P&C Christmas Hamper Raffle
The Christmas Hamper Raffle is underway with books of tickets being distributed to all families and staff. Many thanks for your support so far. Tickets returns are starting to flow in and some beautiful items for the Christmas hampers have been arriving. It is not too late to contribute; we would really appreciate more items, especially food treats and wine! Perhaps next time you are shopping, you might like to pop a treat or two into the trolley. Hampers items can be left at Reception, Parent Room or sent along in your child’s bag, marked “P&C Raffle”.

Mitchie Cook Book on sale
Our first edition of the Mitchelton Special School Community Cook Book is about to be released for sale. Featuring favourite recipes from class groups, students, families and staff, it offers a small taste of our Mitchie community. You can purchase for only $15 as a keepsake or maybe as a special Christmas gift for grandparents. Flyers with order form will be sent home soon. Huge thanks to Manuela Luchterhand (one of our new parents) for suggesting a great idea to the P&C and devoting many hours of her time bringing it to fruition.

Uniform sales
At this time of the year, many parents are looking to purchase new uniform shirts in preparation for 2014. It’s a great idea to get organized early! You can purchase polo shirts at school on Monday mornings 8:15am – 9:00am from the canteen prep near the assembly area, OR you can send payment to school with your child in an envelope clearly marked with number of shirts and size required. Uniform shirts are priced at $28. Unfortunately, the P&C cannot accept payments by card – cash or cheque only please (payable to MSSS P&C). The uniform cupboard is currently fully stocked with the following sizes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child</th>
<th>6, 8, 10, 12, 14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>S, M, L, XL</td>
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Parent Morning Tea 2014
Traditionally we celebrate the start of the new school year with a Welcome Morning Tea for parents and carers. This takes place in the tuckshop area and offers a good opportunity to reconnect, update and meet others. Feel free to drop in on Tuesday 28 January between 8:30 and 10:00am for a cuppa, cake and chat. Uniform sales will also be available on this morning.

End-of-Year Celebration
All families are invited to our end-of-year celebration party on Friday evening, 29 November, starting at 6pm. It will be held under B Block in the assembly area and this year’s theme is RAINBOW (hopefully minus the rain!) Dress up in rainbow colours and enjoy some lively dancing with school friends and teachers. Sausage sizzle dinner and drinks will be available for purchase on the night. Watch out for the invitation letter home this week – there’s an RSVP slip for catering purposes.

Important Dates
- Wed 20 Nov: *P&C Meeting 7pm
- Fri 29 Nov: *End-of-Year Christmas Party 6pm– 9pm
- Wed 4 Dec: *MyTime Dinner 7pm
- Fri 6 Dec: *Pathways Dinner and Graduation 6:30pm
- Wed 11 Dec: *Junior School Christmas Concert 9:30am
- Fri 13 Dec: *Last school day of 2013
- Sat 14 Dec-Mon 27 Jan: School Holidays
- Tue 28 Jan 2014: *School resumes for students
  *Parent Morning Tea 8:30am-10am
A great night was enjoyed by all at our Twilight Art Exhibition held October 18th. Works of art by Middle, Senior and Pathways students created an amazing display accompanied by good music and delicious food. Special guests for the evening were Tim Sharp, Jamie Dunn and Agro, and some very talented musicians. Thank you Gail, staff and students for a fabulous community event. Everyone loved it!
Chaplaincy at Stake
SU QLD is again being forced to attend the High Court of Australia to defend the vital program of school chaplaincy. This second challenge has the potential to impact the funding of thousands of chaplains across the nation who support and encourage our students every day.
Find out what you can do to show your support for chaplaincy programs in schools. For example, you may like to sign a Statement of Support for continued federal funding of school chaplains.
For more information, go to Back Our Chappies http://backourchappies.com.au/

Junior Art Show – Friday 8 November
Junior parents and staff shared a lovely evening of drinks and canapés under fairy lights before viewing an exclusive exhibition of work created by our youngest artists. The evening was one of great atmosphere, friendly conversation and genuine appreciation for the learning journey of our junior students at Mitchie Special.

The Tingirana Noosa Special Triathlon is the only Triathlon specifically held for people with special needs. Each year Mitchie students are invited to participate in the event with the support of staff, family members and friends. Our thanks as always to Greg Bawden for coordinating Team Mitchie’s entry and for the efforts of everyone involved in this wonderful experience for our students.

