In This Edition:
From the Principal
From the Deputy Principal
Head of Curriculum
From the Support Services (Chaplain)
ECDP (Early Child Development Program)
Early Years Sector Leader
Middle Years Sector Leader
Senior Years Sector Leader
Intensive Interaction Team
Student Awards
P&C
Parent and Community Engagement
Advertising

Dates to Remember:
End of Term 4: Fri 11th Dec
Christmas Day: Fri 25th Dec
Boxing Day: Mon 28th Dec
New Years Eve: Fri 1st Jan
Student Free Day: Mon 25th Jan
Australia Day: Tue 26th Jan
Start of Term 1: Wed 27th Jan

From the Principal

Leadership brings with it great responsibility. Everything leaders do is about providing a service and at MOSS that service is to our students, our families and our school community. As school leaders it is our moral purpose to ensure each student has access to a quality curriculum and quality teaching. It is our moral purpose to ensure our students feel safe, valued and respected. It is our moral purpose to work collaboratively and honestly with our families. It is our moral purpose to know what is right and important to do, to know what needs to be done and what must be done.

How do we then have the agency and courage to act with morale purpose? The answer to this rhetorical question is through energy, drive, spirit and dedication and a willingness to put our students and families at the heart of all decision making. It is our hope that as a school community we continue to work purposefully and with trust. Thank you to our wonderful families for working in this manner with us throughout 2015.

We have a number of staff leaving MOSS this year – Charlotte Thompson, Alastair Hanna, Bridget Harvey, Amanda Li and Kirsty Patterson. Thank you to each of these staff members - we wish you all the very best. We also wish Ben Holt and Katy Bliss best wishes during their time of leave from MOSS next year.

Jim Green, our Education Program Officer will be on leave from MOSS during Term 1 2016. Jim has accepted a position as Business Development Manager at the McIntyre Centre Riding for Disabled. Whist we will be having a more formalised farewell for Jim in 2016 I’d like to take this opportunity to thank him for his leadership and commitment to the students and families of MOSS. One of the great pieces of work that Jim has led more recently was the development and implementation of our Parent and Community Engagement strategic plan.

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 2016, we have six new teachers joining Team MOSS. You may have already met some of these teachers as three of them recently completed their internships with us – Tamra-Lee Roberts, Courtney Murphy and Claudia Attard. Further, we welcome Zac Stamenvovic from Goodna Special School, Myriam Dayus from Western Suburbs Special School and Yasmin Harper from Darling Point Special School. Each of our new teachers join MOSS with great enthusiasm and excitement to be part of our team and to work with your children.

Under the governments Extra Teachers Initiative our school has been given extra Deputy Principal time. This additional time is welcomed as the school grows. The successful applicant was Mike Curtis. Mike is currently working in the role of Head of Special Education Services across eight local schools. Formerly, he was a sector leader at Goodna Special School. Mike has valuable experience with Senior Schooling and one of his roles in 2016 will be to lead a Senior Schooling Steering Committee which will involve working very closely with families in our middle and early years.

This week we had our final assembly for 2015. It was an honour to have Tarnya Smith MP at our assembly. Tarnya presented awards to our senior students who are leaving MOSS – Grace Martin, Timothy Chan-Mitchell and Sarah Punter. Thank you Grace, Tim and Sarah you have taught us so much, we will miss each of you and we wish you good health and lots of fun in your future life pathways.

Best wishes for a safe and holy Christmas. I hope you have time with your families and friends and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Warm regards
Susan Christensen
Another year is coming to an end...

I know that for many of us, this time of the year can sometimes feel just a little too busy. There are so many catch ups and celebrations, each one necessary for one reason or another. This week it was the school’s Christmas party and break up; always a great night of children and their families enjoying being together and celebrating the learning and fun that has been going on throughout the year. These end of year events are so important for many reasons, not the least of these being that they often acknowledge changes already experienced, or still to come.

