FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DAY 8 ENROLMENT CHANGES: As you may be aware, our school has experienced a higher than predicted number of enrolments this year. This has resulted in classes being much larger than the target size of 25 students per class in Years Prep to 3. A growth of 383 students in 2015 to 407 students in 2016 has occurred. We will be allocated 17 classroom teachers; 1 more than we planned for last year. As a result, we have created another prep class and a slight readjustment of students in other year levels as follows:

- A new Prep C class, reducing numbers in Prep A and Prep B from 30 students each to approximately 20 students each: PA-20, PB-21 and PC-20
- Moving a student from 4A to 4/6C
- Moving two Year 6 students from the 4/6C class to 6A and 6B respectively

All other classes from Year 1 through Year 6 have not been affected. I am sure we can depend on your cooperation knowing the overall positive benefits for our students and school.

We have spoken to all students in affected classrooms and have assisted them in their transition to their new classes. Teachers took a range of factors into consideration when deciding on the composition of the new class and the needs of the children was the primary consideration.

Our new Prep teacher, Ms Rosalie Convery, comes with a wealth of experience in the early years. Her class, which commenced this morning, will be in the Prep Classroom, Room 27, on C Wing.

We remain committed to ensuring that all children are given the best opportunity to learn in an environment that gives them maximum contact with their teacher. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. We can now look forward to a settled and productive school semester, due to reduced class sizes.

P&C ASSOCIATION MEETING: Our first P&C Association Meeting for the year is on tonight (Monday 15 February) in the school Resource Centre Conference Room. I am always amazed with the ideas and commitment demonstrated by the parents who attend these meetings. Their actions are truly selfless. Parental participation is a major contributing factor as to why this is such a great school.

I encourage you to consider attending this meeting and I look forward to working with the P&C Association to achieve more great goals this year, positively impacting on the outcomes achieved by all students.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP INDUCTION CEREMONY: On Friday 26 February at 9:00am, our School Leaders for 2016 will be officially inducted into their leadership positions. We would like to invite and encourage all parents and friends to come along, especially those who have students being inducted. Ms Jennifer Howard, Mr Shayne Neumann, Mrs Heather Morrow and the P&C Association Executive have all been invited to this very special occasion. It will be a wonderful morning with the students, special guests, their teachers and their family and friends all invited to the morning tea after the ceremony. This event for our school inducts student leaders for 2016, such as School Captains, Student Council Representatives, School Sports House Captains and School Cultural Captains. Students from Years 4-6 will be in attendance.

READING AT IPSWICH EAST: Ipswich East State School is your school. We invite you to assist us in making this school one of the best primary schools in the district. In 2016 I invite the whole community, including students, their families and the staff to encourage as much reading as possible. We ask all students to have a regular reading time at home, 4 to 5 times a week (minimum). Whether it is your child reading to you or parents reading to a child, reading is one of the foundations to educational success. Reading regularly is critical to your child’s success at school and in life generally. We cannot emphasise enough how important it is that you encourage your children to read widely and regularly at home. Please turn off the TV and computer games and make reading a regular habit at home. We need parents to set an example with our students.

I would like to invite all parents and carers to become involved in our school and your child’s classroom, and work with our staff to achieve the best education for all. Your presence is always welcomed and greatly appreciated.

PARENT HELPERS NEEDED: As identified above, this year we really want our children to become excellent readers. We have found that the more practice 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 help us.

PARENT INFORMATION AFTERNOONS: A class newsletter went home just over a week ago, informing you about
upcoming Parent Information Afternoons. All Parent Information Sessions will be held in the fifth week. This is a great opportunity to get to know the teacher/teachers of your child/children. It is one way we try to effectively communicate with all our parents at Ipswich East.

STUDENT ABSENCES: Just 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 us an email to report your child’s absence from school absences@ipsweastss.eq.edu.au. Any unexplained absences will be investigated by administration and prolonged absences reported to the relevant authorities if required.

BEING ON TIME: We ask parents of students to have their children at school before the 8:55am bell. If students arrive later than 9:05am, it is necessary for them to be signed in at the office by their parents, so a late note can be given to the teacher. Students arriving late affect the smooth running and management of that class. We once again stress the importance of being on time. Your help is appreciated.

CROSSING THE ROAD SAFELY: I would really like to appeal to all parents to please use the designated school crossings when crossing the road outside Ipswich East State School. Just lately, I have had reports from staff who operate the crossings that some parents are just crossing the road anywhere. This is particularly the case in front of the staff car park. While this is quite obviously very unsafe, it is also modelling very poor road safety habits to our children. My thanks to the many parents who do the right thing by their children.

SUPERVISED CROSSING PROCEDURE: The School Crossing Supervisor will ask all pedestrians, both children and adults, to wait on the footpath. When a suitable gap appears in the traffic from both directions, the supervisor will extend the STOP sign to face the traffic and when it is safe to do so proceed to the centre of the road with the STOP sign displayed. The supervisor will blow two blasts of the whistle to indicate that it is safe for pedestrians to cross. When all pedestrians have cleared the crossing, the School Crossing Supervisor then returns to the footpath.

All cyclists, skateboarders, children wearing roller blades or with scooters will be asked to dismount and walk their ‘wheels’ over the crossing.