What are 78 fun, affordable activities to do with the kids these school holidays? Find out here.
Parent Support Update

Parent Library

The catalogue of books and DVDs available in our Parent Library has been recently updated (Nov 2013) and is accessible via the school website under the Parent Resources tab, or in hard copy from the Parent Room. If you would like a catalogue sent home, please let us know.

We welcome your suggestions for future library purchases or any books you’d care to donate to the Parent Library. Thanks to the Mollison family and Hayley D for sharing titles with us. Recently acquired books include:

- Silently Seizing by Caren Haines
- Be Different by John Elder Robison
- Miracle Run by Corrine Morgan-Thomas

We also have lots of brochures/ fact sheets on display and filed in the Parent Room. Some new materials include:

- Planning guides for the introduction of NDIS (comprehensive and easy to read)
- Parent Connect Initiative for families with children up to age 6
- A range of services that can help families experiencing financial hardship

Vacation Care

UnitingCare Community operates a vacation care service at Mitchelton Special School during the Dec-Jan school holiday period for students aged 5-18 years with a diagnosed disability. Closing date for applications is this Friday (22 Nov) so act quickly if you want to book days for your child. Contact UnitingCare Community Vacation Care by telephoning 32706451 or email vacationcare@uccommunity.org.au

Ability Skills Australia (TAG 5) is running a number of school holiday camps to locations at Boonah, Currimundi and Tallebudgera. Duration of camps is 2 days or 5 days. Activities offered include high and low ropes courses, canoeing, team building activities, obstacle courses, disco, beach trips, raft building, bushwalking, and sports – cricket, basketball, soccer etc. Places are limited and will work on a first come, first served basis. These camps are quite expensive but funding may be possible for some through the Teenage Holiday Program (children aged 13 years and over), facilitated through Blue Care Red Hill. For more information about the camps, contact Raelene Henderson on 0404930043 or email raeleneh@tag5.com.au . Flyers available in the Parent Room too.

Kylie Graham
Parent Liaison Officer (Mon/Tue)
Email: kgrah145@eq.edu.au or phone via school office

Having trouble with electricity costs???

The Home Energy Saver Scheme (HESS) which is provided through community organizations around Australia can help by offering:

- Information about easy and affordable ways to use less energy in the home;
- One-on-one budgeting assistance;
- Information on whether you are getting the right rebates and assistance;
- Help to understand your energy bills and the energy market;
- Advice, advocacy and support;
- Links to other services that may be able to assist you; and
- Help to access no or low interest loans to purchase energy efficient appliances

How can I get more information?
1. Calling the HESS Helpline 1800 007 001
2. Going to www.dss.gov.au and entering HESS on the search bar
3. Contacting your local HESS provider (Ours is Youth and Family Service Inc. Ph: 3826 1500)

Tip booklets are available in the Parent Room.

QCIDD Family Information Day 2013
Autism Spectrum Disorders & Health

Date: Monday 2nd December, 2013
Time: Registration: 9:30am
       Workshop: 10am – 2pm
Venue: The Meeting Room, Mater Medical Centre,
       Level 1, near Busway, South Brisbane
Cost: Free to families (includes light lunch and resources)
Registration closes: 22nd November 2013

Five presenters are on the program.
This workshop is targeted at family members.
MyTime @ Mitchelton

MyTime at Mitchelton Special School has continued to be a great opportunity for parents and carers to meet and take some time out for themselves.

This year we’ve had a wide and varied range of activities and guest speakers, including in Term 4:

- The Smith Family and HESS – saving money and understanding your electricity bill
- Parent Jean Wilkie talking about an Urban Farm Project
- A special MyTime retreat for registered MyTime parents
- Robyn Schultz, Professional Organiser on how to organise our busy lives better
- Morning Tea at Hansell & Gretel, Enoggera

FINAL SESSION for Term 4 – Christmas Dinner @ The Gap Tavern at 7.00pm – all welcome!

MyTime is for you, our parents and carers, so remember if there’s anything you’d like to see covered at a MyTime session, please let me know.

At our daytime sessions we have a play helper available to care for any young children whilst you can attend MyTime and relax and enjoy the time with other like-minded parents. The children are cared for in a safe environment within the Mitchelton Special School grounds and are close by should you need to attend to your child! This service is totally free and gives you the opportunity to enjoy MyTime child-free!