Another regular “marker” of the end of a year in schools is the preparation and sending home of each child’s end of semester report. These are the final part of the planning, teaching, reviewing and reporting cycle that schools depend on to support student learning. I know that our teachers are very proud of the efforts your children have made in all MOSS classes this semester and across the whole year. They have been sharing a wide variety of their success stories with each other, with the sector leaders, with our HoC, Tracy, with our Master Teacher, Bernie and with Susan and myself as well. Sometimes, your child will bring home a Student of the Week award that reflects that very particular success.

This semester, our end of semester student reports will reflect a slightly different process that you, as parents, helped to shape with your feedback. Working with Alastair and Tracy, a small group of you reviewed how we planned for both the prioritised individual goals for students, as well as Australian Curriculum requirements. Your comments and suggestions resulted in our one document, the Individual Curriculum Plan, showing these learning expectations in a more straightforward and user friendly way. Thank you so much to each of you for your valuable effort and input. A big thank you also to the teachers and sector leaders for the preparation and considerable support around editing that has been done this semester.

To follow on from this work already done, we will be seeking our parents’ feedback again in the new year about this most recent report. We will want to know from you if it flows on from the changes to the ICP, if it made sense and if you believe that it reflected the learning that you have hoped for and seen this semester. We will also want to hear from you if you can suggest other ways that this process might be improved.

As at the end of every semester, we, the whole MOSS team, are hoping that your child’s report will be read, shared and valued.

Warm regards
Karen Walton (Deputy Principal)
From the Head of Curriculum - Tracy Cronin

It is this time of year that we really start to reflect on the successes and achievements both of our students and of our staff. At Mount Ommaney this can be quite a long list.

Firstly, I would like to recognise the huge achievement of the Intensive Interaction team in becoming State Finalists for the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools 2015. That was a very proud moment for all involved. It is also important to recognise the great work Janee has done across the school as our Intensive Interaction Coach.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work that Sue has done as Literacy Coach and to congratulate Shubh who will also be taking on the mantle of Literacy Coach in 2016. Sue and I are currently ensuring that the literacy data goes onto our One School system. Thank you also to our Master Teacher Bernie. Bernie’s action research project around the “Explicit Instruction of Early Numeration” has resulted in consistently improved student learning outcomes.

Thank you also to our Drama coaches Kate and Louise who led both the drama directional committee and also worked closely with students from Griffith Film School to develop our end of year school presentation. They guided the film students and had clear and high expectations of what they wanted to focus on for each classroom.

In 2016 we will be introducing a new updated data collection system across the campus that will assist us all in tracking these wonderful achievements. We will also be introducing a new re-vamped Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework for the campus. This has been an exciting collaborative process and I look forward to working with everyone involved again next year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of every one of our students and thank the small team of parents who have been open and reflective in their conversations with regards to Individual Curriculum Plans and Reporting. Let’s keep the conversations going in 2016.

I love watching your achievements and progress every day. Enjoy your rest (it is well deserved). Have a great holiday, best wishes, Tracy.

From the Numeracy Coach – Bernie Ellis – Numeracy Data

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers, students and parents at Mount Ommaney Special School for the wonderful year I have had here in your school. Originally my tenure here was for the 2015 year alone, however this has now been extended to the end of 2016.

Across 2016 several classrooms participated in the Action Research Project which examined the impact Explicit Teaching of Early Numeration had on student outcomes. I can very proudly say that due to the consistent efforts of both teachers and students the data is nothing short of amazing.

The evidence based practice of Explicit Teaching requires students to be set individual learning goals and receive feedback each day on their progress. Teachers consistently model how to carry out the set tasks and to allow opportunities for the students to work collaboratively with the both the teacher and other students. Finally, when a student has had lots of support to acquire the skill, they are given opportunities to demonstrate the skill independently.

Teachers within the project were also required to carefully consider the learning needs of each individual student to ensure they were adjusting materials and providing students appropriate systems to communicate their understanding and knowledge.

