School Improvement Priorities for 2016:

Quality Curriculum and implementation
Develop a balanced literacy approach for all students.

Dates to Remember:

- **Graduation Evening**: Wed 7th Dec 2016
- **End Term 4**: Fri 9th Dec 2016
- **Xmas Day**: Sun 25th Dec 2016
- **Boxing Day**: Mon 26th Dec 2016
- **Public Holiday**: Tue 27th Dec 2016

**2017**
- New Year’s Day: Sun 1st Jan
- **Public Holiday**: Mon 2nd Jan
- **School Admin Open**: Mon 16th Jan
- **First Day of Term 1**: Mon 23rd Jan
- **Australia Day**: Thu 26th Jan
- **Last Day of Term 1**: Fri 31st Mar

*From the Principal*

Dear families and friends of MOSS, it has been an absolute pleasure reading student reports for 2016! Our students have achieved so many milestones this year that we are all very excited about.

Congratulations and best wishes to our five graduating students and their families. We will miss you all.

John Hattie’s research (2009, 2012) notes the importance of a positive relationship between student and teacher and the effect this has on learning outcomes. It comes as no great surprise that successful learning requires a positive student-teacher relationship.

In preparation for 2017, teachers have developed a Transition Profile for each student. This profile includes general information as well as specific information related to their mode of communication, likes/motivators, dislikes/fears, equipment, personal care and toileting routines, meal times, behaviour and how to help the student to learn. This information, along with our curriculum units of work has been given to each student’s class teacher for 2017. We hope this information will assist teachers with their preparation and getting to know their students more quickly resulting in a smooth transition.

Teachers have also been busy developing personalised social stories for each student. These are enclosed for families. We are confident these social stories will help to reduce some anxiety and again help students and families to have the best possible start to the 2017 school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for trusting us with your precious children. Thank you for working closely with us and being partners in your children’s learning.

*Our Vision Statement:*

To provide engaging, relevant curriculum and innovative, specialised teaching in partnership with families and the community in a safe, supportive environment.
**Continued from the Principal**

In 2017, we have some new members to our leadership team as well as some changes in roles. Specific role descriptions will again be displayed in our office foyer:

- Nici Morey – Head of Curriculum (newly recruited)
- Karen Walton – Early Years Leader
- Sabrina Lengsfeld – Middle Years Leader
- Rachel Byrne – Senior Years Leader
- Mike Curtis – Vocational Education Coordinator
- Kate Troyahn – Head of Mentoring
- Chrissy Hamilton – Literacy Coach
- Louise Ruzic – Intensive Interaction Coach and Co-ordinator

On a final note, I’d like to reflect on some of the MOSS achievements for 2016, all of which would not be possible without the collective efforts of the school team, our families and students:

- Student achievement of personalised learning goals
- Student development of oral language
- 100% student access to balanced literacy
- 40% increase in student access to Intensive Interaction
- Transition planning for students
- Two new teaching blocks
- Increased student safety – fencing
- New Middle/Senior Years playground
- Senior Schooling Action Plan enacted
- Sensory Room upgrade - $15 000
- $20 000 of specialised equipment for Senior students
- Senior Formal, Schoolies Week Camp and swim with the dolphins
- Keeping in Touch with Families
- State WINNERS Showcase Awards for Excellence Inclusive Education

Wishing all of our families and friends a joyous Christmas and a safe holiday. Warm regards, Susan
So here we all are, arrived at the end of a very busy year; no doubt there will be lots of boxes, packages and envelopes arriving at your house, in preparation for Christmas?

We are also sending you home a package from school. We hope you will open this with a real sense of positive anticipation, as it contains important information about your child, both for this year and for 2017.

Please find:

- A letter with the name of your child’s class teacher, teacher aide and classroom.
- Your child’s end of semester report. For students in years P-10, these reflect the learning demonstrated across Semester Two within the Australian Curriculum areas of English, Maths and Health and Physical Education. If your young person is in Years 11 and 12, their reports reflect the individually prioritised learning demonstrated across the curriculum areas in their Senior Education and Training Plan (Personal and Living Dimensions, Communication and Technology etc).
- A “Student Plan” (for students P-10) which provides the teacher’s progress notes for how your child has responded to their individually prioritised areas of personalised learning (such as Communication, Behaviour, Health and Personal Care etc).
- A list of resources that we are hoping you can provide for your child for school in 2017. These are provided per sector, being Early, Middle or Senior.
- A copy of the final Semester Two MOSS newsletter.
- Your child’s “Social Story” for 2017.
- …and a 2017 Qld State Schools calendar 😊

We would like to wish each of you, our valued parents and carers, and our amazing students, a safe and happy holiday period. Looking forward to being together again on Monday, January 23rd, 2017.

