Hello parents, carers and friends,

Welcome to the new school year for 2015.

This year promises to be an exciting one for our students, our staff and our community.

We have approximately 260 students enrolled in our school and this has brought a new group of families to our school. On behalf of the Caboolture Special School community I welcome you and look forward to working alongside you in the education of your child and celebrating his/her successes along the way.

This year we will be asking the school community to reflect on our achievements over the four years as we complete our quadrennial school review and move to a new Strategic Plan for the coming years. Your views and opinions from the School Opinion Survey will be important in this process as will your aspirations for the future education of your child.

This year we also introduce Individual Curriculum Plans (ICPs) for each student. The following information will be important for you as you plan for your child’s ICP meeting in the coming two weeks. According to Education Queensland timelines, each student’s ICP needs to be developed by week 3 of Term 1.

Here is some information that I shared late in 2014, but am including once again for your review and for our new parents.

Supporting information from the P–12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework

When is an individual curriculum plan (ICP) required?

An individual curriculum plan (ICP) is required when a student is provided a lower or higher year level of the Australian Curriculum than their age cohort and the student will be reported against the lower or higher achievement standard.
• An individual curriculum plan is required for students on a highly individualised curriculum
• It includes students identified with a disability in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)

• An individual curriculum plan can apply to a single learning area, or to the whole curriculum

Individual curriculum plans are one of several student plans which can be documented in the OneSchool student plan. Other plans include: Individual Behaviour Management Plans, Individual Health and Emergency Health Plans, Education Funding Support Plans (for children in care of the state)

What is included in an individual curriculum plan (ICP)?

• An individual curriculum plan (ICP) documents the intended curriculum, pedagogy and assessment provisions for the next reporting period. Decisions are based on a collaborative analysis of student achievement data and in consultation with the student’s parent(s)/carers.

An individual curriculum plan (ICP) documents:

• the differentiation and focused teaching already provided to the student

• the nominated year level of the Australian Curriculum to be taught during the next reporting period

• learning expectations: described briefly, drawn from the relevant unit of work, and linked to the achievement standard

• focused teaching strategies to be used during the next reporting period

• other support to be provided

• parental approval

How do schools determine when it is appropriate to provide a different year level of the Australian Curriculum?

When focused and/or intensive teaching has already been provided to the student and further support is required, a different year level can be considered.

The decision to teach a different year level of the Australian Curriculum is based on a range of evidence of the student’s current achievement from monitoring and assessment. The decision is made on an individual basis; taking into account what is best for this student in the particular school context.

Teachers consider a range of school and student achievement data about how the student is performing against the year level achievement standard of the age cohort in the learning area/s.

The school must be able to justify the decision regarding whether or not they provide a different year-level curriculum, taking into account the focused and/or intensive teaching previously provided, the evidence in the student’s work and the student’s particular circumstances.

Do parents need to be consulted when deciding which year level curriculum will be provided to a student?
When a school is making decisions about the provision of a different year level of the Australian Curriculum for a student not meeting year level expectations, parents/carers are informed and provided the opportunity to be involved in decision making. The principal endorses the individual curriculum plan noting parental approval.

Decisions about the provision of a different year level of the Australian Curriculum for a student with disability must meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (The Standards). These require that parents/carers be consulted when adjustments are made to the curriculum provided to the student. Parents/carers must be fully informed and endorse any decisions reached.

How do schools plan an individual curriculum for a student achieving below the Prep (F) level?

Students who are achieving below Prep/Foundation level are provided a highly individualised curriculum. Schools use the extended learning continua for the General capabilities of Literacy and Numeracy which represent essential skills that all students need to become successful learners.

However the General capabilities are not an alternative curriculum to the learning areas, so:

- Schools start by looking at the learning area Australian Curriculum content for the student’s age cohort to provide a context for the learning
- consider the student’s current levels of learning, strengths, needs and interests
- adjust the teaching and learning by:
  - drawing from the age-equivalent learning area content, as relevant to individual learning needs, to provide a context for the learning
  - using the General Capabilities to adjust the learning focus.

For example a student is to be taught targeted numeracy skills through the Year 6 Science investigation of electrical circuits. For this student an adjustment could be: ‘following pictorial instructions to build a simple electrical circuit’. (Level 1B Extended General capability Numeracy: ‘Using spatial reasoning, Interpreting maps and diagrams).

If you would like to discuss this information further, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the senior leadership team.

This week has been particularly busy with traffic both in and out of our school. We have approximately 27 contract buses which transport our students to and from school each day. These buses take approximately 20 minutes to drop off and/or collect students each day. I thank all parents for your patience across the mornings and afternoons and wish to reassure you that we are working with Regional Facilities branch to improve our traffic situation. Please be mindful that all students need to be in class to begin their first learning session at 8.40 am. If you are experiencing any difficulties in meeting this start time, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can assist you.
Hello parents, carers and friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those new to our school community. My name is Brad Tavelardis and I am one of the two Deputy Principals of our wonderful school. Bronwyn Paxton is my colleague and the other Deputy and between us we alternate writing this article to keep you informed of school events.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and existing families for what promises to be an excellent school year. I trust that you are all rested and ready for our students to learn new things and develop new relationships.

