SOUTHPORT SPECIAL SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: Mr David Rogers
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Ms Lisa Bodley
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mrs Anne O’Leary
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Ms Tracy Cronin
HEAD OF CURRICULUM: Ms Kate Przybylo
P&C PRESIDENT: Mr Cameron Crichton

Southport Special School
Newsletter

16th February 2017
Active Learning School Newsletter

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Mobile Phones and Laptops at School

It has come to our attention that students are using mobile phones and/or laptops during school hours. Unfortunately, this has become a distraction to their learning and set activities outside the classroom.

We are requesting that all students keep their mobile phones and/or laptops in their bags during school hours unless use of the phone has been approved by the Principal. If a staff member notices a mobile phone and/or laptop out of a student's bag and/or being used during school hours, it will be taken away and held until the end of the school day.

Please discuss this information with your child to ensure they understand the rule.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

David Rogers
Principal
Minister’s visit

The Minister for Education, the Honourable Kate Jones accompanied by the South East Regional Director, John Norfolk. The Minister inspected the construction site but also spent a great deal of time interacting with our students.
**News from Principal**

**2017 Key Documents**

- Strategic Plan 2017 to 2021: Continued focus on Communication/Curriculum/Transition
- Annual Implementation Plan 2017: Highlighting three improvement priorities focussing on Curriculum Delivery, Improvement Agenda and Pedagogical Practice with underlying strategies and actions to meet these priorities
- Investing for Success $121,365 – aligns to our AIP with a significant focus on improving our pedagogical practices and building an expert teaching team
- These documents are located on the school website – Heading – Support and Resources – dropdown screen – Forms and Documents – Documents – click on folders with said names to see documents.

**Therapy Services**

**Buying and Selling Second-Hand Equipment**

Second hand equipment brings about many issues of risk naturally, but it is still a question we are asked from time to time, and this appears a reputable starting point.

I came across this listing below of second hand equipment, which also includes some links to other second hand equipment avenues, via Assistive Technology Australia. It is updated fortnightly. It is “NSW-centric” but not exclusively so.

It may also provide a selling route to consider for families looking to sell their children’s outgrown but fully functional equipment. To list an item for sale is free.

[https://at-aust.org/assets/2h_Equip.pdf](https://at-aust.org/assets/2h_Equip.pdf) for the PDF list that is updated regularly.

[https://at-aust.org/home/assistive_technology/second_hand_register.html](https://at-aust.org/home/assistive_technology/second_hand_register.html) to the ATAust second hand home page which also features a number of non-biased guides to assist consumers to understand risks when buying second hand equipment, one of which is specific around disability [https://at-aust.org/assets/18_Guidelines_for_buying_2H_Equipment.pdf](https://at-aust.org/assets/18_Guidelines_for_buying_2H_Equipment.pdf) Even knowing about the risk guides themselves is handy for some of those conversations with families.
Literacy development, including communication, is a significant part of our classroom programing. The South East Region (SER) had indicated in their Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) that Literacy is of a high priority for all students across the region. This priority has been reflected in our school’s 2017 AIP with Communication and Curriculum being two of our priorities. Throughout this year we will be sharing with you information, ideas and activities relating to programs and learning experiences happening across the school. Staff work hard to provide engaging lessons that develop the skills of our students and we would like to share some of these with you.

For our early learners we consult Flo Longhorn’s documents for information and ideas to assist with the development of programs for students working within the Process Based Learning and Intensive Interaction classes. In her book Literacy for Very Special People (F. Longhorn 2001) she lists the following **Prerequisites to Learning and Literacy**. These are the ‘toolbox’ of skills we need to access learning and include:

- Beginning to look & attend
- Beginning to relate
- Beginning to control & co-ordinate the body
- Beginning to communicate
- Beginning to play
- Overcoming behavioural barriers

“Literacy is the encompassing vehicle that offers many different approaches to learning these skills effectively.”

For students who are more competent with their literacy skills we refer to the SER Reading and Literacy Policies which include the ‘Big 6’ skills which should be targeted in a balanced literacy program. These include:

~ **Fluency** ~ **Oral Language** ~ **Phonological Awareness** ~

~ **Phonics** ~ **Comprehension** ~ **Vocabulary** ~

If you would like more information about any of these documents or concepts please don’t hesitate to contact your student’s classroom teacher or either of us.

Emily Foltz & Kate Przybylo

Curriculum Support  
Head of Curriculum
It has been a tremendous start to the year in Junior One. Hajira, Milla, Maddie, Angelina, Lenny, Adam and Sebastian have settled back into the school routine quickly and are keen to learn. We are all looking forward to a fantastic Term One!
Erin, Iona and Sharon
Junior Two started the year happily playing and working together. The children have spent the first few weeks exploring their room and getting to know each other.

Joanne, Anita and Viv
Active Learning One

The students of Active Learning One have settled in well. Our wonderful therapists have already been heavily engaged adjusting and modifying equipment and providing advice on our students’ many support needs. We are already seeing students make progress with communication, self-feeding and switching as well as increasing their level of comfort and endurance during activities such as standing.

With five students enrolled in our class, this promises to be a busy and challenging year for all concerned. Our new arrival, Tiffani, is settling in well and appears to be enjoying her new school environment.

There is a busy programme planned for this semester. The students are enjoying their Intensive Interaction sessions as much as ever and are participating enthusiastically in their own personalised process-based learning activities.

