FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Welcome back and a special welcome to all our new students and staff. I hope everybody had a restful vacation, a joyous Christmas and that all families are looking forward to 2016.

To our many new students and their families, a very special warm welcome. Our school operates in partnership with you. Please join in our many activities this year and don’t hesitate to contact any one of us in the school office if we can assist in any way.

The year begins with our continued focus on learning and the improvement of results. Our priorities include reading, writing and numeracy. Other focus areas include, implementation of the Australian Curriculum, Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), use of data to inform our teaching and tailor our programs, explicit instruction, community partnerships and closing the gap for Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander learners.

CLASS TEACHER ALLOCATIONS: While we have had a smooth start to the year, class structures and teacher allocations will not be finalised until after the Day 8 enrolment figures are confirmed by the department. Day 8 enrolments are used to confirm the correct allocation of staff to each school in Queensland based on the staffing formula. Following the state-wide compilation of this data, schools will be allocated the appropriate number of teachers for the enrolments at each school. In schools with increased enrolments additional teachers are appointed, while in schools that have reduced enrolments, classes have to be reformed to cater for the reduced enrolment. Currently we are carefully monitoring our enrolments. We have had a large number of new families/students enrol at Ipswich East, but some families are on extended holidays and have not returned to date. Currently our total school enrolments are 410 and changes could occur possibly in the lower grades after Day 8.

Any class changes will be communicated to parents and students involved late next week. In anticipation, thank you to the school community for your patience and support during this time.

NEW STAFF: I would like to extend a very warm welcome to new staff for 2016:

• Keira-June Alberts (Head of Special Education Services)
• Natalie Marhinin (Head of Curriculum: Student Services)
• Jeannine Kennedy (Special Education Program Teacher)
• Eliza Mooney (Physical Education Teacher) and

• Helen Grace (Yr 1A Teacher)

I am sure that all members of this great school community will make these new staff feel at home.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION: In case of injury or illness of students it is important that we have up to date contact numbers. These usually consist of parents or guardians and three (3) other contacts per family. Parents are requested to notify the school of changes to phone numbers to enable emergency information to be kept up to date.

EVERY DAY COUNTS - Focus on Attendance and Absences:
A reminder to all parents, that school policy requires all student absences to be ‘explained’. Parents have the option to ring on the morning of the absence on 3432 6333, write a note to be given to the classroom teacher upon the student’s return, or send an email to report your child’s absence from school. Teachers have provided their own email addresses on class newsletters, however you can send an email to absences@ipsweastss.eq.edu.au. Any unexplained absences will be investigated by administration and prolonged absences reported to the relevant authorities if required.

Over the next four weeks, the school will focus on student attendance. A ‘routine’ has been developed to assist staff, students and family members to respond appropriately to expectations around non-attendance.

We seek your assistance in supporting your child to achieve this. Remember, just a little bit a day doesn’t seem much, however:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>Equals</th>
<th>Which is</th>
<th>Over 13 Years of schooling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 mins per day</td>
<td>50 mins per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1/2 a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 mins per day</td>
<td>1 hr 40 mins per week</td>
<td>2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 mins per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks as per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
</tr>
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</table>

PARENT HELPERS NEEDED: This year we really want our children to become excellent readers. The more practise they can have the better they get. If you could spare some time listening to children read we would love it if you could come and assist.

We will provide a program to give you some ideas on how to help children progress with their reading. If you know you have the time, please contact your child’s classroom teacher.
UNIFORMS: Uniforms are available from Lowes, Shop 512/13, Riverlink Shopping Centre, Corner Downs Road and The Terrace, Ipswich or from Lowes Schools Online at www.lowes.com.au. Lowes Riverlink are the sole supplier of our Ipswich East State School uniforms.

Our school is a full uniform school. The Ipswich East State School Dress Code Policy clearly articulates uniform expectations. This Dress Code Policy is endorsed by the P&C Association.

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with this document, of which a section appears below ...

Our school uniform is based on our school colour; bottle green, with additional trims of white. The uniform consists of a custom made bottle green and white polo shirt, bottle green shorts/skorts/skirt and a wide brimmed/bucket hat. **The school emblem shirt is the only shirt to be worn.**

Students are required to wear **black and/or white athletics style sports shoes or leather shoes, with white socks.**

Additions to the uniform include bottle green pants, a bottle green jacket or a long sleeved bottle green and white polo shirt (for the cooler months) and a senior school shirt (available for Year 6 students only). When using the school pool (curriculum or recreation) students will require a one-piece swimsuit, swim shirt and swimming cap.