Byron Van Der Zee (Principal)

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

EVACUATION DRILL: Last Thursday, we had planned to undertake an emergency evacuation drill. It came to our attention that one of the schools in our local area, was in fact evacuating in response to a hoax bomb threat. We therefore made the decision to abandon the drill at that time. The drill will take place over the next few days and whilst we are aware you may consider this may not be the best time to ‘rehearse’ an evacuation given the hoax threats over the past few weeks, we need to ensure all students are familiar with the process should the need arise. Drills occur at least twice per term, and unless absolutely necessary, we do not follow up with notification home, that one has occurred. Please be assured, that in the event an evacuation is not a drill, all avenues of communication will be accessed to ensure you are made immediately aware.

SCHOOL RUN FOR FUN: In conjunction with our school Cross Country, Ipswich East State School will be conducting a School Run 4 Fun for the students, as a major fundraiser for this term, so we do ask for your support. The event will take place on Monday 21 March. All monies raised will provide additional Playground Equipment for the students.

Students have now received a poster size Superhero Sponsorship Form with a great selection of toy brands including Apple, GoPro, Razor, Star Wars, Monster High, Nerf just to name a few. This form will assist with collecting sponsorship donations on behalf of the school. Students who raise as little as $10 or more will receive an incentive prize for their efforts. The greater amount of sponsorship donations you receive the better prizes you can choose.

Inside the Sponsorship Form you will find helpful tips on how to raise money for the school as well as other benefits such as the chance to win a family holiday staying at Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast including entry to the major theme parks and the choice of either $1,000 spending money or a $1,000 Virgin Australia Gift Voucher.

Create your student profile page today at www.australianfundraising.com.au/profile. You can record your fundraising goal and your preferred prize and keep track of the prizes you are entitled to based on the amount of sponsorship donations you receive. You also have the option to register for online fundraising and enter the Gold Coast Family Holiday Promotion.

A new way to help your child reach their fundraising goal is through online fundraising. Students who use online fundraising raise on average $120. Connect with family and friends in Australia and abroad simply by sharing your unique fundraising page link when you register for online fundraising. Also, students who raise $20 or more in online donations will also receive a BONUS PRIZE of a sneaker keyring. How cool is that?

Once the fundraiser is complete, please ensure to fill out the prize request section on the back of the Sponsorship Form and return to the School Office along with your money inside an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name and class. The incentive prizes will be delivered shortly after.

We would also like to welcome parents and family members to attend the event day to help cheer on the students.

Thank you in advance for your participation. Happy fundraising!

Dominica Joseph (Deputy Principal)
INSTRUMENTAL NOTES

Student Resource Scheme Instrumental Music: All instrumental students have been 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.

Practice
You can help your child learn their instrument by following these suggestions:

- Help by providing a quite safe area to practice their instrument
- Establish a regular practice time and routine
- Listen to them play and encourage them
- Play their Tutor book tracks (CD/downloadable files) so you both know what to expect.

Julie Lewis (Instrumental Music Teacher)

FROM THE HEAD OF CURRICULUM

Welcome back. My name is Amanda Richardson and I am the Head of Curriculum here at Ipswich East State School. I work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and my office is located in the Library with Mrs Forman. My primary role is assisting in leading and coordinating the maintenance, review and implementation of curriculum frameworks, programs, assessment and reporting.

2016 is shaping up to be a great year at Ipswich East State School. Teaching and Learning is our core business and our teachers have been working very hard to ensure that they are ready to support successful learning in our classrooms with quality teaching. Our 2016 Curriculum & Assessment plan has been updated and is available on our school website. I will also be presenting the 2016 curriculum plan at a P&C Association meeting in the near future.

Parent information sessions are just around the corner! If your child’s class information session is held on Monday February 22nd or Wednesday February 24th, I will be opening the Library/Conference Room until 4.30pm on these days to children of any parent attending an information session with a class teacher. Children need to be dropped off to me and collected from me at the Library (I’ll draw up a little sign in/out sheet). I will have some colouring in etc. and a DVD available to entertain. Children are encouraged to bring a small snack and water bottle.

Amanda Richardson (Head of Curriculum)

FROM THE P&C ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The P&C Association will be holding their AGM on Monday 21 March at 5:30pm in the Conference Room. All members are strongly encouraged to attend the AGM as voting will take place for the 2016 P&C Association Executive.

The following positions will be declared vacant and need to be filled:

- President
- Vice President

Any new interest in the positions will be warmly received. All current members must submit a new membership form for 2016. If you are unable to attend the AGM please ensure you have completed a P&C Association membership form and submitted it prior to the meeting. Forms are available from the office. For more information concerning any aspects of the P&C Association including the conduct of the AGM, and the roles of executives please go to the P&C Association Queensland website: http://www.pandcsqld.com.au.

Amanda Brady (P&C Vice President)

KAMBU HEALTH CHECKS

Kambu Medical will be conducting free Health Checks at Ipswich East State School on Monday 07 and Tuesday 08 March for our Indigenous students.

While health checks will be carried out during school hours, it is expected that a parent/carer/guardian attend the appointment with their child/children.

Forms have been sent home with students and due back at school no later than 19 February so numbers can be finalised and appointments can be made.

If your child has not yet received their forms, please call in to the office to collect them.

Jenny Nicholls (Liaison Teacher Aide)

‘ACCIDENTS’ DO HAPPEN

It is a really good idea to have a spare set of clothes in your child’s school bag as ‘accidents’ do happen. Some of our littlies may need more than one set. Our stocks of small sized spare clothes has been totally depleted so donations are very welcome, and if your child comes home in a set of school clothes please wash and return them as they are a much sought after item.

Tirzah Spurling (Health Room Co-ordinator)
FEBRUARY

05   First SRS payment due
15   P&C Meeting
26   Leadership Induction Ceremony

MARCH

7 & 8  KAMBU Health Checks
21   P&C AGM