

# Mount Isa Special School

## Moving Beyond Expectations



Thursday, 21 March 2013

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is difficult to believe that there are only one weeks left in this term. So much has happened this year so far and it does not appear to be slowing down.

### CURRICULUM

Our school is continuing to work with the ACARA curriculum for students with Disability and our teachers will be partaking in online moderation with two other special schools in Townsville early next term. This will be an important professional development opportunity for our staff.

In 2012, the school embraced Australian Curriculum requirements and last week, I attended a 2 day workshop around pedagogical frameworks and how we work with children. Information from this workshop will inform our school's framework.

### SCHOOLS TO ENHANCE TEACHING

By the end of 2013, our school will have developed a pedagogical framework in collaboration with the school community. This framework is designed to ensure our school delivers high quality teaching focused on the achievement of every student.

For more information speak to our school's administration team.

<https://learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/items/f66ebbde-9978-4bfd-e445-b0f06cf4849f/1/index.html>

### PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED

Research tells us that students achieve more when schools, parents and the local community work together.

To this end our school will be using the newly-launched *Parent and Community Engagement Framework* to better work with you for the benefit of our children.

Visit the [website](http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/parent-community-engagement-framework/) for more information on the framework.

### ATTENDANCE

Some students have really good attendance 95% but unfortunately there are other students whose attendance is unsatisfactory – remember attendance at school is compulsory for all students aged between 6 years and 16 years of age. Unexplained absences are tracked and parents/carers can be fined if students in their care are not attending school.

**Remember if a child only attends 4 days per week which is 80% over their school life they will have missed over 2 years of schooling. Regular attendance at school has been proven to impact on students learning ability and life style choices.**

### SWIMMING

Our students have been enjoying swimming on Tuesday's and thanks to Miss Julie and Miss Cristal for coming on board they are learning vital water safety skills. Watch out for our notice board in Admin as there will be photos displayed of some of students swimming happily.

### STAFF MOVEMENTS

Unfortunately recently we have lost two of our longer serving teacher aides, Miss Angie has relocated with her family to Townsville and Miss Marissa is having a well-deserved break but I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new teacher aides who have settled in well, Mrs Cheryl and Mrs Veronica – don't to forget to welcome them to our school.

### P&C AGM

**Our P&C AGM will be held on Thursday 28 March at 9.30 am – please come and have a say in our school, share ideas and meet other parents. Refreshments will be provided by our Senior Students.**

Have a great week

Mary

## CHAPPY CORNER

Hi, my name is Vanessa Cross (Miss Vanessa to the students) and I am a Chaplain at the Special School. Your children will usually see me on Wednesdays and Thursdays at school. My role is to provide a listening ear and a caring presence for anyone and everyone in the school community. This includes you as the parents/carers of the students at school. One of the ways I would like to do this is by starting a support group. The support group would simply be a chance for parents/carers and myself to interact and get to know each other over tea/coffee and snack food. Please let me know if you would be interested in attending such a gathering. Over the next couple of weeks I am aiming to call and touch base with all parents/carers to see if I can be of assistance in any way



## ZINC CLASS

Seniors would like to welcome back to all of the schools friends and families for 2013. Seniors have gone through some major changes since 2012. We have said goodbye to Blake and Clarence last year, and Mr Adam has taken up a teaching role at Barkly Highway State School. 2013 has seen a couple of new arrivals into the Mt Isa State Special School community. Firstly we are excited and pleased to introduce a talented lovely young lady named Rowena Webb. She joins the senior class as a new student from Urandangie State School. Also new to the school is me, Mr Geoff. I have been a Special Education teacher for 14 years, and am excited about being a part of the close knit community that is Mt Isa Special School. Returning students and staff from 2012 that help make the senior class a fun, enjoyable learning environment are the wonderful Mrs Andrea (amazing teacher aide), David Jackson, Brayden Johnstone, Latisha Price Raquel Mullins and Locklan Chong.

Term 1 2013 has been a short but productive term. As a class we have gotten to know each other, build trust and support so that our classroom is a safe and supportive environment that challenges our students to try new skills and to develop skills and knowledge already gained. We have been shopping as a whole class, we have really enjoyed participating in the swimming program this term. We have discovered we have a couple of super fish in Rowena and David. Latisha has excelled with her water therapy, and Locklan is continuing to develop his confidence in and around the water. We look forward to continuing swimming in term 4.

As a class we have implemented the ACARA curriculum, working daily on our functional literacy and numeracy skills. We have accessed technology for leisure and learning, and have even established a relationship with TAFE so that 2 of our students can begin completing elements of a Certificate 1 in Technology.

Term 1 is fast finishing, but the great news is that we get to begin all over again in term 2. We look forward to the challenges that await us, and are eager to tackle them.

Mr Geoffrey Miller and Miss Andrea



## SILVER CLASS

We have had a great start to 2013. Swimming has been fantastic this term. All students have made improvement which is great to see. Hakarsha is standing and moving, Xavier is relaxing and playing, James is learning water safety while floating and Georgina is floating on her back while swaying. It is really great to see Hakarsha and Xavier using their standing frames in the classroom as well.

Reading groups are going well in the school. The children get one-on-one to work on their goals including listening to audio books on the iPads and intensive interaction. Next term we will be starting the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden Program and implement kitchen and garden classes. We are all looking forward to use the new kitchen and new equipment. We have Cerebral Palsy league coming out next week along with Vision Australia. They will be reviewing the children and will contact you or write in their communication books what time they are available to see each student.



## LEAD CLASS

We have had a great start to the year in Lead class. We have a very similar class to last year, and everyone has enjoyed getting back into routine and seeing their friends. We have been focusing on 2 of our classroom rules; 'I listen to the teacher' and 'I do my work'. We have learnt whole body listening and practice this when in class and around the school. Kyle has been a great listener so far this year. Great job Kyle! I would also like to congratulate Kai who has been a great role model for the younger students in our class by doing his work every day.

For science we have started growing some plants for our school garden, and learnt what plants need to survive. Our swimming lessons have also started, and the students are getting really good at getting in and out of the pool safely. We have been doing a lot of reading, and writing for English, and have already written 2 books on the iPad, as a class. For Maths we have been learning the measuring and counting skills to make jelly, sandwiches and fruit salad, as well as how to use food and body scales.

So far this term we have had excellent attendance in Lead class. Keep it up!

Miss Jess & Miss Jodie

