



Coomera Link

~ Coomera State School ~

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28 April 2009

From the Principals Desk

Welcome to Term 2

A warm welcome to everyone as we commence the second term of the school year. A special welcome to our new students and their families who have joined our school community. We look forward to getting to know you and encourage you to be actively involved in the wide variety of educational opportunities available here at Coomera. A wide variety of school activities have already been organised for this term. A number of our Year 7 students will participate in interschool sport, Under Eights Week and Education Week will be celebrated and our students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will participate in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Our regular Student of the Term Assemblies and Student Reward Activities will take place towards the end of the term and staff will be busy finalising student assessment in preparation for the issuing of Semester One Student Reports.

Student Enrolments

We currently have 885 students enrolled in Prep to Year 7 and 32 students enrolled in our Early Childhood Development Program. All class sizes still remain within the recommended class sizes of 25 in Prep to Year 3 and 28 in Years 4 to 7.

Staffing Update

Mrs McCallum, one of our Deputy Principals is on leave until 3 June. During her absence, Mrs Lucas has been appointed as our Acting Deputy Principal. Mrs Lucas has enjoyed her first week here at Coomera and is looking forward to working with everyone in the weeks ahead.

Mrs Underwood will be on leave this week and we welcome Ms Walter who will teach Prep KU while Mrs Underwood is away. Ms Walter has done a great job when relieving here at Coomera previously and we look forward to having her with us again this week.

We welcome back Mrs McAdam who has been on leave for the past few weeks. Ms Symes, one of our teachers of students with disabilities, has requested to teach 4 days a week (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) from the beginning of Term 2. Ms Gifford, who has recently done some relief teaching here at Coomera, will join our Special Needs staff on Wednesdays and Thursdays on a temporary contract, initially for Term 2.

Ms Bulluss, one of our teacher aides for students with disabilities, returned from leave this term. Ms Bulluss will be here at Coomera on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Ms McCormack, a Speech Language Pathologist based here at Coomera, has returned from maternity leave one day a week

(Mondays). Ms McCormack will be located with our other Speech Language Pathologists, next to our Year 3 classes.

Ms Angus, one of our prep teacher aides, was unable to continue her temporary contract this term. Our thanks and best wishes go to Ms Angus as she continues her studies in the months ahead. Ms Wilson is currently the Prep teacher aide for Prep KU.

Facilities Update

Over the holidays, a number of facilities projects have been undertaken. The re-roofing, gutter replacement and external painting of Blocks 1 and 2 was completed and 3KV and 3NG were relocated back into their classrooms for the beginning of the this term. Our Computer Lab and Uniform Shop are again fully operational. Completion of this work has made a huge improvement to these buildings. Further external painting of other buildings on site will be completed in the near future.

Uneven pavers outside our Year 5 Block were replaced with concrete paths and new garden edging. This will enable further development of this garden area in the upcoming cooler weather. Trees were also removed in the garden area between some of our Year 1 and 2 classrooms. This should greatly reduce gutter blockages and enable this garden area also to be developed in the coming months.

Work has also continued on our new building for students with disabilities. Concrete paths were established and the under covered walkway commenced. Hopefully all work should be completed before the end of this term.

Recently our school was selected for inclusion in Stage 1 of the Federal Government's \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution economic stimulus package. As part of the National School Pride component our school has received funding approval for three facilities projects totalling \$200 000.00. These projects involve the refurbishment of a number of our classrooms, upgrading of the front entrance of our school including widening and installation of pedestrian pathways and small covered area as well as the installation of a small playground for our Early Childhood Development Unit. These projects will provide welcome improvements to our facilities here at our school.

New Primary School at East Coomera

Last week, a new primary school at East Coomera was announced as part of the SEQ Schools Project. Seven new "eco-friendly" schools will be built in high-growth areas of South East Queensland over the next two years under a \$1.1 billion dollar Public Private Partnership arrangement.

Primary schools will be built at Thornlands South and Peregian Springs to open next year, Bellbird Park, Collingwood Park and East Coomera in 2011 and a primary school at Bundilla and high school at Murrumba Downs in 2012. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

This Newsletter is provided FREE to Coomera State School with the great support of the local business community.

Please Support these Sponsors.

