SOUTHPORT SPECIAL SCHOOL

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

Southport Special School Newsletter

SCHOOL TERM DATES & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Term 1 : 23rd January - 31st March 2017
Term 2 : 18th April - 23rd June 2017
Term 3 : 10th July - 15th September 2017
Term 4 : 3rd October - 8th December 2017

Public Holidays

25th April    ANZAC Day
1st May       Labour Day
1st September Gold Coast Show Day

Student Free Day: 16th October 2017

27th January 2017
Administration Newsletter

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Welcome to 2017. This will be an exciting time for students, parents and staff.

Southport Special School would like to welcome our new teachers – Michelle Polsen, Emma Rawnsley, Jennifer Ludlow and Kathleen Lambert.

Margaret Marshall has joined us as our full-time Guidance Officer supporting Chris Waugh who is reducing to 2 days a week.

We’d like to welcome back Katie Dargan, Ben Callan, Trudy Stevens and Anne O’Leary (DP) from leave.

Welcome also to Tracy Cronin who has been appointed Deputy Principal. This year each of the deputies take responsibility for a particular sector of the school.

Lisa Bodley – Junior School and Active Learning

Tracy Cronin – Middle School

Anne O’Leary – Junior Secondary and Senior School

The school holidays were busy on site as the demolition of a building and the start of the new two storey building commenced. The photo shows the space for construction and the wall that keeps us all safe from the work site.

Our priorities will continue to focus on Communication, Curriculum and Transition supported by:

- An empowered staff, working together to deliver a high quality curriculum and outcomes
- A skilled and capable workforce
- Safe, healthy and inclusive workplaces
- Strong community partnerships and engagement
- Strong relationships with other schools and agencies
- Planned and targeted investment to maximise outcomes
- Infrastructure to meet the needs of our students

I am also excited to share the news that Emily Foltz will support all teachers in their understanding of the curriculum.
P&C Meetings

Please consider attending our P&C meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 9:30am in the café (old staff room). It would be great to have some new members and we will put on morning tea to ease the decision making. (9th February 2017 is our first meeting)

Lastly, we are looking for volunteers to be on our school council. There are only 4 meetings each year. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of one of the school’s decision making teams.

David
Principal
School Photographs

Put these dates on your calendar –

School Photographs are:

**Tuesday 7th March 2017**

**Thursday 9th March 2017**

If your child is absent on Tuesday 7th March they will be photographed on Thursday 9th March and if you know that your child will be away on Thursday 9th March please ensure that the teacher is notified so that your child will be photographed on Tuesday 7th March.

News from the Deputy Principal

Welcome to the 2017 School Year

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 25 new families that have joined our school community this year. All our new students are settling well into the routine of school, getting to know their way around and their teachers and aides.

I am sure that watching the new building being constructed this year is going to be a highlight for everyone. We have ‘viewing panels’ in the wall surrounding the site to give us a day by day update.

Please remember if you ever have any questions or concerns don’t hesitate to call us.

**Lisa Bodley** - Deputy Principal responsible for Junior and Active Learning

**Tracy Cronin** - Deputy Principal responsible for Middle School and the STEM classes

**Anne O’Leary** - Deputy Principal responsible for Junior Secondary and Seniors.

Looking forward to sharing a great year of learning and fun.

Lisa Bodley
Deputy Principal
Welcome back to everyone for 2017.

It’s great to be joining Southport Special School this year and I am looking forward to getting to know all the students and staff. I am also looking forward to getting to know the families and our community supporters.

We have kicked the year off with some very interesting and engaging programs across the middle school and the STEM classes. I have already seen students settling into their new school year with enthusiasm.

**Immunisation program**

During the year, year 7 students will be provided with free vaccinations as a part of Queensland Health’s annual school Immunisation Program. All year 7 students are being offered free vaccinations as recommended on the National Immunisation Program to protect against human papillomavirus (HPV) and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (Whooping Cough). Vaccinations are conducted by a team of authorised registered nurses and/or medical practitioners.

A consent pack with additional information will be sent home nearer the time. Please keep a look out for them.