Please refer to our parent handbook which contains a wealth of information on our policies and procedures. I would like to remind you that no students should arrive at school prior to 8.30am. After this time, students are fully supervised until classes begin at 8.40am. In order for all students to have maximum, quality, class time please ensure students’ arrival at school is punctual. At any time when is student is late for the start of school, parents/carers are required to sign their child in at the main office before taking them to class.

I look forward to meeting our new arrivals and catching up with familiar smiling faces!

Brad Tavelardis - Deputy Principal

Catching up with Curriculum

Welcome to our new families and welcome back to those returning for another exciting year. This is a very exciting time for our students as they are settling into their new classes, making new friends and catching up with old ones.

Across the school students are participating in the ‘Ready, Steady, Go’ unit of work where students and teachers learn about each other within an Australian theme. It is also the time when class routines and expectations are established. Over the next three weeks Teachers will be discussing and meeting with parents regarding the development Individual Curriculum plans for their students.

Continue to watch this space in the newsletters for Curriculum caught in and around the school.
Early Years Department News

Welcome to the 2015 Early Years Department! This year we have expanded in numbers and now accommodate 11 classrooms across 3 buildings – K block, M block, and J block. Our wonderful Early Years staff have welcomed back our remaining 2014 students and 19 new students and their family members and friends. This year we also welcome 9 new staff to the Early Years Team. I know we all will have a joyful productive year ahead!

During the first three weeks of this school year staff and students will be completing the learning experiences relating to the whole school Ready Steady Go unit of work. This unit is about setting expectations and routines; getting to know your child; and gathering data in readiness for your child’s ICP (Individual Curriculum Plan) which is to be completed within this unit. Your child’s classroom teacher will make contact with you about ICP meetings over the next few weeks.

Each fortnight I will share with you successes and celebrations from across the Department. Today I would like to share each class staff teams’ summary of the First Day of School:

- EY-A  A great start to the new year. The students have made friends quickly and we have a quiet and calm class.
- EY-B  We all enjoyed getting to know each other and the classroom as well as making new friends.
- EY-C  We are settling in well to our new classroom and have enjoyed getting to know each other.
- EY-D  We look forward to our prep teacher Sam returning from sick leave.
- EY-E  A wonderful start to Prep. Lots of smiles and giggles.
- EY-F  We all really enjoyed exploring our new classroom environment. The lights room keeps us all really happy.
- EY-G  All settled into the classroom and enjoyed learning a new routine.
- EY-H,I,J  Parents and students were all happy and excited to be at school.

Planning is underway for the events for Early Years across the year. A swimming questionnaire will come home in the near future to help us to better provide for your child’s needs. When received please complete and return to your class teacher promptly. We anticipate swimming to occur this term and term 4 as follows:

EY-H,I,J  weeks 5,6,7,8,9 on Thursday’s. All other EY classes weeks 7,8,9 on Monday’s and Tuesday’s.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist the swimming program please advise me via your child’s communication book or feel free to make contact with me by phoning the school office as soon as possible. This year the Early Years concert will be held in Term 3.

Within the Early Years Department one of our students has an Assistance Dog that comes to school each day. If you see Jet the Assistance Dog please refrain from touching him as he will be in ‘working’ mode. If your child has a known allergy to or fear of dogs please advise me via your child’s communication book or feel free to make contact with me by phoning the school office.
I look forward to working alongside you and your child’s teacher to meet your child’s needs and achieve your child’s potential.

Jewel Bauer - Early Years Department Leader

Primary Years Department News

"I like soccer, basketball and computers!” (Charley, year 6)

We are off to a flying start in the Primary Years Department, with thirteen classes full of students eager to learn with our ‘Ready, Steady, Go’ unit. Our teachers have begun establishing expectations, routines and have commenced working to develop Individual Curriculum Plans (ICPs) for your child.

I’ve had the privilege of meeting all the students this week and some parents too. We extend a very warm welcome all the new students and families to the Primary Years Department.

A friendly reminder that communication books can be purchased from the school office for $13.50, which is a great way of staying informed about your child’s daily progress at school.

(Source: http://www.wordle.net/)

Erin McCrea – Primary Years Department Leader

HPE Department News

HPE – Our school being active and adventurous!

