Staffing
This term the following staff members will be taking extended leave:
Alan Jones 29/08/16 – 15/09/16
Sandra Schupter 12/09/16 – 16/09/16

We also welcomed Lisa Horner who is our fulltime teacher in I2.
Currently we have five staff members being supported through our region and school based Return to Work Rehabilitation Coordinators due to injuries sustained in the school environment.

School Strategic Infrastructure Plan: Update
Fencing – we are delighted to share with members that both Stage one and Stage two of our fencing has been funded by DET. Fencebuild are currently onsite completing works with limited disruption to student learning. Thanks to Kerrie we were also successful in our Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant application for fencing in the amount of $31 000. This amount will be used to add additional fencing to the H and I Block area as well as to pay for security card access on three gates (pending approval). The gates proposed for security card access are at the bus set down, C Block gate entrances and G Block entrance. This increased security is designed to maintain student safety – at present keys to the gates are accessible to students and we have had one recent occasion where the gate to C Block was left unlocked and student was able to leave the area into the open space.

Senior Playground
The senior playground is due to be completed by the end of next week. We are currently in the process of organising an official opening. The playground will be named the Ian Lowe Senior Playground in recognition of the founding school principal.

Steering Committee – Bus set down/pick up area
A steering committee is currently being established. Families are encouraged to contact the office if they are interested in being involved. The group aims to identify concerns and to develop a set of actions/recommendations.

Balanced Literacy
Many of our families would be aware that we had a very successful visit by Jane Farrall. Feedback from our whole school community was extremely positive. Attached for members is a copy of the email Jane sent to me. I am pleased to announce that we have booked Jane in to visit our school for a further 4 days in Term 2 2017.

All families have received information regarding the purchase of a PODD. Family PODD practise sessions will commence on Monday August 8 from 2:00 – 2:30 in the multi-purpose area. PODDs will be available for families to use.

School Review
Our school is scheduled for a school review from August 5 – 8. The Department of Education and Training introduced new performance reviews for Queensland state schools in 2015. The reviews are conducted by the department’s School Improvement Unit. The reviews do not rate or compare schools but provide independent and quality feedback to help schools continue to improve outcomes for students. All schools
have a review at least every four years. Key findings from the review are made available to parents and the community on the school’s website.

As part of the review, the review team would like to hear from our school community and I encourage anyone who is interested to have their say. Your feedback is important and will help us continue to deliver a quality education for students. Feedback can be provided to the review team by phone or in person. All feedback remains confidential.

If you are interested in speaking to the reviewers, or would like more information about the review process, please contact the school office or email the review team at SIUMB@dete.qld.gov.au. Further information about the reviews is available from the department’s website at: schoolreviews.eq.edu.au

**Professional development – Term 3**
A copy of our professional development plan for 2016 is attached.

**Key dates I will be out of school on official duties:**
August 4/5 – Queensland Association of Special Education Leaders (in between review meetings)
Tuesday August 9 – Selection panel for Principal of Toowoomba West Special School
Monday 22 – Thursday 25 August – School review team for Pine Rivers Special School

**Budget**
A copy of the budget is attached for members.

**WOW moments**
Data collected in Term 1: student J could not recognise any letters of the alphabet.
Data collected in Term 3: Student J can now recognise all letters of the alphabet – lower and upper case and name all of the letters!!!

Student G: used eye gaze and an alphabet flip chart to communicate an incident that had happened

Student I: has considerably increased her use of eye contact during interactions

Student C: has started responding to her name (not consistent yet but watch this space!)

Warm regards

Susan Christensen