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National Literacy and Numeracy testing in 2009

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for 2009 will be held from Tuesday 12 May to Thursday 14 May. Students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will participate in four tests during this period – Language Conventions, Writing, Reading and Numeracy. The Language Conventions test will incorporate spelling, grammar and punctuation while the Numeracy testing will incorporate number, space and measurement. The Year 7 Numeracy tests will consist of a calculator-allowed test, followed by a non-calculator test. If your child is absent for school during this period, they will still be able to participate in catch up testing sessions on Friday 15 May.

There are a number of ways you can help your child to prepare at home for tests:

- talk to your child about the purpose of the tests and how they will be given an opportunity to show what they have learnt in class
- discuss the format that test questions can take, such as multiple choice items, short response questions and writing tasks
- when you read together, ask your child questions about the story to make sure they understand what they are reading
- encourage your child to write descriptive stories about something they have seen, heard or read about – who are the main characters, what are they trying to do and why, where is the story set and how will it end
- maintain a positive attitude about the tests
- ensure your child gets plenty of sleep leading up to tests
- ensure your child exercises and eats healthy meals regularly, including breakfast.

A brochure with more information about NAPLAN 2009 is available for download from the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs at www.naplan.edu.au/verve/_resources/NAPLAN09_WebsiteBrochure_v3.pdf

Information about NAPLAN 2009 is also available on the Queensland Studies Authority website at www.qsa.qld.edu.au/assessment/7972.html.

Reading to your child – hints for parents

Comics, magazines, library books, signs and even shopping lists can stimulate your child's reading. Asking your child to read these aloud with you will improve their reading in the classroom.

Yours truly, truly, can help your child with their reading by:

- reading to them from an early age – to let them know that reading is a fun and relaxing activity and not just for work and school. Children love to copy, so it's a great way to set an example that reading is important
- asking your child to read aloud each day for at least 10 minutes from a variety of texts, such as beginner's readers, library books and picture books – this will establish a routine and make reading aloud easier
- using expression and feeling when you read and using different voices for different characters – this can make a story more entertaining
- letting your child choose what you read together – it doesn't matter if you read the same book several times
- joining a library and borrowing books to read is inexpensive. Most libraries will have a children's librarian – it is a good idea to speak with them about books you can share with your child.

For more information about how you can help your child with literacy and numeracy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map

Documentation: Resources and Contact Details

Documentation related to our School Resource Scheme, Voluntary Contribution Scheme and Student Contact Details Sheet has recently been issued. Your assistance in promptly returning these would be greatly appreciated.

Current contact information such as address, contact phone numbers, emergency contacts is very important. For a variety of reasons, staff may need to contact parents or caregivers during the school day. Therefore it is essential that our office has current phone numbers for parents and emergency contacts.

If contact details change at any time, please advise the school office as soon as possible.

Casual Teacher Aides

From time to time our school requires the assistance of casual teacher aides to replace teacher aides who are absent. Work may become available particularly in the areas of special needs and the Prep Year. We are currently looking for additional people to have on our casual teacher aide list. If you are interested in casual teacher aide work here at our school, please provide our school office with a written statement detailing your name, contact details, availability and any previous teacher aide experience or volunteer work in schools.

Schoolzine Fun Run: Thank You everyone!

Due to the wet weather, at the end of last term, our school Fun Run was rescheduled until last Wednesday, 22 April. A special Thank You to our P&C and all our staff, particularly Mrs Felton and Mr Rohwer, for their organisation and assistance with this event. It was just wonderful to see the active participation of our students and the support and encouragement of parents, family members and friends who came along on the day, was greatly appreciated. The event was also an opportunity to raise valuable funds for our P&C to financially assist our school with the purchase of additional resources such as sporting and technology equipment. Your support in raising funds and in returning any Fun Run sponsorship forms and money to the school office as soon as possible would be appreciated.

The Fun Run was also an opportunity for older students to be selected to participate in our District Cross Country. A team of 31 students has been selected to participate in the District Cross Country Championships to be held next Friday 8 May at Runaway Bay Cricket Club. Our best wishes go to the students as they compete next Friday.

P&C Annual General Meeting Rescheduled

Due to unexpected delays in receiving the auditor's report, our P&C Annual General Meeting has been rescheduled to Monday 18 May commencing at 9:30 am in the staffroom. This will be followed by the regular monthly P&C Meeting. All members of our school community are invited to attend. Any assistance you are able to give throughout the year would be most welcome and greatly appreciated.