The teachers have worked diligently across the entire project and the students have been nothing short of inspirational with their determined progress. So to all of you and the administration team at MOSS – thank you for enabling this to occur. I wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you next year. Kind regards Bernie Ellis - Master Teacher
From the Literacy Coach – Sue Gaston

Letters, words, sounds, writing, stories, alphabet explorations, shared reading.

All of these activities have created an exciting year of developing our literacy learning throughout the school. It has been a pleasure to be in many different classrooms across the school and to be part of the student’s literacy learning journey.

It is so wonderful to read the stories written by the middle years students, to see the books created by the seniors about their learning activities and to read the sentences created by the children in the early years. It is exciting to visit classrooms where children are enjoying reading books or classes engaged together in shared reading. It fills me with pride to see the great achievements of our students this year. I am very excited to see where this journey will lead us next year.

So what can you do over the holidays to continue your student’s literacy journey?

Christmas and the holidays provide lots of opportunities for literacy based activities.

Here are just a few.

Write Christmas cards with your children. If they can write, have them write the name of the person on the card. If they can't write, use a copy of a keyboard or an alphabet chart and have them find the first letter of the name of the person you are writing to, or spell out the whole name if they can.

Write a letter to Santa.

Talk to your teacher about how your child “writes” – alphabet flip chart, alphabet chart on one sheet, computer keyboard, iPad and make this available for your child at home.

Gather up the catalogues around the house and allow your child to choose what they want for Christmas. Cut the pictures our then have your child write the letter.

- Model writing the letter to Santa for them. Talk about your process as you write.
- Now it’s your child’s turn.
- Don’t forget to celebrate their success no matter what the finished product looks like.
- Put it in an envelope and post it.
- (You can still sign up to have a letter sent to your child from Santa)

Ideas for Christmas presents.

- Books for reading - you know your child’s favourite topics, hunt books down about the topic.
- If they rip books - photocopy the book and laminate it.
- Small whiteboards (available Kmart, Woolworths, Officeworks etc) to explore writing and whiteboard pens
- Pens, pencils, crayons, chalk etc to write with
- Scrapbooks to write in
- A notebook for your student to use as a journal to “write” in every day
- Sing Christmas Carols with you children. Help them hear the rhythm and the rhymes in the songs.
- Take lots of photos of Christmas, people and your holidays.
- Keep special mementos of the holidays.
- Have your child choose a photo or a memento and have them write about it.
- Share this with your family and friends. Turn it into a book.
- Visit the library. Borrow books to read together. Make it a special outing on the holidays.

READ, READ, READ. Read to your children. Read every day. Read things you like to read. Read books you child enjoys. TALK, TALK, TALK about the stories.

Thanks for letting me be part of your child’s journey this year.

Most of all have a really wonderful Christmas and an enjoyable holiday together with your family. I’m looking forward to hearing all about it next year from your children.
We are filled with little stars who shine brightly in the sky, our little stars give all they have they try, and try, and try. Now our little stars are shooting on their way to new galaxies, we know that they will glow so brightly and be the best that they can be. We wish all our little stars and their families, all the very best for their next step in their journey.

The staff at the ECDP would like to wish all of our 45 ‘star’ Graduates and their families all the best as they transition to Prep in 2016.

Police Visit

The staff and students at the ECDP have enjoyed a busy, yet wonderful term. We have enjoyed having a visit from the local Police to meet our Adopt-a-Cop Tom. The Police arrived at the ECDP with their police car and had a great time with the children dressing up and getting into the police car and van. It was wonderful to see the relationships being formed between the children and the officers.

Staff

We welcomed Kathrine Anderson and Chrissy Hamilton to the teaching team for term 4, as Gail Stoner left due to personal reasons. Kathryn and Chrissy have been very supportive in taking on the classes for the rest of the term. Thanks to you both! Thank you also to all of the teachers and teacher aides who have done supply work with us at the ECDP over the year!