Warm regards, Karen Walton and Mike Curtis (Deputy Principals)
From the Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) – Sandra Schupter

Graduation night
What a wonderful night of celebration on Wednesday 23rd November. We welcomed over 100 people to this occasion to celebrate and congratulate 36 graduates from the ECDP.

A huge thank you to the P&C for their kind contributions for the purchase of the books for each of our graduates. We also thank Sherwood Organics for their generous donation of $50.00 worth of sausages.

The staff of the ECDP are extremely proud of their 2016 graduates. Each child has made tremendous gains over this year and are now looking forward to a new adventure as they enter full time education in 2017.

We wish each child and their families happiness and success in this coming new year. You are so ready for school. Well done!

End of term Christmas Parties.
Our end of term Christmas Parties have been an enormous success with thanks to Volvo Group Australia for their amazing generous Christmas gifts that they provided for every child at the ECDP.

The families, children and staff of the ECDP want to say a huge thank you to Volvo Australia. All our children have been extremely excited about opening the Christmas gifts.

This year our children have provided their families with a special Christmas gift of a painting on canvas. Once more our children have demonstrated that when given encouragement and opportunity, they can produce some beautiful art pieces.
Saying Farewell – Stephanie Handley

The ECDP wish to thank Stephanie Handley for the wonderful contribution she has made to the ECDP over the last few years she has been with us. Steph has been a valuable and flexible member of the team, who has taken on many different roles whilst working with us, as both a teacher and a teacher assistant. Steph is leaving us to pursue her studies in education. We may well see her again next year as she is available to do relief teaching. We wish you all the very best as you enter your own new adventure in 2017. Many thanks Steph.

Also farewell to Lisa Gander

Lisa is not going too far away. Lisa will be teaching in the Mount Ommaney Special School in 2017.

Lisa joined the ECDP team in late Term 3 and has quickly built beautiful, positive relationships with both staff and children. It has been great having Lisa with us - if only for a short time. But we will continue to see her regularly next year. Lisa will be a great asset to the special school teaching team and to the class she will be managing. Have a wonderful year in 2017 Lisa – this is what you have been looking for.

Wishing all our families happy memories as you celebrate this festive season with family and friends.

Warm regards
Sandra Schuptar
Head of Special Education Services
From the Early Years Sector Leader – Hannah Tucker

What is Success? - The Early Years

“Success is where preparation and opportunity meet”. (Bobby Unser)

As the end of the year draws upon us, the Early Years Teachers have enjoyed reflecting on the achievements of each individual student and the success that has been accomplished. In our eyes success is not a destination but the ongoing journey of each student that is maintained by those who try and keep trying. Success, to the Early Years teachers, is also not just the measure of academic achievement, but the progress students have made emotionally, socially, through communication, transitions and school readiness. Over the year we have tried our hardest to prepare engaging, fun and challenging learning experiences that allow opportunities for each student to succeed.

Throughout the year, and particularly in Semester Two, the Early Year’s students have demonstrated their social and communication development. Our English, Numeracy and HPE focus revolved around play and interactions with others at social events. This involved the students inviting each other to play and practise social skills such as turn taking, requesting and interacting with peers. This saw the children baking in class and knocking on doors with it for their selected friends as well as invitations written to have icy poles and play on the swings. A lot of our students also showed growth in other areas. Some, for the first time, initiated requests from teachers and peers, others played with their friends rather than alongside them and transitioning from the classroom to the social event became less stressful for children.

School readiness is a big focus for children in the early years of schooling. Over the year students have also become familiar and aware of the school day routines such as the unpacking of bags, toileting procedures, engaging in tasks, moving between activities and interpersonal skills with adults and children. The students have worked all year to continue along the journey with success each day as they accept these little changes to their day!!

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents. (Jane D. Hull)

The Early Year’s staff would like to make a special mention of appreciation to all the families we have worked with this year. As perfectly said above, the success of each child would not be possible if it weren’t for the ongoing and valued partnership we have with the most important people in their lives and those who know them best.

We are delighted with the skills the children have developed this year and are very proud of the personalities who are moving into the Middle Year’s sector of the school.

Thank you all for a fun and successful year and we wish you a very safe Christmas. See you bright eyed, bubbly and ready for more excitement in 2017!!
Number

Students have been working on using their individual means to describe characteristics of length, temperature, mass, volume, capacity and area in familiar environments. Some examples of this have been when objects are full or empty in the environment and students have been delivered this concept through structured and exploratory play sessions as well as in everyday routine activities.