It is an expectation of the school community that Ipswich East State School students wear the school uniform. Student dress should promote the good image of the school within the community, and therefore uniforms are to be worn with pride. When in uniform, students must behave in a way that reflects well on themselves, their family and their school.

The school uniform is to be worn on all occasions, including hats and recommended footwear. This includes daily to school, when on an excursion or representing the school, when accepting awards and when presenting on parade.

The school strictly enforces a **no hat no play** policy. Students are required to wear a wide brimmed or bucket hat for all outdoor activities.

Ear studs and ear Sleeppers (one per ear) are the only acceptable form of jewellery (medical bracelets excepted). A watch may be worn, as may an item of religious significance (for which prior approval has been sought), however the student must take full responsibility for its safe keeping.

Skin should be completely clear of any visible form of make-up, as should nails be completely clear of any visible form of polish. Sunscreens or protectors are actively encouraged, however, colourful zinc creams are not permitted.

In the interests of health and safety, long hair (beyond shoulder length) must be tied back. Hair accessories should be minimal and in keeping with the school uniform. Hair must be naturally coloured and without embellishments (tracks, highlights, etc). Radical hairstyles are discouraged and parents or carers are requested to consider whether a particular hairstyle is appropriate for school before the child has it done. Hairstyle, as does certain inappropriate dress, can negatively influence student attitudes and behaviour.

Footwear is to be worn to meet Workplace Health and Safety regulations, including laces being tied firmly.

Body piercing or tattoos are not permitted at school, with the exception of those items previously stated in this policy.

The School Uniform is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Polo</strong></td>
<td>Bottle green and white with school emblem (short or long sleeve)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shorts/Skorts/Skirt</strong></td>
<td>Bottle Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jacket</strong></td>
<td>Bottle green (without hood)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pants</strong></td>
<td>Bottle green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Socks</strong></td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shoes</strong></td>
<td>Black or white leather shoes or athletics style sports shoes (velcro or laced)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hat</strong></td>
<td>Bottle green broad brimmed or bucket hat (Preps: red bucket had provided by school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tights/Leggings</strong></td>
<td>Bottle green or black</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME: The 2016 Student Resource Scheme is now due. The scheme is supported and approved by the School’s Parents and Citizens Association (P&C), is managed by the school and operates in accordance with section 51 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. Participation in the scheme provides quality resources for your child to use in the classroom as well as online subscriptions. Once the school receives your payment, your child is subscribed to the educational websites our teachers use in class. These websites may include Mathletics, Spellodrome, Vivo, Reading Eggs and many others. Payment of the scheme will allow your child to access these websites from school and home.

The provision of this scheme ensures that well resourced learning by our students remains our key focus. The scheme is not a fund raiser for the school. Its purpose is to provide you, the parent, with a cost effective, value for money alternative to purchasing resources, consumables and materials from elsewhere, through reduced prices gained from school’s bulk purchasing processes.

The participation form for the 2016 Student Resource Scheme is a **yellow form**. This form needs to be filled out and sent back the school office by Friday 05 February 2016, whether families want to participate in the SRS or not.

SWIM SHIRTS AND SUNSCREEN IN STATE SCHOOLS: Swim shirts must be worn by Prep - Year 6 students during all water-based activities including swimming lessons. The only exception will be that swim shirts do not need to be worn during races at school swimming carnivals. In these cases, spectacles will be required to adopt a range of sun protection measures.

If parents are unable to provide a swim shirt, schools can allow students to wear a t-shirt.

All state schools will be required to provide a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen of SPF 30 + for students to apply on uncovered areas of the skin, such as the face and the back of the hands for all outdoor activities. Staff are not required to apply sunscreen for students, but can provide assistance to those students who may be experiencing difficulty in applying sunscreen if necessary.

All classrooms will provide access to ‘Ultra Protective 30+ SPF’ sunscreen. This product contains Vitamin E, the active ingredients Titanium Dioxide and Octyl Methoxycinnamate and complies with Australian standards.
If you believe that your child might have a reaction to this product or you have a preference for a different product, you are welcome to provide your child with an alternative as long as it is labelled with your child’s name and class and is not shared with other students. Your child will be responsible for maintaining and applying this product.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENTS: It is essential that all visitors to the school, including parents, report to Reception in the new Administration block. If students are going home early the procedure is that the parent collects an early departure slip from the office and then hands this to the child’s class teacher. Children cannot be released without the early departure slip.