Individual Education Plans And Transition Plans

Teachers have been working hard to complete IEP reviews, IEPS and Transition Plans for families for the end of the year. All families will be given a copy of their child’s IEP to take home. If their child is transitioning to a new setting, they will also receive a Person-Centred Profile or Transition Plan to take to their child’s new educational setting.

Garden

We would like to say a big thank you to Jane Cosman for her tremendous gardening skills to help weed our vegetable garden at the ECDP. Also, thank you to Nikki Bernia for taking all the clippings away! Our vegetable garden has had a lot of parent input this year so thank you to everyone who has supported us. It will be a top project for the New Year as we are in the process of applying for a grant to concrete the pathway to hopefully stop our weed problem.

Graduation

On Wednesday 2nd December we will be holding the Graduation ceremony for our 45 children who will be transitioning out of the ECDP to Prep. We are so proud of all of the children and would like to wish them all the very best for their transition to big school. Some of the children have been with us since Playgroup, so, although there will certainly be tears, they will be happy ones!

Volunteers

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our volunteers who have supported us to engage the children in our educational programs over the term, including: Rama, Tanya, Evan, Nora, Emma and Reena.

Holidays

Wishing all of our families a safe and happy holiday break. Thank you for all of your support and help over the term and indeed the year. It has been a truly wonderful time.

Kind regards, Melissa, Katie, Sandra, Chrissy, Katherine, Jenny, Linda, Julie, Lyn and Ju
From the Early Years Sector

I don’t know about you, but I can’t believe how fast the end of the year has come around again. Whilst it is a busy and crazy time of year, it is a wonderful time for us to reflect and see how far all the students have come in less than twelve months.

2015 saw the biggest intake of prep students in the school so far. These eleven students settled in well to their new life at school, and have gone on to develop many connections with their teachers and other students in the school.

This year was also the first year we had such a large number of students have a set play time together every day. This was a wonderful experience for both staff and students to interact with each other outside the familiarities of the classroom. The students were able to get to know each other and some began to play together without adult intervention.

Having had the pleasure of working with all the teachers this year, it has been amazing to hear about all the achievement’s the students have had within the classroom. The students have shown progress in all their learning areas and we hope to continue this into next year.

Next year will bring some new staff into the school and some familiar faces move on. Charlotte Thompson has accepted a transfer to a new school for 2016 and I am sure she will get to use all she has learnt from our students here at MOSS in her new position. Good luck Charlotte.

Hannah Tucker will be returning next year from maternity leave and will be the new team leader and I am sure she will bring amazing skills and knowledge to make the Early Years in 2016 even better than it has been.

At the beginning of the year, Will one of our new teachers wrote the newsletter article. I thought it would be good to have him reflect about his first year here at MOSS as he prepares for another new year.

“2015 has been a massive year full of joy, laughter and growth. The students have worked tremendously hard exploring the arts, mathematics, English and science. We have immersed ourselves in a world of imagination, knowledge and play to explore letter names and sounds, days of the week, numerals, shapes and investigated the difference between living and nonliving. I am so proud to see how far the students have come in such a short time. I’m honoured to have taught such amazing kids who are so thoughtful, compassionate, funny and intelligent. I would like to wish all the students a happy and safe Christmas and I look forward to 2016 and the adventures it will bring.”

All of us in the Early Years wish you all a Happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Katy Bliss
From the Middle Years Sector Leader

Heat and humidity outdoors and Christmas Carols flooding the grocery aisles indoors all point the end of the school year. As this is our final newsletter of the year it is good to reflect on a number of goals we set ourselves in January.

Our primary goal is to create classroom environments in which children feel safe, valued, respected for their uniqueness and academically supported and challenged. To achieve this we require productive partnerships with parents with open and respectful communication. It is has been wonderful to see each of the students in our classrooms grow in confidence throughout the year allowing us to get to know them and their ways of working better. Sincere thanks to our families for the open dialogue and the way in which you have given us the information we need to work with your children in the way that best suits them.