Best wishes, Tracy Cronin
Deputy Principal
Middle School
Secondary School Update

Welcome back to all our secondary school students and a warm welcome to the Year 7 students who have joined the ranks of Junior Secondary School.

I am absolutely delighted to be back at Southport Special School after a year as Acting Principal at Currumbin Community Special School and equally delighted to see a mixture of familiar and new faces of the students in the Secondary sector.

Transition to a New Year, new classes and teachers can be a little unsettling, however the teachers and teacher aides have worked hard to create welcoming environments into their new classrooms and students have responded beautifully.

The particular challenge this year will be the reduced space as a result of the building construction. We have mitigated some of these challenges by scheduling separate lunch breaks for each of the two Junior Secondary team classes and Senior classes so that there will be no overcrowding of the play spaces that we have available.

Please note that staff are on duty from 8:30 am and we request that parents dropping their children at school do not arrive prior to this time. Afternoon parent pick up can be done at 2:15pm or 2:45 if you wish to avoid the congestion in the car park space once the buses arrive.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Anne O'Leary
Deputy Principal
Secondary School
Welcome back to 2017!

This year we welcome Emily Foltz to the curriculum team. She will be working across the school with staff to develop programs and learning experiences. We have created the Curriculum Hub for our teachers and will be providing extra support in the delivery and planning of engaging lessons and units within the classroom.

Student Engagement is our goal with a desire to see all learning environments fulfilling the needs of our diverse learners. As a school we will continue on our Intensive Interaction and Process Based Learning journeys, as well as further developing the Prep Play Based programing. We will also be embarking on a Junior Secondary STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) program. STEM is being used across Queensland Schools in Primary and Secondary schools to engage students in their learning as well as develop these skills for post school or career options. For our students we will be using this focus to build a project based program across two classrooms initially with the vision to branch out across all of Junior Secondary in the future.

Our Senior students have begun on their journey to post school, focusing on communication, employability, social skills and independent living skills.

As the classroom staff get to know their new students they will be reviewing and devising new Individual Curriculum Plans for Prep to Year 10. Senior staff will be working on reviewing and developing SET plans.

We would like to wish everyone a successful year and hope 2017 is the best year yet!

Units for Term 1:
Prep-All About me
Juniors-Physical Me
Middle School- How things move
Junior Secondary- Life beyond school
Seniors- QCIA and Post school options

Emily Foltz & Kate Przybylo
Curriculum Support          Head of Curriculum
Welcome to all our families.

Please be advised that the school fees will be sent out early next week, if for some reason you have not received your invoice by the end of next week could you please contact the school and they will be reproduced.

VOLUNTARY BUS CONTRIBUTION - 2017

The school buses are purchased through donation and maintained by the school to greatly reduce the cost to parents for hiring buses to attend excursions and outings (Community access programs, grocery shopping, parks, library, swimming, gymnastics, bowling, transition programs etc.).

The cost to operate the four buses is approximately $18,000 per year for maintenance, registration, insurance, inspections and fuel. As the school does not receive any funding towards the expenses it is vital that we receive voluntary bus contributions to ensure the school can continue to provide buses for the community access outings and excursions. The alternative would be for the school to hire buses and pass the cost onto parents as a fee (which would be approximately $8 each outing and could amount to over $600 for classes going out twice per week).

Please read the attached “Voluntary Financial Contribution” form and return to the school if you wish to make the contribution. We have allocated an amount per class grouping based on the usage of the bus as follows:

- Senior, Junior Secondary & Middle School Classes - $100 per year
- Junior Classes - $50 per year
- Students in Active Therapy area (Middle 1, Junior Secondary 10 & Senior 1) - $25 per year

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Cheers,
Michelle Allan, Business Services Manager
Volunteering

Our volunteer program will begin from the third week of term and I have received many enquiries from people wanting to assist our staff and students.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the school and would like to find out more about the school's volunteer program please call the office to arrange a time to have a chat with me.

Karen Redding
Volunteer Coordinator

Facilities

As you are aware one of our old classroom blocks was demolished over the holidays and construction work has begun on a new building.