VOLUNTEERS: Our classroom volunteers play a vital role in helping teachers and students be successful in their work. However, I ask that volunteers follow the procedures set in place by the school to protect them from problems which could arise because they are involved in school activities. These problems could include being injured or involve problems with other parents. Volunteers include the complete range of helpers. All volunteers must sign the volunteers sign-on book (Fire Audit). All volunteers should wear a school badge (available from the Office).

ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL: All children should arrive at school between 8:30am and 8:45am. This will allow children sufficient time to greet their friends and teachers, prepare necessary resources and be ready for school. Children who arrive before 8:30am must sit (with their bags) under the Parade Shelter until the 8:30am bell goes. Students then have a choice to go to the hall for activities, go to breakfast club or continue to sit in the parade shelter.

WAITING AT THE END OF THE DAY: During the first few weeks it is understandable that many parents/carers wish to be right outside the classroom to collect their child at the end of the day. However, this eagerness from parents causes some difficulties for both students and teachers. Firstly, children can become very distracted when they see their parents through the window or door of the classroom and this makes the job much more difficult for teachers to conclude their end of day activities and give instructions about homework or home readers. Children are always excited to see their parents and it is very hard for teachers to compete with that!

Secondly, when a number of parents gather outside a classroom from about 2:45pm onwards, the volume of conversation that occurs can be very disruptive to nearby classes and creates congestion near bag racks.

To help with this problem, I am requesting that parents wait in the undercover areas away from classrooms at the end of the day. When the bell rings to signal the end of school, parents/carers are free to move to the classroom to collect children. Thank you for your help in this matter.

MARKING OF SCHOOL CLOTHING: Parents, please ensure all your child’s/children’s belongings are clearly marked with their name as this helps to return lost items to their correct owners.

STAFF CAR PARK: A reminder to all parents that the Staff Car Park is not to be utilised for dropping off or picking up students. This is strictly prohibited and endangers the lives of students and staff. The only vehicles allowed to enter the grounds are those displaying a disabled sticker, in order to access the disabled car park outside the Resource Centre. Application to park here must be made through a meeting with the principal.

Byron Van Der Zee (Principal)

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

SWIMMING 2016: To eliminate loss of teaching time when transitioning students from their music lesson to their swimming lesson and vice versa, in Term One and Term Four, students will participate in one of these key learning areas for 60 for the first half of the term and then the other key learning area for the second half of the term. Previously, it was a weekly 30 minute lesson. This will mean, some classes not commencing swimming until Week 6.

HOME READING: To support literacy enrichment, a love of reading and a focus on developing positive reading habits, a Home Reading Program supported by the classroom teacher, is an integral part of the Ipswich East State School Homework Policy. Home reading is a classroom integrated program, managed and facilitated by classroom teachers and volunteer helpers. This facilitates books being easily accessible to all students across all year levels and classes. The books are appropriately levelled and cater specifically to a student’s reading developmental phase and interests.

Last Friday, you child received a ‘Home Reading’ information sheet. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to familiarise yourself with the information it contains and sign and return the attached ‘Home Reader Acknowledgement’ slip. ‘Reading a lot’ is one of the most powerful methods of increasing fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Families and schools working together in partnership, create positive, meaningful and life long memories for everyone involved. With this in mind, I seek your assistance in supporting our children with their reading, by assisting in the classroom with the daily changing of home readers, listening to or reading with children in the classroom or helping children learn their sight words. We would love to see parents/carers/grandparents assisting in our school every day, and no offer of assistance will go unnoticed! If you can spare any time on any day please don’t hesitate to make contact with your child’s teacher, both they and the children would love having you in the classroom.

READING EGGS: Don’t forget, that as part of the Student Resource Scheme, students in Prep through to Year 6, have access to Reading Eggs at school; providing access to the program both in class and at home. Reading Eggs is designed to get children motivated and excited about reading. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the website in order to maximise access and hence progress! Reading Eggs (for ages 4-7) and reading Eggspress (for ages 7 -13) can be found at www.readingeggs.com.au. Don’t hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher for your child’s user name and password, if they have not already brought it home.