Mother's Day Stall

Our P&C will be holding a Mother's Day Stall here at the school next Thursday 7 May and Friday 8 May. Students will be able to purchase gifts up to the value of \$6.00 for their Mother or "Special Someone". It is wonderful to see the excitement of our students and the time and thought they put into making their selection of that very special gift.

Our sincere thanks go to our P&C helpers for organising the gifts and manning the stall for this special fundraising activity.

ANZAC DAY

Last Thursday 23 April, our student leaders travelled to Brisbane to represent our school at the Student ANZAC Service. There were over 3 000 students from all across Queensland at the ceremony and our students were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Our school ANZAC Day commemoration was conducted in our main under covered area last Friday 24 April. Our Student Leaders did a terrific job conducting the service and our students are to be congratulated on their excellent behaviour and participation. Lance Corporal Jack Murphy from Oxenford/Coomera RSL, Mr. Terry Howard, previous Principal of Coomera State School and Mr Peter Douglas, School Council Chair were

our special guests and it was lovely to have family members join us at this important school event.

A huge Thank You to the small group of students, family and staff who proudly represented our school at the ANZAC Day March at Upper Coomera on ANZAC Day. Your participation was very much appreciated at this important community event.

Festival of Light 2009

Festival of Light 2009 is an initiative of Lifeline Gold Coast and the Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children. It will be held beside the lake at the Oxenford Youth Centre, 25 Tamborine – Oxenford Drive on Saturday 16 May commencing at 2:00 pm. From 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm there will be a family fun day with free activities, entertainment and workshops for the whole family. At 5:30 pm, the "Dreams Alive" lantern parade will move around the lake, with the evening ending with a spectacular fire display in the centre of the lake.

This year, students from 6JM and 6AW will have the opportunity to participate in workshops here at school to make lanterns to carry at the parade. An invitation is extended to all members of our school community to come along and enjoy the Festival of Light 2009.

Semester 1 Student Reports

Staff will soon begin preparation of Semester 1 Student Reports which will be issued on Thursday 25 June. These reports will also include information on student absences. For your information, Departmental guidelines state that if students arrive after the first 30 minutes of the scheduled school day this will count as a morning/half day absence. Similarly, if a student leaves earlier than 30 minutes prior to the end of the scheduled school day, this will count as an afternoon/half day absence.

Where no reason has been provided for an absence, the absence is recorded as unexplained and the number of unexplained absences is listed on the student's report also.

Student absences can be provided to the school by the parent/caregiver in person, in writing e.g. note to class teacher or by leaving a message on the school's absence phone line (PH: 5519 6360). Students arriving late in the morning need to check in at the school office on arrival. Parents/caregivers collecting students prior to the end of the school day should come to the school office where staff will make the necessary collection arrangements and students can be signed out.

Certificate III in Children's Services – Free Training

The YMCA will be running a program at the Oxenford / Coomera Youth Community centre from Thursday 7th May 2009 for people interested in entering the Childcare profession. The course is FREE and it delivers the first 4 modules of the Certificate III in Children's Services. It runs for 12 weeks 1 – 3 days a week within school hours. Please call Emma on 3208 5633 for further information.

Mathletics Awards Silver and Gold

Week 10

Morgan S. 1CB
Alexandra S. 1CB
Tori B. 2JL
Bryson T. 2JL
Brooke D. 2KF
Bailey M. 2KF
Shay W. 2KF
Mikah W. 2KF
Keely B. 2ML
Declan M. 2ML
Jacob M. 3NG
Ben D. 3SC

Seren B. 4CS
Dyllan A. 4HK
Sam M. 4HK
Lachlan T. 4HK
Kaitlin F. 4NM
Ali Z. 4NM
Dion B. 5NW
Joshua M. 6AW
Reece B. 6JM
Atiya L. 6JM
Kyle C. T. 6KM
Brodhie J. 6KM

Brooke R. 4AS
Kyle T. 4AS

Week 11

Sarah B. 1KC
Charlie S. 1KC
Lachlan M. 4/5AS
Harry H. 4CS
William M. 4CS
Frankie S. 4NM
Ben Ward 4NM
Jarrod R. 4RH (GOLD)
Amelia F. 6JM
Jarrod W. 6KM

Chanel N. 6KM

Week 1

Alexander K. 2ML
Payton K. 4RH
Gabi R. 6AW (GOLD)
Chelsea C. 6KM
Samantha O. 6KM

Lexile Awards Week 11

10 point award

Lucy K. 3KV
Emma A. 4CS
Brooke K. 5RJ
Tyler S. 5RJ
Chelsea C. 6KM
Matisse F. 5NW
Jake P. 5NW

25 point (ribbon)

Molly M. 6JM
Matisse F. 5NW
Lachie R. 5NW
Ryley B. 3KV

1000 point (ribbon)

Natasha L. 7BF

Ribbons are awarded at the end of term assembly.