A partition wall has been erected to reduce noise, dust and distraction around the work site. There are a couple of viewing windows allowing us to see the machinery and men working to provide us with a great new building. We also get a great view of the work site from the upper level of our double story building.

Karen Redding
Facilities Officer
Other work which has been completed is the resurfacing of the Middle School playground – from bark chip to beautiful new artificial turf. This new surface will enable students to use the playground every day.
Next week the kitchen will be back in "full swing". We are very excited about the programs we are undertaking in 2017. The Coffee Shop opens for morning tea every Thursday from 9:15-10:30 am. Please come along and support our students workplace. We are sure you will enjoy the delicious fare and beverages that our work experience students prepare.

Leandra (Teacher) and Kristy (Teacher-aide).
Intensive Interaction focuses on the importance of social connectedness. The really old fashioned type of social connectedness which has nothing to do with Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat. The type that doesn't need electricity, batteries, or even two tin cans and a bit of string. What it needs is two people who can find a "conversation" to share and a mutual understanding to be found. The greatest joys and triumphs come for our staff when they find that connection with some of our most difficult to reach and most socially isolated students.

This Term there will be an Information Morning and Morning Tea for parents and carers who may like to learn more about what Intensive Interaction is and what it means for your child. Details on date and time will follow shortly.

In Term Two, Dr Dave Hewett, founder of the Intensive Interaction Institute in the UK, will be visiting our school again to work with students and staff. We always look forward to Dave visiting the school.

In Term Three a training course for parents in the use of Intensive Interaction in the home will be run.

The parental loan scheme for Intensive Interaction DVDs will also operate again this year and this year the DVDs for loan will include the video, Autism and Intensive Interaction which features students, parents and staff from Southport Special School.

Any questions about Intensive Interaction please contact me,

Sue Lowry

Intensive Interaction Coordinator and Music Teacher.
As a parent or carer of a child with a disability or suspected disability aged between 2 to 12, you are eligible for parenting support free of charge. The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Disability Services) are offering Stepping Stones Triple P programs run by accredited trainers/psychologists.

Is this you? Does your child struggle to follow routines, instructions or household rules? Do they throw tantrums? Or do you simply want to learn more about how to create a positive, nurturing home environment for your children? If this sounds like you, Stepping Stones Triple P can help.

What happens at Stepping Stones Triple P? Stepping Stones introduces parents to positive parenting, and gives you the skills and strategies to promote child development, teach new skills and behaviours, manage misbehaviour, and plan ahead for risky situations.

Currently, the following Programs are on offer:

Group Workshop
You’ll meet with a group of parents and caregivers for over two Saturdays, from 10am to 4:30pm, a follow-up telephone call to offer support, feedback, and further help you with your parenting plans and strategies.

The next group workshop dates are:

- Saturday 6th of May 2017 and Saturday 20th of May at 10:30am until 4:30pm, running from the Cabinda Disability Service Centre.

Stepping Stones Seminar Series (90 mins per seminar)
Seminars tackle the most common issues for parent of children with a disability. Each seminar lasts 90 minutes and you can do one, two or all three in the series. All Seminars will be held at the Ronina Disability Service Centre.

The topics covered are:

- Seminar 1: Positive Parenting for Children with a Disability
  Date: Monday 30th of January, 10am
- Seminar 2: Helping your Child Reach their Potential
  Date: Tuesday 28th of March, 10am
- Seminar 3: Changing Problem Behaviour into Positive Behaviour
  Date: TBA

Cost: FREE
Who: Any parent/caregiver of a child with a disability age 2-12 years
How: RSVP email Rowena Woolley rowena.woolley@communities.qld.gov.au or go to http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/qld-aken/find-help/check-our-calendar

If you would like to learn more about the Group Stepping Stones Triple P program please contact Kim Atkinson or Rowena Woolley on T: 5656 5800.

Kind regards,

Kim Atkinson (Psychologist)
Rowena Woolley (Psychologist)
Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future

You are invited to attend a free legal presentation for families and friends of people with a disability.