MATHLETICS AND SPELLODROME: In addition to Reading Eggs as mentioned above, students are now a part of the Mathletics and Spelldrome online learning communities, joining over 4 million other students around the world. Both these programs are accessible at school and at home, as part
of the Student Resource Scheme.

Mathletics provides adaptive practice activities and tutorials which form dozens of Mathletics courses, each aligned to the individual requirements of national, provincial and state based curricula from around the world. Live Mathletics matches students against others from around the world in real-time competition. Mathletics is an engaging environment that encourages students and rewards results. Mathletics, and accompanying information can be accessed at www.mathletics.com.au.

Spellodrome, develops critical spelling awareness through stimulation and support. Interactive and engaging games make learning to spell fun! All four areas of spelling knowledge are covered: Visual, Phonological, Morphemic and Etymological. Parents and students can keep track of progress to help recognise and experience a sense of pride and achievement. Please visit www.spellodrome.com.au to get started.

All children have been issued with their user names and passwords, however, don’t hesitate to make contact with your child’s classroom teacher to obtain a copy.

In supporting families to support students with their academic progress, we believe access to these highly stimulating and engaging programs will ensure students want to practise their reading, practise their maths and practise their spelling, at every opportunity they get!

ONLINE REWARDS SYSTEM VIVO: Education is about all round development not just learning facts. Part of this is encouraging good behavior, giving recognition to children when they do well and motivating them to do more. In an effort to improve our reward system for students we introduced VIVO in Term Four 2014 and VIVO does just that! VIVO enables us to provide points, or Vs, to reward positive behavior. Children can save up their Vs in a personal account and exchange them for a range of items through our on-line shop.

VIVO allows us to be more consistent in the way we recognize children’s efforts and in supporting children’s needs more effectively. Children get early experience at choosing how much to ‘spend’ or save and it’s their decision what to do with their Vs.

Importantly, VIVO give you the opportunity to see the progress your child is making and to celebrate with us, their successes. All students have a user name and password, as do all parents. Don’t hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher to obtain your own login. VIVO can be accessed at www.vivomiles.com.au

Celebrating their success is a big contribution to building your child’s desire to learn. We hope and encourage you to join in the celebration.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING PASSPORTS: Expectations for all students at Ipswich East State School is that they are Safe, Organised, Achievers and Respectful. On Wednesday, all students were issued with a SOARing Passport, which in support of what Mr Van Der Zee has focused on earlier, is part of our reward system, targeting behavior, attendance and uniform. Each day, students have the opportunity to have their passport stamped for each of these three focus areas. To receive a stamp for behavior, students must remain in the ‘Cool Zone’ all day. To receive a stamp for attendance, students must be at school by 9am and not depart until 3pm. To receive a stamp for uniform, students must be in full school uniform, including wearing black or white shoes and having the appropriate hat.

Accompanying the passport is an Eddie Sticker Chart. Students have the opportunity throughout the day to be rewarded frequently with stickers, both in the classroom and in the yard. 50 stickers, then converts into 50 VIVOs.

At the end of each term, passport stamps equate to the following:

- 95% or above in all three focus areas = Gold Award
- 90% or above in all three focus areas = Silver Award
- 90% or above in 2 of the 3 focus areas = Bronze Award

SOARing wrist bands are awarded to all Gold students at the end of each term, with students collecting all four wrist bands presented with a 2016 Eagle Pin at the end of year awards ceremony. VIVOs: 100, 75, and 50 are also awarded to each award recipient.

A copy of the passport has been included for your familiarisation.

Dominica Joseph (Deputy Principal)

INSTRUMENTAL NOTES

Welcome to the beginning of the school year and to the Instrumental Program for 2016. This year promises to be an exciting and eventful one for all involved, with many performances planned throughout the year.

Lessons for Woodwind, Brass and Percussion students start
on Thursday 04 February with a workshop morning to introduce new students to their instrument and continuing students to their new band music. Students have received a copy of the workshop timetable and will receive their regular timetable on this day.

Please note that Enrolment & Loan Agreement forms will need to be returned on or before this lesson.

Student Resource Scheme – Instrumental Music: All instrumental students will be issued with an invoice as part of the new student resource scheme. This payment contributes towards our Instrumental Program by offsetting the cost of maintaining equipment, purchasing band music etc. Please forward all payments through the school office. Payments need to be finalised before instruments are issued.