Book Talk

Students did some wonderful work on making connections between a text and personal experiences and presented them to others in various ways. Students recalled characters and events from texts and described their likes and dislikes in ways that suited their capabilities.

Let’s all read:

The students were immersed in concepts of print where they were provided with a variety of exciting ways to engage in reading activities about the world around them. Some awesome work was done around exposure to some fun experiences and then using PODD to discuss them. ‘Alternate’ pencils were used by our students to write stories about a variety of these experiences that ranged from fun whiteboard stories to trips to dreamworld.

Middle Years students were involved in some fun celebrations where the planning for, participation in and reflecting on formed a basis for a great deal of learning this semester. There were some very imaginative and exciting learning opportunities that came out of the opportunity to celebrate!
From the Senior Years Sector Leader – Rachel Byrne

This has been the seniors’ biggest term yet! Our aim this year was for the seniors to be more active within the community providing them with opportunities and experiences. This term a group participated in a computer recycling program at eWaste connections, the Horse Care Program, Newspaper deliveries, a weekly Gym Program, Schoolies Camp, Community Access and continued with our transition program.

Senior Formal:
Such an amazing night! Thank you to all staff who accompanied the students. The students arrived all dressed up beautifully! Although it was initially overwhelming, the students danced the night away with students from other schools.

eWaste:
Some seniors were able to have weekly visits to a new business, eWaste Connections Electrical Recycling. Signing in on arrival, students were presented with electrical parts appropriate for their skill level that they unscrewed and dismantled, gaining valuable work experience and interpersonal skills. We are looking forward to continuing our visits and incorporating these work skills into our senior program.
Indy Gold Coast 600:
The senior boys got to experience morning tea at the Marriott thanks to Variety Queensland. Then we went out to the track where the boys got to see a car race. On the way we had Super hornets fly over our heads. The noises we heard were so exciting for the students. A very enjoyable day.

Schoolies Camp:
What an experience! A big thank you to all staff that came along for an amazing camp held at Seaworld Resort. The camp provided the students with some wonderful memories and experiences. Each student had the opportunity to swim with the dolphins, where they were able to touch and interact with them. A special mention goes to Avegates, a social experience network organised by Multicap. They generously donated money to MOSS to go towards a school camp. It has been an invaluable experience where the students had a fantastic time and returned safely, albeit, very tired!

Transition Program:
We have continued our visits to several post school service providers in close proximity to MOSS. The program has been successful with familiarising the students with the service provider that their families have chosen for next year. This will continue next year, hopefully incorporating more seniors into the program.

Graduation:
We have five students graduating this year: Daelle, Reilly, Aviv, Bernard and another wonderful young lady. All senior teaching staff have really enjoyed getting to know each of these students. They have all taught us so much. We would like to wish them all the very best in the next chapter in their lives.
From the Education Program Officer (EPO) - Kerrie Reid

2016 has been an exciting but busy year!! This year has seen the successful implementation of a new education program for our early years’ students at Splitz Gym. Discussions are underway to ensure this program continues in 2017. Thank you to Amanda, Cheyenne and the staff at Splitz Gym for all your efforts in making this a success.

A big thank you to our Adopt-a-Cops Constable Tom and Constable Ben who made a special visit to the school this term to treat our early years students to some dress up activities and lunchtime fun.

The Christmas Party was a huge success with Santa arriving in style in the Centenary Community Connections Santa sleigh. Special thanks to Eric and Belinda for making this possible, the Centenary High School performance ensemble, Amanda, Madeleine and Benji for the face painting and balloons and to the staff who assisted up to and on the night. Thank you also to the families who were able to come along and make the night one to remember.

I am constantly amazed by the generosity and support of not only our school community but also the wonderful community in which the school belongs. A special thank you to Tarnya Smith MP, Cr Matthew Bourke, Greater Springfield Rotary, Variety QLD, Lifestream, Centenary High School, Chris Cox, Lisa Bailie and the 4074 Community & Beyond group, Kerry Squire, Brisbane Centenary Rotary, Goodstart Middle Park, Jindalee Lions Club, Daniel Cronin, Bunnings Oxley, Jindalee Newsagent and all our wonderful volunteers for supporting our students and school.

Finally and on a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me this year as I took on the role of EPO. It has been a pleasure to work with our amazing students, families and staff. Best wishes for 2017 and happy holidays!!