I hope to see you all again in 2014 and thank you all for your support to ensure MyTime is here to stay! My contact details are: chrisbooth2@bigpond.com or 0409 516 101
Visit www.mytime.net.au for further information about MyTime.

Upcoming MyTime Dates:

MyTime Christmas Dinner
The Gap Tavern
Wed 4 December at 7pm

Mitchelton MyTime Group:
http://www.facebook.com/groups/161502343987363/

Chris Booth – Mitchelton MyTime Facilitator
P&C Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Admin Building. We welcome you to attend.

**President**  
Suzanne Goopy

**Vice-President**  
Andrew Denford

**Treasurer**  
Kylie Graham

**Secretary**  
Jane Mooney

**UNIFORMS**

Debbie Gibbons is available to assist with uniform sales in the tuckshop on Monday mornings 8:15-8:45am.

Polo Shirts – $28 all sizes available

**E-Mail:**  
pandc@mitcheltspecs.eq.edu.au

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**P&C MEETING DATES 2014**

Wed 19 Feb 9am  
Wed 19 Mar (AGM) 7pm  
Wed 21 May 9am  
Wed 18 Jun 7pm  
Wed 16 Jul 9am  
Wed 20 Aug 7pm  
Wed 15 Oct 9am  
Wed 19 Nov 7pm

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In this profile, Jean Wilkie describes what drives and inspires her passion for the urban farm concept about which she spoke at the MyTime session on 30 Oct 2013.

I was born in Atherton, Far North Queensland ...er many years ago. I went to university and qualified as a librarian. My dad was a farmer. He and mum raised 11 healthy children on our 640 acre property near Herberton on the Atherton Tablelands. It was a frugal life but in other ways it was a rich life.

Dad always had a vegie patch which supplied much of our household’s food. We also had a cow that was milked twice a day to provide delicious fresh milk – which would probably be illegal today!

It must be in the DNA. Dad’s grandparents migrated from Scotland to Victoria to replace the farm labourers who had all rushed off to the goldfields during the 1850s. Dad’s father had an apple orchard and grew strawberries in Tasmania. My son Gilbert, a Pathways student aged 17, seems to enjoy gardening too.

Gil currently attends the Transition Program at HELP Enterprises at Mitchelton one day a week. His main subject there is gardening. Now each morning when Gil has to go to school it is not easy to get him out of bed. On Wednesdays however, the days he goes to HELP, he is up early and eager to put on his boots and work shirt and get over to HELP’s garden at Chessom Street, Mitchelton. Mind you I don’t think it’s just the garden that attracts Gil. There are also the chooks...

Then there’s me, his mother, who is hugely inspired by the ABC’s Gardening Australia program. What’s not to love about the program’s host, Costa Georgiadis? His beard must contain an entire ecosystem of its own I reckon. As guest editor of Gardening Australia magazine (April 2013), Costa wrote: I’m always keen to share my passions and one of my biggest is the big-picture message of gardening and its benefits.

I just find Costa’s enthusiasm totally infectious but then I’ve been thinking along the same lines for years. In QWeekend’s On The Couch (July 28-29 2013) Costa said “If I wasn’t a landscape architect and presenter... I’d be a farmer”.

Well, if I wasn’t a librarian I’d be a farmer too.

With Gil fast approaching adulthood we are looking in earnest at what he might do for the rest of his life. The post school options currently on offer simply don’t provide a satisfactory outlook for Gil. The idea of Gil spending a couple of days here in a sheltered workshop, a day or so there in a social facility and 3-4 days at home fills me with dread. We live in the city but Gil likes the natural environment. He needs to have something meaningful and enjoyable to do every single day and for that something to do to be consistent, stable, and regular. So this, along with our DNA, my inspirations and passions is what led me to develop the urban farm concept.

If you were unable to attend the Urban Farm Project Discussion at the MyTime session on 30 Oct 2013, you can pick up a copy of my “Outline of a Proposal for a Food and Flower Farm at Mitchelton” from the Parent Room. Alternatively I am happy to email you a copy if you send a request to jeanywilkie@bigpond.com

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**Food For Thought:**

If you are irritated by every rub, how will your mirror be polished?