Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to thank the many parents who have assisted staff with settling our students into new classrooms and routines. Our first week back is always a little challenging and the need to make a few changes was necessary for some students and classes. We have had another three enrolment requests this week which may lead to new student arrivals next week. This will require careful management and may lead to minor changes in some classes over the coming week or two. Our role is to respond to the needs of all students and parents and I ask that you all be patient over the coming weeks as we organise our classes for 2015.

For most students it has been an excellent start to the new year. Most students have settled well and are managing many changes with smiles and confidence - congratulations!! There are a few students (and perhaps parents and staff) who are still adjusting and I seek the support of our entire school community to be patient, tolerant and supportive as we learn more about the specific needs of individuals.

My most important and perhaps most difficult role in this school is help all of us understand the very diverse needs of our students. Sometimes we need to manage some challenging behaviours which can include screaming, scratching, kicking, pushing and biting. Understanding these complex needs and recognising our role in developing an inclusive and supportive school community requires an ongoing commitment by all of us. We will be holding a special information evening next month to provide all parents an opportunity to learn more about each of our school sections and our whole of school approach to supporting behaviour. This evening also provides an opportunity to discuss any questions you may have in relation to your child’s education. The date and outline of this meeting will be detailed in our newsletter next week.

Day 8 occurs next week and we will not know exact allocation of teacher or teacher aide hours until week three. At the moment we are purchasing extra hours to assist in supporting students and staff. I will confirm details about section staff as soon as all allocations are known and positions and contracts confirmed. This is the same every year and we do our best to minimise changes for all concerned.

School Drop Off and Pick – Up
I will send home next week a letter detailing some solutions to the challenges we all face with supervision and traffic issues around drop off and pick ups. Obviously we cannot increase the size of our street or the number of parks that exist. I ask that you work with us to manage this difficult situation. Please be courteous to others and obey road rules.

Reducing Printed Newsletters
Next week will be our final large volume print run. A move to emailed and web accessible newsletter began last year. We intend to move to this electronic distribution which has been supported by many within our community. We understand that some parents want a printed copy and we will be finalising who requires this via a simple survey form to be distributed next week. Feedback for electronic distribution has been extremely supportive. We look forward to a significant reduction to printing and distribution costs.

Enjoy your weekend
Wayne
ATHLETE REGISTRATION

& SPORT EXPO

Special Olympics provide sporting opportunities for people with an Intellectual Disability with year round sporting competitions.

Come join us and learn how your family can become involved.

WHERE: Teralba Park
       Osborne Rd
       Mitchelton

DATE: Saturday 7th February, 2015

TIME: From 9.00 am until 12.00 midday

"FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE, TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED"

SPORTS PROVIDED IN OUR REGION

- Athletics
- Aquatics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Bocce
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Soccer
- Softball
- Table Tennis
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Tennis

Please contact Daphne Bale, Chairperson Brisbane North Region, for further information on 0411241557