Kerrie Reid
From the Chaplain – Hedy Voges-Haug

It is always a joy to walk around the school and connect with the students, parents and staff. Now there is an extra spring in my step sensing the happiness of impending holidays in the air and the sharing of hope and kindness in conversations. All this joyfulness aside, I recognize and appreciate the challenges many of our families (myself included) of children with special needs may experience on a daily basis. Yet our resilient selves always seem to rise, sometimes not as high as we would like, but bounce back we do! And then there’s the camaraderie we have in our community, and how we seem to have a deeper sense of the needs of others. I believe that our MOSS community has a fellowship of affinity and friendship, together with an intrinsic appreciation and respect for those committed to the excellent teaching and care of our wonderful students. All the staff truly inspire me!

Together we have enjoyed graduations, Christmas parties, MyTime gatherings, educational and social meetings, birthday celebrations, Siblings Clubs, farewell parties, morning teas, Awards events and so much more. There have been sad times and challenging times and times where our empathy, care and respect has been the greatest gift we can give each other. Throughout all the recent festivities there has been hand shaking and hugs and, to me at least, the most important of all…a sense of hope.

I wish to acknowledge the wonderful partnership we have with USQ and in particular, give our thanks to Jean McCausland-Green who co-facilitates our very popular Siblings Club.

I am available for social, emotional, ethical and practical support. If there are any such needs please phone me 0407 128620.

I hope I may see you on the first day back (Monday 23rd January) at our Welcome Morning Tea for new and returning families, to be held in the Multi Purpose Hall after drop off.

I hope you have a safe and happy Christmas, filled with love and hugs from your loved ones.

Every blessing to you dear friends, Hedy - School Chaplain MOSS
From the P&C – Tennille Graham (MOSS P&C President)

"The end of 2016 ... what a joy to be part of the School Community this past year for the MOSS P&C. The P&C Team this year were a powerhouse of ideas, community engagement and advocacy. We dreamed big, moving beyond small efforts. And we achieved large projects and began spreading the MOSS culture of inclusion. Here is a brief, but powerful list of our achievements throughout 2016.

We have raised funds through our annual Baby and Kids Market, third party activities and reaching out to our community. These funds went towards our Family Fun Day, a new cubby house for ECDP, therapy equipment needed by the school for our students, and Sensory Room upgrade.

We reached out to our community, with the help of the School, Chaplain or EPO, through:

- Rocks Riverside Festival showcasing disability awareness,
- entering the Centenary Rotary Fun Run,
- Tea and Tissues morning for parents for the first day of the school year,
- Supported Sibling Support Day Camps throughout the year,
- initiated an inaugural 'Schoolies Camp' for the Senior Years and
- a P&C information area in the School Front Office.

We had an increasing role in advocacy this year within the school and for outside pressures, including:

- school fencing,
- the future of ECDPs under the NDIS,
- Save the School Buses and
- Vacation Care service availability for all MOSS students.

Thank you to everyone who assisted us throughout the year. It’s overwhelming that the list is so long and numerous.

As we wind down 2016, we have other projects to ramp up with in 2017. And as I finish celebrating the P&C achievements throughout the year, I love to invite you to join us. To join us in using your talents or skills for the joy of the students at MOSS.

Warmest regards

Tennille
**Student of the Week Awards**

Below is a list of the students who have received special ‘Student of the Week Awards’ at Assembly recently...

- **Abbey G.**...for standing independently for 15 seconds (Personal and Social Capability)
- **April Mcl...**for joining her classmates for literacy activities (Literacy and Communication)
- **Antony A...**for communicating the ingredients required to make muffins during cooking class (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Antony A...**for remembering, doing and counting three different, consecutive hand movements during a video about letters (Numeracy)
- **Archer C...**for independently using his PODD to comment about events around him (literacy and Communication)
- **Archer C...**for achieving his personal goal of creating a 2 word sentence and independently speaking (Literacy and Communication)
- **Areeb M...**for consistently spelling and writing his name (Literacy and Communication)
- **Ben P...**for interacting gently with a classmate (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Berenice S...**for achieving her personal learning goal of “Commenting and questioning to sustain a conversation” (Literacy and Communication)
- **Camy L...** for independent ring-sitting for 10 seconds (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Camy L...** for 12 minutes of independent “corner sitting” during ball play (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Camy L...** for bracing on her arms and controlling her head for 5 minutes on the half wedge, during switch and ball play (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Camy L...** for meeting her personal learning goal: “Making a contextually appropriate comment from 2 BigMack choices” (Literacy and Communication)
- **Cameron D...** for using his walker to travel independently to and from the gym (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Cameron G...** for independently requesting some more food with a symbol (Literacy and Communication)
- **Cameron N...** for identifying and ordering materials from shortest to tallest (Numeracy)
- **Carissa C...** for signing letters of the alphabet independently (Literacy and Communication)
- **Carissa C...** for independent bike riding around the school (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Charlie P...** for building his confidence at horse riding, on ‘Tonka’ (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Claude B...** for participating and interacting with others during filming for the book, “I GOT THIS HAT” (Literacy and Communication)
- **Damien H...** for learning about his feelings and expressing them appropriately (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Dan H...** for sharing his personal space with another student during sensory activities (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Emma G...** for her amazing walking and independent exploring (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Elliot L...** for using his friends’ names to say “Hello” and participating in shared activities (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Emily...** for being a very brave and supportive helper for her brother (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Emily G...** for being safe by walking together with her friends to and from class (Personal and Social Capability)
Fatima A…for relaxing and bringing her head to the midline for 7 seconds during cross legged sitting practice (Personal and Social Capability)