Toowoomba
22 February, 9am - Midday
Register

Townsville
7 March, 10 am - 1pm
Register

Gold Coast
21 March, 9am - Midday
Register

Cairns
1 April, 9am - Midday
Register

Ipswich
22 April, 9am - Midday
Register

Rockhampton
2 May, 9am - Midday
Register

This presentation will provide attendees with information to assist them to plan for and protect the future of their loved ones with a disability.

Legal concepts of capacity, guardianship and administration, and wills and trusts, including special disability trusts, will be explained with the aim of enabling attendees to better understand the ways in which the law may be used to safeguard their plans.

The Presenter
Andrea de Smidt is an experienced lawyer who has maintained an interest in helping clients facing disadvantage throughout her career. Now at Disability Law Queensland, Andrea enjoys working with clients with disabilities and their families to achieve both legal and practical solutions to the challenges they encounter.
YFS NDIS Get Ready project in south east Queensland

The NDIS Get Ready project gets people with disability, their parents and carers ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The YFS Get Ready team work in Logan, Redlands and the Gold Coast. YFS Get Ready will continue to host forums, provide home visits and phone support. This is a free service for people with disability, their families and carers.

Throughout January, February and March 2017 we will be running 2½ hour information sessions in various locations across the region.

Topics covered
- Overview of the NDIS and how it will affect you
- Goal setting and plan readiness
- How to be a confident and savvy consumer
- Navigating the NDIS and ways to start preparing

The groups are kept to a maximum of 20 people to make sure the forum is interactive and people have an opportunity to ask questions. If you would prefer a home visit let us know and we can arrange to come and meet you at a time and place that is convenient for you.

TO REGISTER OR FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION
1. Visit the YFS Get Ready webpage (getready.yfs.org.au)
2. Call the Get Ready team on (07) 3826 1500 or 1800 772 383
3. Email getready@yfs.org.au

Details of the dates and locations in the Gold Coast area for YFS NDIS Get Ready information sessions in January, February and March 2017 are provided on the back of this flyer.

Funded by Queensland Government

Building Independence & Participation

An NDIS Participant Readiness activity funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FORUM DATE</th>
<th>FORUM VENUE</th>
<th>FORUM TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadbeach</td>
<td>Monday 20 February 2017</td>
<td>Broadbeach Library Meeting Room, 61 Sunshine Boulevard, Mermaid Waters</td>
<td>10.00am - 12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nerang</td>
<td>Monday 6 March 2017</td>
<td>Nerang Library Meeting Room, 2/B White Street, (Corner Price Street) Nerang</td>
<td>10.00am - 12.30pm</td>
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<td>Helensvale</td>
<td>Saturday 11 March 2017</td>
<td>Helensvale Cultural Centre Multi-purpose Room 1, 62 Sir John Overall Drive Helensvale</td>
<td>10.00am - 12.30pm</td>
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LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

Expressions of interest & bookings being taken for a

Sibling Course

Commencing Tuesday February 7th 2017

A course for children aged 10 to 12 years who don’t have disabilities and who have a brother or sister with a disability

This course fills up fast, so get in quickly to secure your space.

Enrolments are being taken for a 4 week Sibling Course. The course will be held at Coomera Family Central, 3 Jowett St Coomera.

Running weekly in Term 1: 7/2, 14/2, 21/2, 28/2.

4.00-5.30pm
Course fee: $30

Bookings /Expressions of Interest:
familyresourcing@fsq.org.au
or 55194129 or 55029797

Course aims:
* to meet others in a similar situation
* to equip siblings with strategies to help them to cope with all the extra demands placed on them by having a sibling who has additional needs.
* to enjoy fun activities with new friends

We recognize the importance of supporting all members of the family. If the family members are strong, they can use resources they receive to support each other.

The sibling relationship is the longest relationship we will experience in our lives, outlasting that with our parents, and often our marital partners. By building resilience in siblings, the child with special needs will be supported for an enduring length of time.

When a child has special needs, the focus of the parents is often on this child resulting in the sibling receiving less parental attention. Some take on a range of caring responsibilities, whilst still being a child themselves.
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