service, offers general treatment to children from 4 years of age to students in Year 10, during regular visits to schools.

Outside the regular school visits, an emergency service is available. In the event that eligible children and school students experience dental pain, swelling or trauma, EMERGENCY CARE ONLY can be accessed by ringing the Toowoomba Oral Health Clinic on 1300 082 662 between 8.00am and 9.00 am where the emergent problem will be triaged. During afterhours / public holidays attend the Emergency Department at the Toowoomba Base Hospital. All other routine matters such as check-ups, orthodontic assessments and fillings cannot be provided until the dental van returns to the school. As an alternative, dental care may be sought any time at your own private family dentist.

**CATCH UP MORNING TEAS – AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

Megan Apalais (Vice President of our P&C) has hosted another two Catch Up Morning Teas on Wednesday 19 August and Wednesday 17 September. They were great opportunities to share and support, as well as catch up on what’s happening in our school and community.

Andrew Hawke (Principal of Clifford Park Special School) and Corina Searchfield (Deputy Principal) presented at the August meeting on the transition of our students to high school at Clifford Park, in light of the current Junior Secondary which is happening statewide. Parent2Parent representatives Joyanne Clark and Steven Paull (who are both Planning Facilitators) presented on P2P services at this week’s meeting. Parent2Parent website is: parent2parentqld.org.au

**The NDIS**

On 20 August our P&C ran a very successful forum presentation on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). There were more than 50 interested people who attended on the day. The main presenter was Helen Ferguson (Regional Director South West Region for Disability and Community Services) who was accompanied by Desiree Franke (Manager, Service Access). Prior to the event attendees like myself admitted that they did not know very much about the NDIS. This presentation focused on initial awareness-raising, about what the NDIS would look like and how it will be implemented.
The Queensland Government has plans and initiatives underway to be ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to commence in Queensland from July 2016. People with disability, families, carers, providers, and sectors are getting ready to take up opportunities that the scheme will bring to Queensland.

The Department of Communities has recently established the Queensland NDIS Update e-blast to provide information about activities and initiatives. The e-blast is free to subscribe to and is delivered directly into people’s email. If you want to register for the NDIS E-Blast Email update, log on to: http://www.vision6.com.au/em/forms/subscribe.php?db=407282&s=124852&a=46821&k=dd645ea

Attached to this newsletter you should find another NDIS information initiative, this time sponsored by Parent2Parent. This might be particularly attractive to those families who were not able to come to the P&C’s event.

‘TALK LIKE A PIRATE’ DAY – 19 SEPTEMBER!

Today is ‘International Talk like a Pirate Day’ to raise money and awareness for Childhood Cancer Support. It is one of the best days for FUN on the school calendar as our students and staff dress up and talk like pirates – and what better way to let off steam at the end of a long term finally arrives. Thanks to those families who kindly donated to this worthy cause.

ADJUSTMENT PAYMENT

A one-off payment following a catastrophic event when a child under 7 years of age is diagnosed with a severe illness, medical condition or major disability:

STAFF CHANGES

Jacqui Henning is on leave for the remainder of this year and is being replaced by Cara Morey. Jacqui Twidale will be teaching Theresa Westaway’s group (currently taken by Wendy Smith) for Term 4. Amy Olson has been our Curriculum Co-ordinator and is now on maternity leave. Taking up her role is Larissa Vale. After the holidays, Vivian Almeida will take over as teacher of Larissa’s group for Term 4. At the end of this term we say farewell to Cathy Griessen and Lisa Rowe, and thank them for their contribution over the past months.

TOOWOOMBA DISABILITY BUSINESS AWARDS

Our Parent & Citizen Association’s third annual Toowoomba disABILITY Business Awards (TBDA) was held on Saturday evening 30 August at Weis’ Marquee.

This event developed from a desire of our P & C to have a strong focus on the future of our young people which involved the need to recognise those businesses that support, educate and employ people with a disability in the Toowoomba region.

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. Megan Thompson (our internal SWPBS coach) is working on a draft version of behaviours that constitute ‘major’ and ‘minor’ incidents. 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

Weis’ Marquee was the perfect venue for the awards
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.

A panel of professionals within the disability and business sectors adjudicated each of the nominations received, and awarded the winner in the categories of Employment, Innovation and Access, Community Group Engagement and Outstanding Individual.

Keynote speaker at the awards was 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.

Local speaker on the evening was Scott Templeman. Scott is the President of the Down Syndrome Association of Qld (DSAQ). MC for the evening was 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. He himself has two grandchildren with Autism.

Among guests were Judy Antonio (Patron of this event), TRC Mayor Paul Antonio, John McVeigh (Member for Toowoomba South), Trevor Watts (Member for Toowoomba North) and Councillor Sue Englart.

P&C President Paul Wilson is to be congratulated for the passion and energy he brings to leading a small group of committed people to organise this annual event.

As another busy term draws to a close, I’d like to thank you for your support and wish you all a happy and safe holiday period. **The first day of next term will be Tuesday 7 October** (as 6 October is the Labour Day holiday), and there will be a Student Free Day on Monday 20 October.

Till next time

Lea

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**Coming Events**

- **21 Sept to 5 Oct** School Holidays
- **Mon 6 October** Labour Day Holiday
- **Tues 7 October** Term 3 Commences
- **Mon 20 October** Student Free Day
- **Sat 15 November** P&C Race Day at Toowoomba Turf Club

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 him.

**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.**