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24 November 2016

## Head of Special Education Services' Column



### SEP Activity Area

The welcome addition of the new gross and fine motor areas to the Special Education program will enable students to be provided with extended and additional programs and activities during their gross and fine motor sessions.

During the early and middle years, children's gross motor skills begin to emerge and develop. Children's natural enjoyment of active play and their desire to interact with others and the environment create great opportunities for staff to support their gross motor development.

Most special needs children tend to have problems with their balance, body strength, and coordination. These problems affect their gross motor skills, or skills that use the larger muscles of the body. While special needs children may be slower to develop their gross motor skills, they can still exercise and partake in daily activities that can increase their strength, balance, and coordination.

Providing a combination of free and structured gross motor play will support children to not only develop physically but also development of social and language skills. The outdoor spaces enable us to consider creative ways to use gross and fine motor activities to especially improve and cater for developmental skills in a specialised way for students with disabilities.

Skills children need for optimum gross motor development include rolling, reaching, sitting, crawling, walking, climbing, balancing, running, jumping, catching, throwing and striking. These fundamental gross motor skills will assist children's lifelong ability to participate in physical activity including sport and other recreational pursuits. Students with disabilities also benefit from being able to engage in and develop these same skills, but more often than not, extensive adaptation and adjustments to tasks, equipment and environments are required to provide opportunities for them to engage in these activities.

We hope to extend the resources further to ensure that all aspects of student needs are catered for. One example of this would be to acquire a trampoline which is a versatile piece of equipment for special needs children because it can help them improve their balance and can also be used for sensory input.

Children with autism can respond to the bouncing motion to assist them regulate their behaviour.

The extension and growth of social and emotional skills during the group and casual sessions is an added value in providing for students at our school.

**Avril Stoltenkamp, Head of Special Education Services'**

## Contact Details for Same Day Student Absence Notification

Please return your student card information sheet with any updated information to your class teacher by Friday 25 November. Forms must be returned even if there are no changes. It is imperative that this information is up to date and correct, as it will be used for our same day student unexplained absence notification that will commence end of 2016/start 2017.

## KidsMatter

Caningeraba State School is a **KIDS MATTER** school. We are focussed on **growing happy, confident children together** with school and local community.



Your child will face many challenges as they grow, whether it is starting school, joining a sporting team or going to their first sleepover. The ability to make decisions and solve problems develops as your child learns to cope with daily challenges. Young children are not expected to sort through every issue on their own, and it is likely that they will require lots of guidance from their family. The good news is encouraging your child to take part in problem solving will help them develop this skill over time.

The following steps are a useful guide to teaching your child about problem solving. Encourage your child to take part so that they can slowly learn to do it for themselves.

Remember, it is best to begin when your child is feeling calm and relaxed. Start with an issue where you know they are likely to experience some success. If your child is very anxious or angry, help them to calm down first (e.g. having some quiet time, taking some deep breaths) or leave problem solving for another day or another issue when you know your child is ready to participate.

### 1. Identify the problem

This step can be difficult as children do not always have the words to tell you how they feel or know exactly what the problem is. Finding a quiet space where your child feels comfortable and relaxed may help them to start talking about it. Using your active listening skills will also help your child to feel understood and supported in talking to you. Your child will benefit from your help in trying to understand what might be happening, particularly when they are having difficulty identifying the problem. Remember to step back and not jump in to solving the problems for your child at this stage.

### 2. Find solutions and try them out

Once you have a better sense of what the problem is, you may like to generate some solutions with your child. Brainstorming two or three solutions is a good place to start as any more may seem overwhelming for a young child. They may not yet be able to generate their own solutions, but you can encourage their thinking with questions such as “what do you think you/we could do?” With practice and support from others, your child will gradually be able to come up with more of their own solutions. However, you may need to make some suggestions in the beginning.

Once you and your child have identified some options, you can decide together which one to try first. Work out a plan for how they will try out their solution. Do they need support from you, another child or a teacher? When will they get a chance to try it out? (e.g. at home or in the school playground.)

### 3. Check in: how did it go?

Once your child has tried the solution, check in with your child as soon as possible. Did it work? If not, why not? What could your child try next? Remember to give your child lots of support and encouragement if the solution didn't work out. Sometimes we have the right solution, but need to practise it many times. Other times, we may need to return to step one to see if the issue was correctly identified.

