



# PORT AUGUSTA SPECIAL SCHOOL

McSporran Cres - PO Box 392, Port Augusta SA 5700  
Tel: (08) 8641 0882 Fax: (08) 8642 5209



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education  
and Child Development

## Newsletter - February 2017 - Issue 2

### News from the Principal...

We would like to welcome Cam Larson to the school. Cam will be our Deputy Principal for the year.

All classes have had a busy start to the term. Swimming lessons are well under way for our primary students. While hoping for warm weather we weren't expecting the extreme weather that occurred. Staff and students enjoyed their time at the pool and it created an opportunity to work with our students in a different setting. Our senior class will participate in aquatics later this term. Many classes are beginning to explore excursion opportunities that will enhance our literacy, numeracy, health and life skills programs such as library visits, kinder gym and shopping.

The school has generously been provided with 8 tickets to attend the Clipsal event on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Simone Anderson, Keith Newbery and 6 students will attend this unique event. We hope they have an amazing day.

Thank you to staff and families who supported our Family Information Night on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. We appreciated your willingness to attend in the 46-degree heat. This night provided an excellent opportunity for families to learn about the classroom and curriculum. Families will have another opportunity to meet the classroom teachers' at the Negotiated Education Plan (NEP) meetings, 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> February. The Negotiated Education Plan for each student is reviewed and changes are made to accommodate new learning goals. The NEP is a mandated document that is developed for each student. It is important that parents/carers play a part in the development of the plan.

I would like to welcome Kelly Falcione, Speech Pathologist, to our school this year. Kelly will be working in our site for 1 day each week. Kelly will support oral language groups in our younger years and communication across the school. In addition, this term we have 2 speech pathology students working with a group of students in our middle primary and senior classes.

*Sarah*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**20 -24 February- Negotiated Education Plan (NEP) parent meetings.**

**9 March, 9.30am-Whole School Assembly in Activity Room**

**17 March Student Free Day**

**29 March Governing Council AGM**

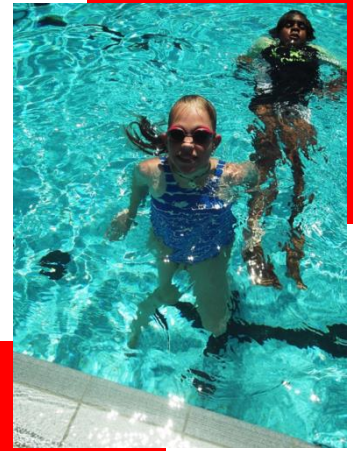
| <u>Governing</u>                     | <u>Council</u>          | <u>AGM</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Wednesday                            | 29 <sup>th</sup> March, | 9.15am     |
| Activity Room                        |                         |            |
| All parents/carers welcome to attend |                         |            |

### Materials & Services Charges

Materials & Services charges are now due. Families needing a "school card application" form can collect one from the front office.

It would be appreciated if payments can be made ASAP. Do you know that you can direct deposit into the school account? If interested in this easy option please contact the school.

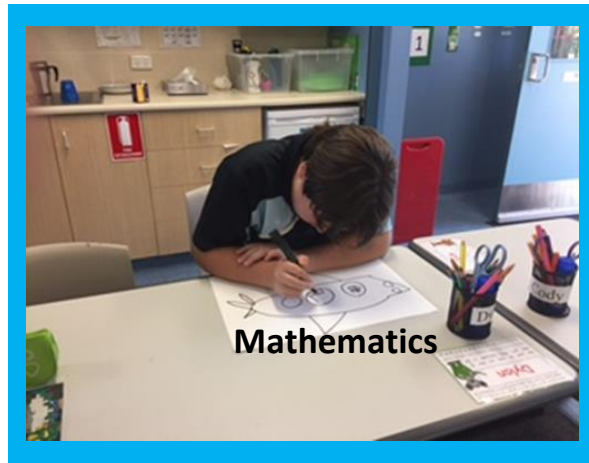
## Snapshot of our Exciting Start to 2017!



## Literacy



# Art Classes



Mathematics



## Kelly Falcione- DECD Speech Pathologist

Over the last couple of weeks I have really enjoyed getting to know new staff and students as well as spending time with many of the students that I worked with last year. It was also fantastic to meet some parents at the parent information night and I'm looking forward to meeting many more over the coming weeks.

This year the Special School will receive a full day of speech pathology support each week. I will be working in the classrooms every Tuesday running oral language groups with the junior primary students as well as providing training and support to staff. This will have a particular focus on strategies for functional communication and using visuals and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) books in the classroom.

There are a number of students who are also receiving Speech Pathology support from NDIA service providers such as Novita and the Flinders Terrace Health Centre. I will be working with these Speech Pathologists to ensure students' communication goals are being supported in the classroom.

During term one, there will be two Flinders University Speech Pathology Students completing their placements in Port Augusta. The Student Speech Pathologists will be working with a group of students at the Special School two afternoons a week, under the direction of Senior Speech Pathologist, Anne Murrie.

I can be contacted at the Port Augusta Office on 8641 6804. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to give me a call or we can arrange a time to meet.

## Communication Tip

- Everyday situations such as mealtimes can be fantastic opportunities to build your Child's language skills. By talking about the food you are eating you can teach your child new vocabulary. Examples include: talking about individual foods, the food groups they belong to (dairy, meat, etc.), the textures they have (bumpy, smooth, etc.) whether they are crunchy or soft, sweet or salty. For older children you could discuss where the foods are grown or how they are made.
- Aim to have conversations that go back and forth many times.
- If your child uses AAC such as PODD books or Proloquo2go you can use these tools to support the conversations.



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Dear parent/carer,

An incident/accident has occurred recently at 2 sites resulting in injuries to students.

In one incident the student was using the junior primary play equipment and caught the hat that they were wearing in play equipment, resulting in a red welt on the child's throat due to friction/burn.

The style of hat is pictured with an adjustable chin cord.

As this incident identifies a risk of injury we request the following:

- you inspect your child's school hat and if it has a cord, please immediately remove the cord; and
- if you have concerns about the safety of the hat please speak with me or office staff.



The safety of students at this site is of utmost importance, as such our school staff will continue to monitor and assess potential risks. When required we will modify or change processes to ensure our students get the best care.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter please contact me Sarah French on phone: 8641 0882

*Sarah*

SARAH FRENCH

PRINCIPAL