Want to learn an instrument?: There are still places in both the string and instrumental program for 2016. If you are interested in learning a woodwind, brass, percussion or string instrument please complete the brochure available from the school office or music room.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN
Welcome to new and returning families for 2016. As School Chaplain my role is quite diverse. Primarily I am here to support our school community. This can be with social, emotional and mental health wellbeing.

Support I provide includes:

- Pastoral care
- Supporting students exploring their spirituality regardless of their faith or beliefs
- Providing support in times of bereavement, difficult family relationships or other crisis and loss situations
- Assisting at-risk students through specialist support programs
- Participating in school activities eg. Camps, excursions etc
- Offering students a quiet, safe place during lunch breaks
- Life skills programs

Most of all I provide a listening ear and a caring presence for kids in crisis and those who just need a caring, supportive adult.

Parents or teachers can refer children to the chaplaincy program. Parent consent is required for any ongoing or regular pastoral care. I am at school 2.5 days per week. My room is upstairs in A Block, next to the Guidance Officer. You will find me there Mondays (until 12pm) or Tuesdays and Thursdays all day. I am available to meet with parents outside school hours on those days if required. If you would like to discuss anything to do with the School Chaplaincy Program please contact myself or our Principal.

I look forward to working with staff, teachers and students throughout this year.

June Lambourne (Chaplain)

FROM THE P&C ASSOCIATION
The first P&C Association Meeting for 2016 will be held on Monday 15 February at 5:30pm in the Conference Room. All parents and caregivers are welcome!

Amanda Brady (P&C Vice President)

BOOKCLUB
Our school receives a percentage from the sale of books in each Book Club issue and this money goes towards purchasing new books for the children in our school.

There are approximately seven issues of Book Club that we will be sending home throughout the year. If you are placing an order please make sure your child’s name and class are on the order form when you hand it in to the office.

If you would like to hold or to your order when it arrives at the school (if they are being purchased for a particular event eg: birthday present), please mark this on the order form and I will ring you when the orders come in.

Thank you for your support

Shirley Forman (BookClub Co-ordinator)
The QSchools app is a convenient way to share up-to-the-minute information with the school community.

The app is designed to integrate with Websites for Schools websites. When a school publishes content to their website, the app is automatically updated with the latest news, events and newsletters.

Emergency announcements and push notifications, such as information about natural disasters and school closures, can be published by the department.

All Queensland state schools are searchable via the app, however only schools who have upgraded their school website with Websites for Schools will benefit from all the features of the app.

Parent and Community Engagement Framework alignment

The QSchools app is a useful tool for schools implementing the Parent and Community Engagement Framework to facilitate:

- better communication with the school community
- community collaboration
- encourage participation in the school community.

Benefits for parents, carers and families:

- access the latest school news, newsletters and calendar events
- receive emergency announcements and push notifications
- follow multiple schools
- search for the nearest school by current location, postcode, school name or suburb.

Compatible with the following devices:

- Android
- Apple
- Windows
Our Newsletter is usually electronic!

We have printed a paper copy of our newsletter to start the year to give everyone the opportunity to read it. Next fortnight’s newsletter will return to the electronic format. Our newsletter can be accessed on our website (www.ipswastss.eq.edu.au), through the Q Schools app (information above), or we can email it to you. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you please complete the form below and return it to the office as soon as possible. There will be limited printed copies at the school office for those who have no internet access.

Please email the newsletter to us:

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________

Parent’s Name: ___________________________

Email Address: ___________________________

If your email changes, please let us know.
FEBRUARY

05  First SRS payment due
15  P&C Meeting

Loading Zones – Drop off/Pick Up areas

The success of loading zones requires cooperation from all motorists using it to ensure quick movement of vehicles through the area.

Please observe any time frames on the sign (see example) and only stay in the area for as long as it takes to get the children in to or out of the car within a two minute timeframe. The driver must not park the car in these signed areas and go into the school with the children or to pick up their children.

This area is designed to keep the vehicles moving. It is there for the convenience of ALL motorists.

Please do J
Plan your trip to avoid arrival at peak times
Pick-up or drop-off children via the car’s kerb doors
Drive out safely
Talk to your children about what time to be there and not to stray or wander away
If your children are not at your arranged spot, go around the block and try again

Do not L
Get out of your vehicle
Double park
Stay more than 2 minutes
Arrive early in the afternoon and sit in the zone
Use staff parking areas

Road Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility. If you would like more information on this or any other road/child/bike safety or other transport issue, please phone your local Road Safety Office on 1300 360 135.