Online Cartooning Competition 2009

Due date for Entries: 3.30pm Friday 5th June, 2009

Project Link: http://eq.janison.com.au/eq/set.asp?RoomId=EQ39876_7193_152520_1

The competition consists of 3 separate challenges. Students can enter any or all of the challenges open to their age group. Prizes, image format and size are listed below with the descriptions of each challenge task.

Challenge #1: Healthy food or healthy life cartoon character

Years P-12. Prize: Online cartooning workshop with "Swamp" cartoonist Gary Clark and an award certificate to the winning student.

For this simple challenge you need to do a single drawing depicting a healthy food or healthy life character. Upload your drawing to the Challenge #1 Blog placing your first name, class and school in the title field of the entry. Your image must be saved in .jpg format with dimensions of 250 x 300 pixels, and the file size must be under 20 kb. Instructions for uploading entries to the blog are found below.

Challenge #2: Newspaper/Political/Celebrity caricature or cartoon

Years 8-12. Prize: Online cartooning workshop with a top Australian news cartoonist and an award certificate to the winning student.

For this challenge you need to draw a single frame newspaper-style current events, political or celebrity cartoon or caricature. Upload your drawing to the Challenge #2 Blog placing your first name, class and school in the title field of the entry. Your image must be saved in .jpg format with dimensions of 500 x 400 pixels, and the file size must be under 50 kb. Instructions for uploading entries to the blog are found below.

Challenge #3: Online Cartooning banner design

Years P-12. Prize: The winning student's banner will be used as the official current year competition banner and an award certificate to the winning student.

For this challenge you will design a colourful and eye catching banner to replace the current banner in the competition project room. The words "Online Cartooning Competition" must feature in the banner. Upload your banner image to the Challenge #3 Blog placing your first name, class and school in the title field of the entry. The banner image must be saved in .jpg format with dimensions of 800 x 80 pixels and the file size must be under

20 kb. Please place your name, class and school in the title of your entry. Instructions for uploading entries to the blog are found below.

Uploading entries to the competition Blogs.

1. Open the blog for the challenge you are entering.
2. In the Actions box click "Create new entry".
3. On the Edit/create blog entry screen, type your first name, class and school into the "Title" box.
4. On the Edit/create blog entry screen, enter your images as follows:



Click the Insert Image icon

In the file directory window click "Upload a new file"

Click "Browse" to locate the image file in your folders on your computer, then click "Upload file", then click the "Select" button (at the bottom of the window)

5. Click the "Save" link at the button on the Edit/create blog entry screen. That's it!

Conditions of entry: Please note that it is a condition of entry that all images are the exclusive work of the entrant. By entering the competition you agree to allow the publication of your entry image/s and name by Education Queensland.

Contact: Chris Judd, cjudd4@eq.edu.au, Gold Coast

SEP News

Helping Children with Autism' Package ~ AUTISM ADVISOR PROGRAM

Funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs under the Helping Children with Autism Package

Autism Queensland is pleased to announce that the Autism Advisor Program is now available.

The Autism Advisor Program is a component of the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package (which also includes early intervention, playgroups and education and support for families and carers). The Program is managed by the Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), with the aim of ensuring that eligible families and carers have access to impartial, evidence based information and financial support.

The Program is being delivered in each State and Territory by suitably qualified organisations with experience in providing information and support services to families and carers of children aged 0-6 years with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In Queensland, the Program is being delivered by Autism Queensland (AQ).

The Queensland Autism Advisor Program is made up of three Autism Advisors (AAs) and a co-ordinator. It is a state-wide program, with currently two of the AAs based in Brisbane (covering the area north to 75 kms above Rockhampton and west to the state border) and one in Cairns (covering the rest of the state). In May 2009, it is envisaged that the team will be increased to include another AA based in Brisbane and one based in Rockhampton.