I hope everyone had a happy, safe, active and adventurous holiday! I’m looking forward to hearing everyone’s stories of adventures from the holidays. This is the second year our School has had a dedicated HPE Teacher and it will be great to build on the programs and equipment developed in 2014 to continue the great progress made by students. Early Years classes have a 30min lesson each week, while Primary Years and Junior Secondary classes have a 1 hour lesson each fortnight. Senior Secondary students have the opportunity to participate in Interschool Sport fortnightly and through training for and going on Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Adventurous Journeys. Details of these for Senior Secondary will be sent out soon.

Swimming

Negotiations are well under way with a number of pools for swimming this year. Hopefully a schedule can be worked out soon!
Disabled Surfers Association – Sunshine Coast Branch – Next event at 28th February, Noosa West

The next DSA event is at Noosa on Saturday, 28th February, 2015. It’s a very welcoming scene where trained leaders guide groups of volunteers in providing people of all ages and abilities with very safe and supported surfing experiences! They have shade shelters, beach wheelchairs and supports to provide comfort for the participants on the large soft boards. It’s a very well organised show, run by trained, caring people who get a real buzz out of sharing their love for the ocean. Check it out at http://disabledsurfers.org/qld/sunshine-coast-branch/ I hope to see more members of our community on the beach in March.

Ben Byrne - HPE Teacher

Music Department News

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to all our new students!

2014 saw the commencement of a music program at Caboolture Special School with a full time music teacher and dedicated music room.

Instruments were acquired throughout the year so that now there is a wide range of instruments for students to use. Music lessons ran throughout the year for most students in the school, revealing hidden musical talents school wide, much to the delight of staff and students alike.

In 2015 we are looking to expand and build upon music department programs to create even more fun opportunities for our students to engage with music. In addition to scheduled music lessons there will be opportunities for students to participate in instrumental and vocal ensembles as well as school wide opportunities to perform in term 3. I'll post more details on these opportunities in future newsletters so stay tuned!

Have a great year everybody!

Andrew Keppie - Music Teacher

Student Services News

This year has seen a change to the staff working in Student Services. We have Rachel with us again this year and welcome Aaron and Lisa into the team. We have moved rooms to down the back of the school with the Junior Secondary teachers, but continue to work through the whole school from Prep all the way up to our school...
leavers in Year 12. We are looking forward to meeting all the new students, getting reacquainted with students who have been here for a while and supporting all our staff in the day to day business of education.

Ann, Stacey and Michael are back on class and looking forward to the challenges and successes that this brings. It has been fantastic working within this team and I know that all three of these staff take a lots of experience in to their current classrooms.

Parents if you have any concerns or noticed any changes about your child’s behaviour over the holidays, make an appointment to discuss this with your class teacher. We are all here to help one another to support your child.

Until next time, take care,

Nicole Coady - Student Services Leader

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**Hospitality / Tuckshop News**

EXCITING NEWS FROM THE TUCKSHOP

My name is Tony Dwan and I am the VTE Hospitality Teacher. We will be offering the tuckshop (Tastes on Torrens) every Wednesday and Thursday from week 2. A limited menu will be available in the first two weeks of term before adding further menu choices. The Hospitality students in Senior Secondary will be working weekly with Kaye and myself to provide the meals and service of the Tuckshop.

After a review of the Hospitality program, we have implemented Flexischools as the only ordering process for tuckshop. Unfortunately cash orders cannot be accepted. Ordering through Flexischools is easy. Simply go to www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now”. We have also sent home an information sheet with further details on how to register.

If you require assistance registering, please contact the office on 54314444 to make a time with Kaye in the tuckshop.

We hope you will support our students in this program throughout the year.

Tony Dwan - Hospitality Teacher

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**Chappy News**

Each moment in a day has it's own value.

Morning brings HOPE.

Afternoon brings FAITH.
Evening brings LOVE.
Night brings REST.
Hope you will have them everyday.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015
Blessings Chappy Tania Byers
Tania Byers - School Chaplain

Dates To Remember

Parents of Senior Secondary Students are invited to attend a Parent Information Session.

WHEN: Tuesday 3 February 2015
TIME: 5.30pm

Topics that will be covered include:

• Caboolture Special School VTE Program

• What is a SET Plan

• Individual Curriculum Plans

• Year 12 Post School Options

• Student subject choices for Years 10–12 students

• Duke of Edinburgh

*Light Refreshments will be provided

We look forward to seeing you there.

P&C News

P&C Meeting – 6.00pm 10 February 2015
P&C – Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is open Wednesdays 9–10am. Uniform order forms are available on the school website.

Caboolture My Time

MyTime groups provide support for mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone caring for a child with a disability or chronic medical condition. MyTime Caboolture starts again this year on Tuesday, February 3 at Caboolture Special School from 9:30am. We will be having a social morning tea, welcoming back old members and welcoming new members. If you have any questions, please contact Rachael on 0410492181 or email: mytimecaboolture@yahoo.com.au

Rachael Fedrick - MyTime Facilitator

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