‘MOSS GOSS’

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August 2014

Important Events to Remember:                          Dates:

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From the Principal

Thank you sincerely to all at MOSS who have helped to make me feel very welcome. Previous to this location, I have worked in a variety of special schools and special education settings, including the role of Mater Hospital School Principal for the past six years. I look forward to working alongside staff, parents, students and community members to ensure that collaboratively, we assist each student to reach their very best learning potential.

Staff changes

Please welcome the following staff in their new roles across the school campus:

- Hollie Bailey - Chaplain
- Sarah Hansen – Business Services Manager
- Helen Gilmour – Administrative Officer
- Lyn Henderson – Administrative Officer- ECDP

Staff should be commended on their professionalism in these roles and their collegiality and support of each other during the transition phase.

State Showcase Awards – Excellence in Community Partnerships

Last week, as a Regional Showcase Award winner, MOSS was eligible to submit an application for the State Showcase Awards – Excellence in Community Partnerships. Congratulations to the whole school community for this initiative. Sincere thanks to Jim and Bettina for collating the data and writing the application. Whilst we were not named as State finalists, we all continue to celebrate the great success of this program and our burgeoning partnerships both locally and internationally.
School priorities and accountability

The leadership team has begun streamlining the school priorities identified in the school strategic plan into three core priorities. The intention of this process is to ensure the whole school community is aware of and embraces same. It will also serve to ensure high levels of accountability within the leadership team and across the school by aligning priority areas with key actions and performance measures. Meeting structures will also align to the priority areas, ensuring collegial and professional discussions are focused on the priorities, thus improving student learning outcomes. Identified priorities include:

- Differentiated high quality curriculum planning and implementation to improve learning
- Improved student outcomes through collaborative partnerships and holistic, evidence based approaches
- High Performance teams

Literacy and Numeracy Week

Our school community will celebrate Literacy and Numeracy Week on Wednesday 27 August. We welcome and encourage parents and community members to participate in the celebrations which will include showcasing student work and active participation in the teaching and learning process. Further details will be provided in the coming weeks.

Facebook Page and Q Schools App

As we seek to increase opportunities for two-way communication between school and home we will shortly be launching a Facebook page and Q Schools App for you to access on your smartphone or mobile device.

More information will follow shortly.

Discipline Audit

On August 26th MOSS will undertake a Discipline Audit. This is a process where an independent, experienced school principal (Discipline Auditor) visits the school to collect a range of data and information about school wide behavior programs, practices and procedures. The Discipline Audit Instrument has five domains which the school is audited against:

- Principal Leadership.
- Parent and Community Engagement.
- Data Informed Decision Making.
- Clear Consistent Expectations for Behaviour (this includes consequences).
- Explicit Teaching of Appropriate Behaviour to all Students.

Preparation for the Discipline Audit is timely as the school prepares to cater for the changing needs of the school population.

Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Qld Chapter)

The 11th Biennial ECIA National Conference will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on August 27 – 30 and is hosted by the Queensland Chapter. ECIA is the peak body that promotes the interests of infants and young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. Conference participants will hear from eminent international and national keynote speakers about dynamic programs and services, as well as parent speakers who are taking an active role in working with early childhood intervention practitioners and families.

Congratulations to Sandra Schuptar – Chairperson of the Qld Chapter who, alongside a great team, has been instrumental in ensuring this event will be very informative for both parents and professionals.

Please visit the ECIA Qld website for more information, including a special conference rate for parents.

Warm Regards

Susan Christensen
From the Deputy Principal

Have you ever had the experience of making a statement that you are sure is true, only to have someone else check it out and maybe question whether things are correct or not?

Teachers have this happen all the time. In an education setting, there is a whole process around checking and agreeing on the results of students (or statements about their learning) that is called Moderation.

This month, one of our Senior teachers will be going to a kind of regional moderation day, with lots of teachers from other special schools and high schools. They will be considering the learning of senior students in their final years of school. Each teacher will take with them “Statements of Achievement” made about each graduate, which will be formally prepared into their QUEENSLAND CERTIFICATE OF INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT. They also take a pack of “evidence” of this learning, such as photos, school reports, video clips, work samples, web and newsletter articles etc. These are used by the moderating teachers to check that what is written about a student is true.

We have three young, wonderful Mt Ommaney Special School people expecting to graduate at the end of 2014; Briana, Joshua and Nathanael. Their teachers have been reflecting back over the last 2-3 years of their senior schooling and highlighting the learning progress they have made. These conversations are so positive, with teachers showing their deep knowledge of each student and being able to identify their real efforts and genuine achievements.

The process of recording these achievements in a formal way is managed by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority or QCAA (this was, until recently, the QSA, or Queensland Studies Authority.) The QCAA is the government agency that, among many other responsibilities, issues certification for students at the end of their schooling.