The key functions of the Autism Advisor Program are:

- To provide support and information about ASD to families / carers
- To provide information about all services that a family / carer could access
- To organise payment of the HCWA Early Intervention funding and the
- Regional and Remote funding (where eligible)

Support and information about ASD

A key role of the Autism Advisor Program is supporting the family / carer to gain a clear understanding of ASD as it relates to their child, through discussion and written information. The

Advisors will also refer the family / carer to useful websites, books, journals and other resources.

Early Intervention funding

One of the most significant aspects of the assistance that the Autism Advisor Program provides to families / carers is access to the Early Intervention funding that is available through the HCWA package.

This funding is \$6000 per financial year for a maximum of 2 years and can only be used to pay for services from members of the Early Intervention Service Provider Panel – these are services that have been assessed and approved by FaHCSIA as meeting certain desirable criteria for effective early intervention for children with autism.

The Autism Advisors provide the only gateway to this funding, and do so by checking the child's eligibility for funding, entering the family's / carer's information onto the FaHCSIA database and then supplying the family or carer with the documentation they require. The family / carer take this documentation to the Early Intervention Service Provider Panel member of their choice and the fees for that service provider are then paid in part or fully by FaHCSIA up to a maximum of \$6000 over a year for up to two years.

Regional and Remote Payment

In addition, the Autism Advisor Program also facilitates the payment of the Regional and Remote Grant to eligible families. This is a one-off payment of \$2000 that goes to families living in areas of Queensland that qualify as Regional and Remote according to FaHCSIA criteria. Again, the Advisors provide the only portal to this funding, through entering the necessary data onto the FaHCSIA database and organising the payment to the families. This grant is to assist families to access services, eg., for them to put towards travel to a service, home internet connection, books, computers, etc.

Information about other services

The role of the Advisors is to also provide comprehensive information about other services, which are not on the Early Intervention Service Provider Panel, that are also available in the family's / carer's area. Information will be supplied that is not only about autism-specific or disability-specific services, but also broader services that may assist the whole family (eg., respite care, holiday programs, interest groups, parent support groups, etc.)

The medium for achieving these outcomes is a **Consultation** between an Autism Advisor and the parent/s or carer/s:

- This will take place at a central, community-based location (eg., an AQ centre, a community centre, a school, a community agency office, etc.) or by telephone.
- During this Consultation, the AA will gain relevant information about the child and the family and then provide them with appropriate information about helpful services, support and resources.
- This information will be discussed at the Consultation and provided in written form.
- After the Consultation, the Advisor will enter the family's data onto the FaHCSIA online system which will verify the child's eligibility.
- The Advisor will then supply an official printout which will be forwarded to the family.
- The family take this printout (known as a 'Letter of Introduction') to the Panel service provider of their choice.

To access the Autism Advisor Program, the child must be:

- 0 – 6 years
- Not yet at formal school (ie., is not yet in Year One)
- Diagnosed, by a paediatrician, psychiatrist or multi-disciplinary assessment team, with one of the following:
 1. Autism
 2. Autistic disorder
 3. Asperger syndrome
 4. Rett syndrome
 5. Childhood disintegrative disorder

6. Pervasive developmental disorder – not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS)

- An Australian resident

To verify the child's eligibility for accessing the Autism Advisor Program and consequently, the Early Intervention funding, the Advisors need to be provided with:

- A copy of the child's birth certificate
- A copy of the letter of diagnosis / diagnostic form / diagnostic statement
- The child's Centrelink number
- A copy of a rates notice or utilities bill to confirm the residential address
- A copy of any parenting plan or court order

These documents can be brought to a face-to-face Consultation, but will need to be received prior to a telephone Consultation.

The contact number for the Autism Advisor Programme is **3273 0000**. The email address is daniellel@autismqld.com.au Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

May is **Autism Awareness Month**

- **Autism Awareness Display** on **Saturday 9 May** at Robina Town

Centre, outside Target and Noni B, from 9am - 3pm

PlayConnect Playgroups

Connecting families with children with ASD - is starting on **Friday 24th April**

at **St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nerang** 167-169 Beaudesert-Nerang Road For further information on this playgroup, please contact Playgroup Queensland on 1800 171 882.