Increasing our students’ ability to communicate is central to our curriculum. This year we have enhanced our way of working by trialling four sessions a week of streamed literacy delivery where students are grouped with those of similar support needs. Incorporating a Balanced Literacy approach using the Four Blocks Model, Intensive Interaction Pedagogy and play based learning in environments in which the students’ sensory needs have been met has proved effective with students demonstrating some terrific learning gains. Much credit here to Shubh for her passionate commitment to developing her own capacity as a teacher of literacy for the benefit of our middle school students. In a similar way we looked to trial an explicit approach to numeracy delivery for some students as part of a project run by our Numeracy Coach Bernie alongside our play and experiential approaches. Again we are very pleased with the gains made by the majority of our students.

Information and Communication technology is embedded within our content delivery. We believe that these methods can provide a voice and/or solution to a number of barriers faced by our students. This year we have been innovative in the use of tablet devices both within the classroom and to communicate with a number of parents.
Connecting our students with their communities has been an exciting focus of our middle years programme this year. We are very aware of our need to develop in our students the capacity to demonstrate their communication and social skills outside of the safe predictable environment of our classrooms. To this end we were strategic in developing a range of experiences for our students designed to provide them with access to the local community. We formed a relationship with the local high school with our students travelling there for sports activities and their students coming to us weekly for a semester. It was amazing to see our students respond so positively and appropriately during these interactions with some genuine friendships occurring. Our outings, the horse riding programme at the McIntyre Centre and our participation in the Met West athletes with a disability events provided opportunities for different students to mix with others in unfamiliar environments. We have also formed a relationship with the local swim club with students from our sector participating in learn to swim classes.

As you may be aware I have decided that this term will be my last at MOSS as I move to take up an opportunity at another school. Sincere thanks to our families who have entrusted me with your most precious belongings. Your children have motivated me, amused me, challenged me and have taught me to be a better person. As parents you have been patient with my failings and so full of support and praise for the successes we have shared. I have been fortunate to work alongside a cohort of talented and dedicated staff. When I first came to Mt Ommaney I was struck by the deep knowledge that each staff member had of the students that they worked with. I was also impressed with dignity and respect with which each child was treated. As teachers we know that the real work in our classrooms is done by the teacher aides and I am so grateful for the highly skilled and professional teacher aides with whom I have worked with. The world of special education is a small one so we will undoubtedly bump into each other again at some stage.

Until then, Goodbye. Alastair.
From the Senior Years Sector Leader

We are coming close to the end of the year and we will have three of our Senior students graduating: Tim, Grace and Sarah! We will be very sad to see them go, as they have all taught us so much. We have been going through all of our photos, looking at all the wonderful things that they have accomplished. Tim, Grace and Sarah will be graduating on the 9th December, which will be a fabulous night to celebrate all of their achievements.

This term we have continued to incorporate literacy and numeracy skills into our curriculum. We have been doing this through our ASDAN program where we have continued with our cooking module. This will be completed early 2016 to be moderated. ASDAN will continue into next year with some new and exciting programs. The Seniors were also given a fantastic opportunity to pilot a new Horse Care Program at the McIntyre Centre which spanned over 6 weeks. Nick, Taylor, Daelle and Bella all gained so much experience through this program. The students were on task throughout each session, where students were given opportunities to interact, groom, and lead a horse. It was lovely to see the students connecting with the horses. Hopefully this will continue next year.

Throughout this term the staff has been meeting together to plan and organise end of year activities to celebrate our graduating seniors schooling years. This year we have planned an excursion to Ten Pin Bowling so the students get to put their weekly practice at school into a game situation. We will have a fancy lunch at Sizzler. And we are also having some fantastic incursions at school, such as: a Movie Day, and some water-play days. This has been a great opportunity for the Seniors to join together and experience each other’s company.

We would all like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to teach and get to know your children. We hope that they have had a wonderful year and that you all have a fantastic break over Christmas! And we will see the remaining Senior Students next year!
From the Intensive Interaction Team

A glittering gala dinner. A state award recognizing our success. But no amount of smoked salmon, glamorous frocks and chandeliers can compare with that excitement, that lump in your throat when a student looks into your eyes for the first time; reaches out for you; smiles with you; or says “more”.