So, sometime in January, during the school holidays, senior secondary school students all over Queensland will receive in the mail, their own certificates of school/education completion. For our students and other students with special needs on highly individualised learning programs, their QCIA will arrive. This is a certificate tailor-made for each student – it is an “individualised” certificate (by its very name!!) and celebrates the learning of that one young person. I doubt that there would ever be two QCIA’s that are exactly the same, because the challenges and achievements of our young people with special needs are absolutely unique.

I have copied in here some of the things that our teachers will be saying about our graduates, as a bit of a sample to whet your interest: you will note that the language seems quite “formal”. This is because of the requirements of government processes around certification. When you read these, I know that you will have the eyes, mind and heart of a parent who has also watched your own child grow and try and learn across their whole life...

- Plays preferred cause-and-effect games on the computer using a head switch.
- Communicates choices and needs by eye-pointing, body language and picture symbols with support.
- Interacts positively with trusted adults during personal care routines.
- Relaxes body and calmly responds to unplanned changes in daily routines.
- Makes choices by looking at and reaching for symbols of preferred activities.
- Uses a switch and touch screen to access motivating cause and effect software.
- Watches and maintains interest in videos of familiar people on a small screen.
- Walks short distances in familiar locations with supervision.
- Completes familiar daily tasks with assistance.
- Recognises familiar objects in anticipation of a preferred leisure activity.
Holds and directs adult hand to access motivating software.
- Rides an adapted bicycle on flat surfaces with support.
- Follows a program of water-based activities for independent movement with support.
- Holds and directs adult hand to play basic musical instruments.
- Moves body rhythmically when listening to music.
- Responds to verbal and physical cues to assist carers during familiar gross motor activities.

Maybe these statements give you a little insight into the kinds of learning that has been going on for these and other senior students. Maybe you can “see” your own child in class, working towards similar goals. But whether you can or not, I know that you will, along with the teachers and other staff who support, encourage and celebrate the successes of our students every day, be wishing Josh, Briana, Nathanael and their families well for the months ahead.

Below is a list of the students who have received Special ‘Student of the Week Awards’ at Assembly this term...

Abbey...for being so focused during table top activities (Personal and Social Capability)

Annalis...for active participation during sensory play (Personal and Social Capability)

Antony...for independently carrying his school bag to and from his classroom (Personal and Social Capability)

Ben...for trying all the activities in sensory play time (Personal and Social Capability)

Buster...for making good progress in carrying his own bag (Personal and Social Capability)

Buster...for being so focused during table top activities (Personal and Social Capability)

Carissa...for improved social skills during sensory group time (Personal and Social Capability)

Charlotte...for showing enthusiasm and being so focused during table top activities (Personal and Social Capability)

Clairdee...for 15 independent pedalling rotations during bike riding (Personal and Social Capability)

Dan...for independently riding his bike and ringing the bell (Personal and Social Capability)

Hadrian...for being so focused during table top activities (Personal and Social Capability)

Isabel...for sitting independently on the mat (Personal and Social Capability)

Izzy G...for saying single words during Circle time and Mealtimes (Literacy and Communication)

Izzy H...for her appropriate behaviour when getting off the bus after horse riding (Personal and Social Capability)
Jordan...for achieving his ILP goal of making requests Using Proloquo2Go (Literacy and Communication)

Joseph...for successfully achieving his ILP goal of opening 5 containers (Personal and Social Capability)

Joshua...for 20 minutes of independent work on the Interactive Whiteboard (Personal and Social Capability)

Joshua...for listening so well to instructions when shredding paper in class (Personal and Social Capability)

Maryam...for being a fantastic chef during class cooking activities (Personal and Social Capability)

Maryam...for being a good friend, all week (Ethical Behaviour)

Max...for expressing a personal opinion (like and don’t like) during Science (Literacy and Communication)

Michael...for improved focus when completing table top activities (Personal and Social Capability)

Oscar...for excellent participation in Circle time, when giving a High 5 to say “Hello” (Literacy and Communication)

Sarah...for learning a new work skill – unloading cartons from the top car park and stacking them in her classroom (Personal and Social Capability)

Sarah...for taking turns with a friend to complete a job in class (Personal and Social Capability)

Sarah...excellent behaviour in class: doing a wonderful job following instructions, waiting her turn, and interacting with her classmates (Personal and Social Capability)

T.J...for taking turns with a friend to complete a job in class (Personal and Social Capability)

Student...for developing skills to independently control his wheelchair (Personal and Social Capability)

Student...for settling back into school routines so well (Personal and Social Capability)

Zackary...for being so focused during table top activities (Personal and Social Capability)
From the Nurses

We have received a small donation of medical supplies. There are 2 boxes of Nutricia Flocare Pack set Gravity feeding lines (they attach to the 500ml / 1 Litre feeding bags).

We also have 2 boxes of Nestle Resource Plus tetra packs (high protein, energy dense supplement) in Vanilla and Strawberry flavour.

If you are interested in any of the above please contact Ainsley or Helen on 3717 6888.

Thank you

Helen & Ainsley, State School Registered Nurses

Equipment Loans

A Brighter Future Organisation Inc. has a lot of equipment in storage currently waiting to be loaned out. The equipment can be loaned to children who have Cerebral Palsy or a similar disorder for home or school use. For more information please view the A Brighter Futures website which contains information about equipment available for a long term loan.