Shauna has the hydro programme underway and, as ever, integrated with teaching and learning objectives in the classroom.

Our thanks go to our wonderful parents for their support in getting the year off to such a strong start.

Jeff, Elaine and Helen
A very busy start to the year for Brodi, India, Sophie, Hamish and Gabrielle in Active Learning Two. Teaching students with a range of complex needs requires a collaborative process between physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, parents, carers, teachers, support staff and medical advisors. Together we are developing programs that will provide process based learning and intensive interaction opportunities within our students’ daily physical therapy activities. Our students respond very positively to the use of assistive technology and enjoy exploring cause and effect based sensory devices and programs. This year we will be working hard on developing communication skills both socially and through augmented and alternative communication strategies. Looking forward to a very interesting and rewarding year with Jackie, Viv, Sharon, Helen and the rest of the Active Learning team.
Active Learning Hydrotherapy

We have started 2017 off with a splash! Our students were ready and excited to be getting back in the pool after a relaxing Christmas break.

**Help Wanted**  
We are looking for volunteers to help us out in the pool each morning (except Wednesdays) between 9.00-10.30am. All of our students love the water. The focus of each session largely depends on which class is swimming. Each student has an individual program that focuses on their specific needs. We do Hydrotherapy for Active Learning One and Two, and Therapeutic Swimming Activities for Junior One and Two.

If you are interested and can help, please contact the school for further information. Thank you.
Ozcare Continence Service

Are you caring for a child with incontinence? There is financial assistance available.

CAPS – Continence Aids Payment Scheme
Provides a payment to assist ELIGIBLE children who have a permanent incontinence to meet some of the costs of their continence products.

MASS – Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme
Subsidy funding (products) is available under MASS to support ELIGIBLE children who require continence aids.

Our Continence service can assist you with these applications.
For more information call us on 07 5569 6200.
Don’t miss out – only a couple of spaces left for...

FSG Australia’s

SIBLING CAMP – 3rd to 5th March 2017

Are you the brother or sister of a child with a disability?
Are you aged 10-14 years?

We have a couple of spaces available for a very special Sibling Camp at Tallebudgera Recreation Centre on Friday 3rd March to Sunday 5th March.

We believe at FSGA that everyone should have the chance for a special getaway.

Previous camps have been a HUGE success, with great activities planned and delivered by the recreation centre, which usually include exploring, water sports and lots of other fun and exciting activities. Not to mention the after dark entertainment (can’t tell you too much now or we’ll spoil the surprises!!). The camp is all about having fun with peers, and to realise that we all have a lot in common!

Cost is $100 and includes all food and activities.

Bookings close 11am Friday 17th February 2017

Bookings and enquiries
familyresourcing@fsg.org.au or phone 55194129

We look forward to hearing from you!
Children’s Programs Team - FSG Australia
Expression of Interest

Sibling Camp 2017
3rd March – 5th March

Child/Children’s Surname __________________________________________

Given Name/s ___________________________ DOB ____________

Address ______________________________________________________________________

Parent or Carer’s Name/s _____________________________________________________

Mobile ________________ Phone (daytime) ________________________________

Email ______________________________________________________________________

Dietary Requirements _______________________________________________________

We have very limited spaces available, so
Please let us know if you wish to attend: responses and enquiries to
familyresourcing@fsg.org.au or phone 55194129 by 11am Friday 17 February
Delivered in over 60 locations across Australia, Saver Plus is a free program that provides financial education, budgeting and savings tips.

Complete the program and receive up to $500 towards education costs for you or your child including school uniforms, stationery and text books, tablets and laptops, TAFE and apprenticeship costs, sports fees and equipment, excursions and camps, and more.

You may be eligible to join if you:
• have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
• are at least 18 years old
• have some regular income from work (yourself or your partner) including casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal work, and
• have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.

To find out more:
1 call or SMS your postcode to 1300 610 355
2 email saverplus@bsl.org.au
3 visit www.bsl.org.au/Saver-Plus

*Call costs may apply
Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, and is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

Learn to save and save to learn with Saver Plus

Match your savings for education costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500!

"The program helped me to stay on top of my money. Knowing there is now a safety net of savings is a great feeling."
SAVER PLUS PARTICIPANT
Special Needs Library

Family fun day

40th anniversary celebrations

2pm—4pm Saturday 25 February 2017
Nerang Library, Corner Price and White Streets

Live band
Storytelling with Tim Mullooly
Family activity stations
Face painting
Bond University NAO robot
Tea, coffee and cake

City Libraries
Social Gathering at the Deck on a Saturday Night for those young at heart.

Dinner - Pool Tournament - X-box Gaming competition on the big screen - Movies – Karaoke – Artistic expression session

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
The Deck | phone: 55 373 475 | 45b Olsen Ave, Labrador
email: thedeck@fsg.org.au
FUND FRIDAYS NITES!

$7

I WANT YOU FOR MEXICAN PARTY!

FUND FRIDAYS NIGHTS IN FEBRUARY

The Deck Hub
4 pm – 8 pm

10th - Valentines Party – Speed dating game show and Traditional Pizza.

24th - Mexican Party – Wear your sombrero’s, poncho’s and Enjoy Nacho’s and Burrito’s

THEDECK@FSG.ORG.AU - 55373475