PlayConnect Playgroups are a component of the Australian Government's \$190 million *Helping Children with Autism* package, addressing the need for support and services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders *PlayConnect Playgroups* are about connecting families with other caregivers and families who have a child with ASD or who displays ASD like symptoms, between the ages of 0 and 6 years. The relaxed playgroup atmosphere allows families time to share stories, advice and information as well as providing play opportunities that are flexible and tailored to the needs of the children. *PlayConnect Playgroups* are provided at little or no cost to the families.

PlayConnect Playgroups meet for two hours each week and families are encouraged to attend as often as they can. To make it easier for families to access *PlayConnect Playgroups*, brothers and sisters and other family members are welcome to attend. Maria Shevlin, a Development Worker is there each week to support the *PlayConnect Playgroup* for between 6 and 24 months. The Development Worker will assist the families to set up and run the playgroup, assist in choosing appropriate play activities and assist in facilitating group discussions regarding topics of interest amongst the parents. Development Workers are not ASD specialists and do not provide programs of interventions for specific skill development at Playgroup. However, Development Workers can provide information regarding ASD services and organise to have local ASD specialists visit the Playgroup.

To recognise the valuable role carers play in the community, the Queensland Government has introduced the Carer Business Discount Card scheme. This new scheme builds on the existing Seniors Card and Seniors Business Discount Card partnership between business and government. With the support of the business community, carers can use their Carer Business Discount Card to obtain discounts and incentives from participating businesses.

The card provides direct, real benefits to carers in acknowledgement of this contribution. When making purchases from registered businesses, simply present your Carer Business Discount Card to receive the discount or other offer.

To be eligible for a Carer Business Discount Card you must:

1. be a resident of Queensland with a Queensland residential

address registered with Centrelink, and

2. receive the Centrelink Carer Payment or Carer Allowance. There are several ways to apply for a Carer Business Discount Card. The quickest way is to apply online. Alternatively, download the cardholder application form (PDF), complete your details and return to Card Services.

If you prefer, you can make your application over the phone by calling Smart Service Queensland on 13 13 04 (Monday to Friday, 8.00 am – 6.00 pm). Remember to have your Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN) handy.

Disability Services Queensland- Application for Support

<http://www.disability.qld.gov.au/support-services/application-for-support/>

People with a disability can apply to receive specialist disability services from Disability Services Queensland using the *single Application for Support*. The new form will help the department better understand people's individual needs, and determine their eligibility as quickly as possible. The Application for Support is the only form required for a person with a disability to register or apply for Disability Services Queensland specialist disability services.

Registering with Disability Services Queensland requires completion of only a limited number of questions in the Application for Support, as instructed in the form. Applying for specialist disability services and funding programs requires completion of the full Application for Support.

The full Application for Support collects information that Disability Services Queensland requires to determine a person's relative need for specialist disability services, and to identify the support options available to meet the needs of the applicant and their family (where relevant). Disability Services Queensland funds and provides specialist disability services, which are services and initiatives specially designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities. An Application for Support is required for the following specialist disability supports:

- accommodation support
- community support
- community access, and
- respite.

To be eligible for specialist disability services, a person must have a disability as defined by the *Disability Services Act 2006* (Qld) and meet the Queensland and Australian residency criteria. Under the *Disability Services Act 2006* (Qld), the applicant's disability must be attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment, or a combination of these. The applicant's disability must also result in a substantially reduced capacity that inhibits the person's day-to-day functioning, requiring support needs over and above what would usually be required by a person of the same age without a disability.

The Application for Support can be posted to the nearest Disability Services Queensland regional office, or hand delivered to a Disability Services Queensland service centre. For further information, including request for an application to be sent to you, contact the Disability Information Service on 1800 177 120 Co

'Early Days' workshops – www.earlydays.net.au

The Early Days workshop is for parents and carers of young children under school age who have recently had a child diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, or referred for an assessment. The workshop is for parents who are in the "early days" of their journey through the assessment and diagnosis process.

The workshops are FREE and are being run throughout Queensland.

Contact your local Early Days provider or phone Early Days 1800 334 155 to express your interest in attending a free workshop near you.