Welcome Hollie

Hi MOSS students, parents and teachers. I am very excited to be introducing myself to you all as the new school chaplain. When Carolyn told me about the chaplaincy role at Mt Ommaney I was really excited and applied for the job.

I have a background working with young people and adults with intellectual disabilities and I am social work trained. I hope to be able to offer any appropriate skills I have and I am sure I will learn a lot along the way. The role of a school Chaplain is to provide social, emotional and spiritual support to students, parents and staff.

So far, I have felt very welcomed at school and I look forward to meeting lots more of you when our paths cross. I will be at the school on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week and helping out in the ECDP on Wednesday mornings.

If you see me around, please say hi.
P&C News

Welcome to our new Principal, Susan Christensen. The P&C looks forward to working with Susan.

Vacation Care

As most of you are aware, UnitingCare Community runs a Vacation Care Program at MOSS in the Dec/Jan, June/July and September school holidays. Veronica Molini, Program Coordinator from UnitingCare Community, will be attending our next P&C meeting on Monday 8 September to discuss the vacation care program being offered during the upcoming September holidays and any future changes.

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Thank you to all the families who expressed an interest in OSHC for their child. Things are underway with Multicap currently working on getting a program up and running, which they hope to start before the end of the year. I will provide further information via email to all families who expressed an interest shortly. We also hope to have a representative from Multicap attend a P&C meeting soon to provide information to families.

Centenary Rotary

The P&C wishes to thank the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary for its recent donation. We look forward to supporting Centenary Rotary in its annual Fun Run/Walk again next year.

Baby & Kids Market

Thank you to the amazing team of volunteers below who contributed to such a successful market event. In addition the 50 volunteers who baked, erected signs and helped on the day, many families donated items to the P&C table which certainly contributed to a record profit of $3,500!

Kylie Jayasinghe  Karen Cramer  Mark Cramer  Grace Cramer
Sarah Santos  Amma Laila  Glen Middleton  Melissa Farrell
Mike Bourke  Angela Bourke  Patrick Tyrrell  Brenda Tyrrell
Bettina Moffatt  Jackie Cox  Liza Raggatt  Duncan Guthrie
John Vandeule  Sondra Vandeule  Chrissy Hamilton  Carol Harrison
Judith Gillingham  Shubh Gupta  Martin Smith  Isla Green
Jean McCausland-Green  Shabnam Rigg  Sumara Rigg  Ric Day
Jen McDonald  Lynelle Armitage  Karen Walton  Jasmeena Parekh
Carolyn Swann  Sandra Schuptar  Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary

Also a special thank you our market sponsors; Little Munchkins Toy Hire, Kindy News, Tarnya Smith MP, Simone Perele and Bernie Rippol MP.
Father’s Day Family Fun Day

The next Family Fun Day will be held on Sunday 7 September which will align with the 2014 Art Show. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 8 September at 6:30pm in the Staff Room. All welcome.

Regards,

Sondra Vandeuler
President
pandc@mtommanespecs.eq.edu.au

Sailors with DisAbilities

Sailors ahoy!

Captain’s log twenty-fourth of July in the year two thousand and fourteen.

It was an hour after sunrise when the order was given to six lucky sailors-to-be to assemble for a swashbuckling adventure on the high seas.

The finest sailors were selected to crew the Sailors with DisAbilities yacht Kayle- a racing yacht that has sailed and continues to enter the Sydney-Hobart race and holds the record for circumnavigating Australia in the shortest time. This million dollar vessel was to carry its precious cargo across the waves of the Southern Pacific- well, about 6km off the Gold Coast really.

Those charged with the duties of skippering, navigating and scrubbing the decks were Sailor Michael, Sailor Raquel, Commodore Mason, Captain Julia and Admiral Ally. Every good sea-story has a stow away- and we found Katie who had snuck on board to join in on the adventure.

The sun was shining, the air was warm, the wind was gentle and the kids were pumped! We experienced a bit of wave hopping as we headed out of the Southport Broadwater and through the Gold Coast seaway.

Then the sail went up and away we all went, heading to the breaching whales on the horizon. We didn’t quite make it all the way to the whales, but there were plenty of opportunities for all the students to steer, climb out to the bow, sit with their feet over the edge of the deck and feel the rhythm of the waves as we cruised about.

We’ll let the photos tell the rest of the story, but a great time was had by all. A big thank-you to the crew of Kayle and especially the parents of our sailing students for getting the kids in to school at 7am. It was well worth the effort.

End of captain’s log.
A wonderful opportunity for families to come together socially with lots of fun activities for our students and their siblings!

Sunday 7th September
1 - 4 pm
Adventure Playground

- Face Painting
- Pony rides
- Free Men’s Health Checks
- Bouncy Castle & much much more!

Please RSVP to Jim Green at jgree345@eq.edu.au or phone 3717 6888