OUR SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS:
Be a Listener
Be a Word-User
Be Safe
Be Fair

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I return to Beenleigh Special School as Acting Principal until the end of Term 2. For those of you who are new to the school, my name is Nicole and my substantive position is Principal of Sunnybank Special School, a beautiful school characterised by its multiculturalism and high proportion of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. During my time at Beenleigh, I am looking forward to building upon the relationships built at the end of last year and meeting the staff, students and families who are new to the school in 2015. Over the next two weeks, I am aiming to get into classrooms as much as possible to get to know everyone.

NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA (NCDC)
In Term 2, Beenleigh will be completing NCDC which aims to gather a reliable, consistent and transparent view of students with disability across Australia. This data will provide information about:
• the number of Australian school students with disability
• where Australian school students with disability are located
• the level of adjustments provided for Australian school students with disability to enable them to participate in schooling on the same basis as their peers.
The school’s role is to review existing information about all students and make an informed decision regarding the level of adjustment required. In Term 2, you will receive a Parent Fact Sheet outlining the process and you will be given the opportunity to inform the school if you do not want information about your child to be recorded in the national data collection.

GRiffith University Pre-service Teachers
Over the next few months, we are lucky enough to have several pre-service teachers working in the school. This is a wonderful opportunity for the school to support the development of future Special Education Teachers and also an opportunity for staff to share their valuable knowledge, experience and practices. At times, pre-service teachers are required to undertake student studies, if this is the case, please rest assured that parent permission is always obtained prior to this occurring.

HAPPY EASTER AND A SAFE HOLIDAY
As we come to the end of Term One, we reflect on the wonderful achievements all of our students, in particular the new students to the school who have adapted to a change in school environment.

The staff of Beenleigh Special School wish our students and families a very safe and Happy Easter break and we look forward to seeing you in Term Two.

Nicole Finch
Acting Principal
Congratulations to the P&C Committee members for 2015. Our P&C President is Leanne Lund. Our Secretary is Leah Rooney and our Treasurer is Michele Kohn. Thank you all for your time and generous support of our school and P&C.

On Friday 20 March staff shared a cake with Roselynne to wish her good luck in her new role as President of the Queensland Association of Special Education Leaders.

Beenleigh Special School is intending to continue to recycle eWaste in 2015. eWaste is anything that has a plug or battery attached (except old tv’s). So please bring in all your old printers, mobile phones and chargers, old computers and anything else electrical or battery operated to the office here at the school. Thanks for your support.

The Senior Secondary students are participating in a recycling program this year. We are collecting aluminium cans that can be crushed and recycled. If you have any cans that we would be able to use in our program, please send them to school. We can collect them from the classroom or the office.

Thank you for supporting our program. Senior Secondary 1, 2 and 3 students.
On Thursday 12th March parent/carers with students in 'Seniors' visited a range of services to look at potential employment options for students after they finish school. Options range from open employment through to supported employment, volunteer work and community participation. Not all students have the interest or capacity for work, but many want to work and enjoy the sense of purpose and structure, that comes from employment.

First stop was Red Cross College Employment Services, which is a Disability Employment Service (DES). Emma Green spoke to parents about the processes for DES support for students who show the potential for work in open employment. It is possible for young people to work part-time, with little or no impact on the Disability Support Pension.

Second stop was SubStation 33 (under the banner of YFS) which is a Social Enterprise. This centre specialises in recycling of e-waste. Interested students, with or without DSQ funding, can volunteer at SubStation 33 after they finish school. This centre offers numerous opportunities for students to 'tinker' with computers and electronics, while learning team work, basic workplace health and safety, employment skills and inter-personal skills.

We arrived at the Eagleby Supported Education Centre (ESEC under the banner of FIRST) in time to see Beenleigh Special School students packing boxes, as part of the Fruit and Vegetable Program. They were doing a great job! ESEC is a supported setting, which caters for clients funded by Disability Services (DSQ). The Fruit and Vegie program, allows participants to work and learn at their own pace, but know the satisfaction of a job well done!

While in the vicinity, we wandered over to Fryar Road Community Garden, Eagleby. Community gardens are inclusive activities which offer all members of the community a chance to enjoy the benefits of gardening, plus develop new roles and friendships.

We then visited Tim at Lighthouse Inc. (under the banner of Calvary Care) at Loganholme. Tim explained that Lighthouse works hard within the community to relieve hardship by selling cheaper food and delivering food parcels. As a growing organisation, Lighthouse has many openings for volunteer labour, and will accommodate and adjust tasks, to suit the needs of the volunteers in whatever way they can.

Our last visit was to Monte Lupo (under the banner of Multi-cap) which is an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE). Employees at Monte-Lupo take part in routine and structured work, including mail-outs, sheep and cotton tags, plus the art and pottery studio and coffee shop. Employees are paid based on productivity and receive the usual benefits such as sick leave, long service leave etc.

A big day for all, but a wonderful insight into the world of post-school options, for students with disability, who are interested in a work pathway.

Thank you to parents and services who supported the day.

Mary Shepherd.
(AVT School Transition Officer)
The Community Linking Officer (CLO) is a locally based professional ready to assist you to access the information and services that meet your immediate needs and help you plan for the future.

**Personalised Service**
The CLO works alongside people with a disability, their families and carers to identify their personal needs, goals, skills and their future aspirations.

**A Variety of Links**
The CLO can link you to families, friends and neighbours, disability advocacy and support organisations, local services, support and management, and other community-based organisations.

**Ongoing Support**
The CLO can help you continue to develop and maintain your personal, business and leisure skills.

For more information
Ph: (07) 3297 4330
150 North Sherwood 321 4275
Open Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm
www.fsg.com.au

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