### You can help to support your child's problem solving skills

- Model your own problem solving. Next time a daily problem arises (eg losing your car keys) talk through the problem and solution out loud. This will help to show your child that everyone has problems and that we can work through them by coming up with different solutions.
- Encourage your child to utilise support people to assist them with problem solving. These could be family members, friends, educators and teachers. This will promote help-seeking behaviours in your child and enable them to feel supported when they have a problem.

Learning to negotiate solutions to everyday problems and make decisions for themselves will help your child to gradually become more independent and responsible. It also helps them feel confident and good about themselves, which is an important part of mental health and wellbeing. When their mental health is supported, children are better learners, have stronger relationships and are better able to meet life's challenges.

## Finance News

The finance department will be closed from 10:30am Friday 25 November. No payments can be accepted or on-line payments made after this date.

## Creative Minds Day of Excellence

Last Wednesday, seven schools from across our district converged at Caningeraba State School for the annual Creative Minds Day of Excellence for year 3 and 4 students.



Creative Minds Challenge Day encourages students to be critical thinkers in preparation for lifelong learning. The day is designed for students with a passion for learning and problem solving. Students had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way. Students participated in drama workshops, science experiments and creative team challenges.

Our friends from Miami High School (past Caningeraba Students), came to help out with the science experiments. Scientific principles were explored that could be applied later in the long term challenge (buoyancy and sound vibrations). The wonderful Mrs Wheaton ran a drama and stage craft session for session two. This session was intended to give students confidence when performing and presenting ideas. The final activity was a collaborative learning task and an introduction to coding. Students worked in teams and used their problem solving skills and knowledge of mathematical concepts to program a Dash robot to be a bodyguard.

After a short morning tea break, students received their long term challenge (Mathematical Engineering or English and Society). In groups of 6, students had an hour and a half to collaboratively decipher their challenge, design a device, create a play and make their costumes and props. Senior students from Caningeraba were on hand to help the younger students with their challenge. The seniors were past participants of the Creative Minds Day of Excellence or Tournament of Minds. They were very excited and gratified to be able to 'give back' and help the younger students. They all did an amazing job!

After Lunch, the groups presented their phenomenal solutions and plays. All groups produced performances that they should be very proud of. After some deliberation, awards and trophies were announced. By all accounts, students had an excellent day.

When asked what the highlight was, student responses included: Getting to make a lava lamp, the challenges, making new friends, learning from others, performing our plays, and making a guitar, working as a team to solve problems and the feeling we got when our helium balloon finally hovered.

The day enabled the students to use higher order thinking skills and prior knowledge, learn new skills, learn from others, take risks, not be satisfied with their first design, develop cooperative skills and time management, understand the task, reflect on whether their solution satisfied the task, plan, perform, develop confidence all whilst having fun. The behaviour and values displayed by the students were outstanding. A big thank you to Mrs Wheaton, Mrs Barrett, Mrs Grant, Mrs Davidson, the Miami High School student assistants and Caningeraba Leaders who assisted and ensured the day ran smoothly.



## Library News

Thank you to the Laffranchi family for their kind donation of books to the library.

## Student of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have received a student award at their assembly.

6B	Izabella	6G	Logan
6M	Ezra & Charlyse	5S	Finn & Maddy
4G	Ashley	4M	Natasha
4P	Sarah	4S	Oliver
3G	Joel & Kye	3P	Eleni
2M	Afeni	1M	Zach
1O	Lili & George	1S	Laila
PG	Ava		

## School Banking News

Congratulations to the following students who have made 10 deposits and received a bronze certificate:

Finn 5S

Congratulations to the following students who have made 20 deposits and received a silver certificate:

Laila 4G	Emerson 1P	Ella 1W
Alani 4B	Reef 1S	Lachlan 4M
Levi 3S	Presley 4M	Indiarna 2O
Calais 1G		

Congratulations to the following students who have made 30 deposits and received a gold certificate:

Ryley 4P	Aoba 2M	Charlize 1/2R
Brodie 1P	Thomas 1/2R	Phoebe 1G
Rose 1O	Hannah 1O	Pippa PR
Alex PM	Luke 6B	Lily 3M
Harrison 2O	Ayden 2W	Boh 1/2R
Claudia PS	Phoenix 1B	

Congratulations to 6P, 3B and PG for being our banking classes of the week. School banking will be running up to and including the last week of the school year. Rewards are running low so please make a 2nd choice or you can hold your reward credits until the new prizes are released in 2017.