This year staff and parents have enjoyed their own personal gala moments. Take a moment, relive that feeling and be inspired.

While we’re taking a moment, let’s acknowledge the year that was 2015. Across our school and especially with the students we work with, student progress and success come in many different forms. Astoundingly, every student has positively developed the way in which they connect with people and the world around them. Every. Single. Student- no matter their abilities and understandings. For our senior students, this has meant that instead of being content to exist focussed upon themselves and spending a majority of their time alone and disconnected, they now find each other to sit and interact in their own intensive interaction sessions. Students are reaching out for other students to join in with them and play. If we can get our students to play, the world of play based learning begins to open up. It’s a developmental step that most of us take for granted, but for our students it means the world.

For some of our students, utilising intensive interaction has consolidated their understandings of social connectedness. This has meant that by teaching them the value of interacting with others, enjoying being with other people using the skills of facial expression, physical contacts and vocalising, our students are wanting to connect with others more often and this is appearing through increased use of using words, signs and gestures- not because of rigid training, but rather they now understand the power of getting their message across and can understand some of the messages coming back to them. This is where language development will really take off.

With so many positive developments occurring through this teaching approach, the decision has been made to ensure that intensive interaction will be occurring across a greater number of classes in 2016. II at Mount Ommaney has grown out of the confines of a specific sector and for so many of our students will be another learning opportunity they can access just like swimming, art, numeracy or bike riding. With access to a learning approach that consolidates fundamental communication knowledge, the positive knock on effects to other areas of learning are incredible and this is why 2016 is going to be so exciting.

“Shallow men believe in luck. Strong men believe in cause and effect.” (R.W Emerson). Our strong man has been Ben Holt, who has boldly steered the team through 2015. Sadly Ben is leaving us for Claremont Special School next year. Ben is tall, his shoes are big, but the spirit of II is strong. 2016 will bring a new pair of shoes, new adventures, new challenges and new successes.

Best wishes for the holidays, may they be full of cause and effects.
From the Chaplain

Farewell from Hollie Bailey

Dear MOSS families, I am off and away for twelve months of maternity leave. In my absence, Hedy Voges-Haug will be here as my replacement. She looks forward to meeting you all and becoming a part of this wonderful school community. I will miss all the students, staff and families of MOSS but look forward to returning in 2017 and catching up with everybody. 😊 Hollie

Hello from Hedy Voges-Haug

A friendly hello to all those in our school community whom I have yet to meet, and a big thanks to those who have already welcomed me. I was thrilled to start here last week filling in for chaplain Hollie whilst she is on 12 months maternity leave; exciting times for Hollie and her husband.

I'm in my 7th year as chaplain at another local school, and will be at MOSS on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and at other times for special events.

Though the students at my other school call me Mrs V, I hope you will call me by my christian name of Hedy, pronounced anyway you like.

Just to tell you a little about myself, I am a very blessed mother of six, an Oma (grandmother) to two, a university student, and am married to a PE teacher and swim coach from St Peters Lutheran College in Indooroopilly. Having an adult daughter with a disability who attended a special school (see photo with my daughter Shari) and my working at Youngcare, in the disability field and in early education, I also bring a caring heart and a listening ear to all here.

Please call me on 0407 128 620 or seek me out at school if you would like a chat or a visit. I feel very privileged to be working amongst the wonderful students, staff and volunteers here. I hope that for next year, you will view me as another one of the support team at MOSS, and I look forward to getting to know you better.

May you have a lovely Christmas. Hedy

From the P&C

Multicap After School Program

Thank you to Multicap for operating a very successful After School Program on Wednesdays this term, which offered lots of fun activities for the students and gave parents some extra ‘free’ time after school hours.

Vacation Care

UnitingCare Community will be operating a Vacation Care Program again at MOSS during the December/January school holidays. Please note, the Program is not running the last week of the holidays (week beginning 18th January).