Fatima A…for practising choosing between 2 BIGmack switches using her hand and knee (Literacy and Communication)

Fatima A…for 7 minutes of head control and ball play on the half wedge (Personal and Social Capability)

Gabby K…for significantly increased use of signing, P2G and vocalisations to communicate in the classroom (Literacy and Communication)

Haalah H…for developing the confidence to say “Hello” without prompt support. (Literacy and Communication)

Haalah H…for hearing her friend cry and giving her the trolley to cheer her up (Personal and Social Capability)

Hadrien S…for participating and interacting with others during filming for the book, “I GOT THIS HAT” (Literacy and Communication)

Hayden W…for consistently vocalising and attempting to say “Hi” when greeting his friends (Literacy and Communication)

Isabel D…for communicating well and making great choices in our letter writing lessons (Literacy and Communication)

Izzie G…for enjoying an interaction with her classmate (Personal and Social Capability)

Izzie H…for completing personal care tasks independently (Personal and Social Capability)

Joel W…for demonstrating safe and friendly play with his friends in the new playground (Personal and Social Capability)

Katana D…for walking all the way to class independently after being dropped at the bus set-down (Personal and Social Capability)

Katana D…for repeating “Bye Gabby” and independently saying “Bye” to Hayden when he left class (Literacy and Communication)

Kate T…for a great job signing in (Literacy and Communication)

Kayla N…for remembering to use spaces in her sentences (Literacy and Communication)

Kyoungmin K…for playing the correct video clips at the right time during the morning routine (ICT Capability)

Lara D…for participating and interacting with others during filming for the book “I GOT THIS HAT” (Literacy and Communication)

Liam H…for independently demonstrating his awareness for class routines every day (Personal and Social Capability)

Logan F…for verbalizing the “day of the week” during the morning routine (Literacy and Communication)

Malakai D…for feeling more self-confident when transitioning between different environments (Personal and Social Capability)

Max M…for waiting and walking with his friends to and from class (Personal and Social Capability)

Max M…for independently setting up for his writing sessions by collecting his book, glue, pen and alphabet chart and returning to his desk (Literacy and Communication)

Michael D-F…for giving such a big effort in his gym sessions (Michael has added weights to his program and is smashing it!) (Personal and Social Capability)

Michael H…for making great progress with his personal care routines (Personal and Social Capability)

Nick B…for improved focus and listening skills when following 2-step instructions (Literacy and Communication)
Noah G…building his confidence while learning basic addition (Numeracy)
Oscar J… for using gentle hands when requesting to go outside for a break (Personal and Social Capability)
Quoc T… for maintaining his concentration whilst making excellent choices during an art lesson (Personal and Social Capability)
Riya P… for taking the time to learn her sight words and write them out perfectly (Literacy and Communication)
Riya P… for taking the time to learn her sight words and write them out perfectly (Literacy and Communication)
Sam D… for building his confidence while learning basic addition (Numeracy)
Savannah D… for independently counting to 5 and 6 on the dice (Numeracy)
Savannah D… for telling her TA in the playground for the first time that she needed to go to the bathroom (Personal and Social Capability)
Savannah D… for using the “Goodbye Bottle, Goodbye Dummy” book until things were no longer needed at home anymore (Personal and Social Capability)
T.J M… for walking everywhere around the school for an entire WEEK… to class, to the office, and to visit friends in other classrooms (Personal and Social Capability)
Tyson G… for putting his lunchbox away independently (Personal and Social Capability)

Many of our senior students received certificates for completing a module through the ASDAN awards scheme...
Taylor H… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
Daelle B… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
Michael D-F… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
Bernard L… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
T.J M… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
Reilly N… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
Nick T… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
Raquel L… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
Student 1… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF
Student 2… KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF

Students have also received awards for “Excellence in Learning in the Library”...
Claude B Lara D Amelia V Abbey G Hadrian S Kate T Fatima A Elliot L Nicholas B