## Diary Dates

Please phone our Events Line on 5568 6388 for ALL up to date information on excursions, interschool sport draws, athletics and cancellations due to weather.

- Student Resource Scheme payments for 2017 are payable by Friday 3 February.
- Payment for Ditto, Prep-Yr3 \$4.50 due by 10:30am Friday 25 November.

19 - 27 Nov	Various Yr 5 & 6	Noumea trip
Friday 25 Nov	4B	Bike Ed
Friday 25 Nov	All	Orders for full book packs placed & paid in full
Friday 25 Nov	All	Final day for finance/payment window
Monday 28 Nov	All	Tuckshop Closed
Monday 28 Nov	4P	Bike Ed
Monday 28 Nov	Years 1-3	Swimming
Tuesday 29 Nov	Various	Sports Awards 12pm in the hall
Tuesday 29 Nov	SEP Kids	Xmas Party
Tuesday 29 Nov	Prep	Santa Round the World
Thursday 1 Dec	Year 6	Miami & Merrimac High Orientation
Thursday 1 Dec	Years P - 3	P&C Disco 5:00 – 6:30pm

Thursday 1 Dec	Years 4 - 6	P&C Disco 6:45 – 8:15pm
Thursday 1 Dec	All	Bookshop open for trade 2pm – 4pm
Monday 5 Dec	Year 2 - 6	Chess Day of Excellence at MSHS
Tuesday 6 Dec	Year 6	Graduation 6:00pm in the hall
Wednesday 7 Dec	Year P - 3	Ditto Safety Awareness
Thursday 8 Dec	Year 1	Xmas Concert 9:30am
Thursday 8 Dec	Prep	Xmas Concert 12:00pm
Thursday 8 Dec	All	Bookshop open for trade 2pm – 4pm
Friday 9 Dec	All	Last Day of Term 4
Friday 9 Dec	All	Tuckshop Closed

## Snack Shack Roster

Date	Names
Monday 28 November	Chaille, Helen
Tuesday 29 November	Susana
Wednesday 30 November	Carolyn, Esther
Thursday 1 December	Carolyn, Chaille
Friday 2 December	Maureen, Michelle, Helen

**Katrina and Michelle, Tuckshop Convenors**

## Community Notices

### School Holiday Tennis Camp

**Dates** : Week 1 Monday 12th December to Friday 16th December

Week 2 Monday 19th December to Friday 23rd December

**Time** : 9am to Midday

**Cost** : \$99 for the week or \$25 per day

**Where** : Burleigh Heads Tennis Club

Matilda St., Burleigh Heads

(opposite Stockland Shopping Centre)

**Included**: morning tea, tennis racquets and loads of tennis and fun

**Bookings**: Please ring Michael Stevens on 0435 015 229 or email on burleightennis@yahoo.com.au

## **Currumbin Wildlife Eco Rangers**

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has amazing January School Holiday Programs – Eco Rangers and Creature Keepers. We are a Not-for-Profit Organisation and by taking part in our program you are supporting conservation, research and the wonderful work of Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. For more information phone 07 5534 0895 or visit

<http://www.cws.org.au/eco-rangers>

<http://www.cws.org.au/creature-keepers/>

## **Growing a Community Christmas**

Saturday 26 November from 5pm, Crocker Park, Markeri Street, Mermaid Waters and Saturday 10 December from 5pm at Ernie Tebb Park, Mountain View Ave, Burleigh Waters. Bring a picnic blanket, relax and listen to Christmas Carols. Enjoy heaps of free children's activities, Santa will be there too!

## **Visit Our Website**

We encourage our parents, carers and family members to visit our website, to see ongoing class activities.

<http://www.caningerss.eq.edu.au>

***Sheryll Eades,***  
***Website Coordinator***