Fundraising

The P&C fundraising efforts are currently focussing on Phase 1 of the Sensory Playground and Senior Playground. The Plans are currently being completed!

Christmas Party

Thank you to all families who supported the P&C during 2015 and we look forward to seeing everyone back at MOSS next year. Merry Christmas.

Sondra Vandeleur - P&C President
Student of the Week Awards

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

- **Student** … for happy effort when participating in art and cooking activities (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Bernard** … for showing enjoyment with active participation during sensory activities (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Buster** … for becoming more confident when playing with his peers (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Carissa** … for independently writing her name (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Charlie** … for choosing all the letters to write a sentence, all by himself (Literacy and Communication)
- **Chris** … for excellent achievement in developing the skills of shooting a ball into a hoop (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Daelle** … for engaging so well with the horses in the Horse Care Program at the McIntyre Centre (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Student** … for using her vocalisations, eye contacts and facial expressions during Intensive Interactions (Literacy and Communication)
- **Isabel. D** … for high achievement in matching the pictures on her worksheet during a Literacy lesson (Literacy and Communication)
- **Isabella D S** … for excellent effort in doing the work skill activity each day, of taking the recycling to the bin with only verbal cues (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Jordan** … for bravery, investigating and trying new foods (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Julia** … for engaging in active participation during art activities (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Levi** … for his increasing confidence in the water (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Mason** … for active participation during art activities (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Max** … for fantastic independent reading (Literacy and Communication)
- **Michael** … for walking so well around the school (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Reilly** … for doing a fantastic job delivering newspapers after a long rest and following it up with a swim in the afternoon (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Samuel** … for learning to write “hot” all by himself (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Sarah** … for being such a great classmate, for walking so well up to class, for listening to instructions and participating so well (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Taylor** … for doing so well in her first music lesson at school (Personal and Social Capability)
- **Tim** … for kicking 30 times and then after a rest, another 30 kicks during his swimming lesson (Personal and Social Capability)
Parent and Community Engagement

Effective communication between schools, parents, the community and students forms the foundation in developing and maintaining partnerships.

Communication & Decision Making

Parent Communication Surveys

Thank you to everyone who completed our parent surveys. We had an excellent response rate and the responses will provide guidance to our communication strategies in 2016. A number of respondents indicated a wish to talk further and we will follow up with each of you early in the New Year.

Community Collaboration

Adopt a Cop

Tom McKay has been adopted by the school community through the Adopt a Cop program. Tom and his colleague Ben have already spent 2 days in the ECDP and returned to the school on the Christmas party evening where we officially ‘adopted’ them. Great to have you both on board!

Bankwest

Our middle school students have made amazing progress participating in an ‘Animal Fun’ program that enhances their fine and gross motor skills and social and emotional development. We owe a big thank you to Susie Riby and her team at Bankwest, Mt Ommaney and further support from the Indooroopilly and Queen St branches, who have purchased another 3 Animal Fun kits to help us to spread the program throughout the school.

Griffith Film School

Thank you to the students of Griffith Film School who produced ‘Opening Doors’, our 2015 school performance film. The film was showcased to families at the Christmas party evening and can found on our Facebook page and You Tube channel. I’m sure you’ll agree they have done an amazing job!

Thank you

This will be my last article as I am moving on after almost 12 years to undertake a position as Business Development Manager at the McIntyre Centre Riding for Disabled. Thank you to the staff, students, families and community members who have contributed to make my time at Mount Ommaney both enjoyable and incredibly rewarding. Also, a huge thank you to Kerrie for all her work and fresh ideas while sharing the Education Program Officer position with me this term.

Jim Green & Kerrie Reid
Advertising

Focus on Youth Inc has been providing activities for small groups of children from the age of 8 since 1981. Trained carers are with the children at all times. Activities are scheduled for Saturdays, whole of weekends and school holidays. Transport is provided. Obtain more information by phoning: 3375 4415 or by emailing focusonyouth@aanet.com.au

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