To sign up for email notification of the launch of the new Early Days website go to the Parenting Research Centre website www.parentingrc.org.au

Tweed Valley Early Childhood Intervention Service Inc. presents Jane Remington-Gurney Workshops at Tweed Heads

- **Basic Facilitated Communication Training – Thursday 30th April, 2009 - Cost:** \$140 Included in the cost is your manual "A Slice of My Life. Facilitated Communication Training".
- **Introduction To AAC – Friday 1st May, 2009 - Cost:** \$140 – Manual available on day for \$45

Jane Remington-Gurney is the Director of Options Communication Therapy and Training Centre. She has 30 years experience as a speech therapist and has completed her Masters Degree in Applied Linguistics, and Cert IV in Training and Assessment. She has worked as Head of Department for the Queensland Cerebral Palsy League, as a Speech Language Pathologist for the DEAL Communication Centre, and as Advisor in Facilitated Communication for Disability Services Queensland.

Jane has been in Private Practice for over ten years and brings a wealth of experience and commitment to working with people who do not share the gift or power of speech. A manual has been produced to accompany Workshop 6: Basic Facilitated Communication Training.

For further information: contact Diane Rafton, Tweed Valley Early Childhood Intervention Service, PO Box 105, Tweed Heads NSW 2485

Communication Board Design ~ More than just basic needs

Monday 25 May 2009, 9.30am-4pm

Fitzy's Convention Centre, corner of Bryants Rd & Pacific Highway, Loganholme

Cost: FREE for parents and unpaid carers

The participants for this workshop will be able to discuss the uses of communication displays and the rationale for using them to promote better interactions, language learning, language expression and literacy enhancement.

This training would be suitable for people working with or caring for a person with a disability who does not have functional speech and would benefit from a communication display.

The Presenter: Jane Remington-Gurney is a speech language pathologist with thirty years experience working with people who have developmental or acquired disabilities. Jane illustrates her workshops with examples of how the theory can be put into practice and has a publication to accompany each of her workshops.

Applications will close on 8 May 2009. For more info and registration, contact the Workforce Council Team on 1800 851 848.

- Write Me a Story ~ so that I can see what you mean Tuesday 16 June 2009, 9.30am-4pm

Fitzy's Convention Centre, corner of Bryants Rd & Pacific Highway, Loganholme

Cost: FREE for parents and unpaid carers

The participants for this workshop will be able to discuss the uses of story telling and written stories using social story formats, visual sequencing and captioning primarily with people who have challenges in social language and time comprehension, language learning and behavioural management. This training would be suitable for people working with or caring for a person with a disability who has difficulty understanding language and in particular the social aspects of using language in interactions.

- History of story telling
- uses for story telling
- Social Story

formatting Visual schedules learning through positive teaching captioning for meaning.

The **Presenter:** Jane Remington-Gurney, speech language pathologist

Applications will close on 1 June 2009. For more info and registration, contact the Workforce Council Team on 1800 851 848.

NORCO Collect a Cap Fundraiser

The P&C is collecting Norco milk caps that have the Norco logo and how much each cap is worth on the cap eg: 10c and 20c etc. The school benefits from the funds raised by these fundraisers as all funds raised provide the extras for the students of the school.

Please ensure all caps are washed before dropping them off at the tuckshop in the collection tub. This collection will continue until the end of term 2.

Tuckshop News

Meal Deal

Friday 1st May 2009

Sausage Roll, Sauce, Piranaha Chips, Jelly, Fruit, Small Water.

8th May 2009

Spaghetti Bolognese, Fruit, Jumpy's, Pretzels, Juice Cup.

New Menus were distributed before the Easter holidays, if you have not received one, they are available via the link on the web site or from the tuckshop. Please be advised there have been changes to both AM & PM.

Volunteers are always welcome, please call by and lend a hand when you are free.

After School Soccer Clinic

INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN AN AFTER SCHOOL SOCCER CLINIC?

As both a qualified soccer coach with U.E.F.A and Coerver, with over 28yrs of combined experiences both as a player and a coach in the U.K., U.S.A., as well as coaching soccer in the 3yrs I have lived in Australia, I am available to run an after school soccer clinic at Coomera State School, every Friday after school from 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

My aim is to provide a soccer development program to enhance the necessary skills and techniques for young players, aged 6 and over, in order for them to enjoy their 'football', as well as playing in some fun small-sided games.

The first clinic will commence on Fri 1st May 2009 and run for 7 weeks. Total cost for the full 7 weeks, with all equipment supplied, would be \$70.00 [there is a 20% discount for siblings=\$56.00]. Children would need to bring with them; appropriate attire\ footwear, shin pads and a drink bottle.

If you have any queries regarding the soccer clinic you can contact me on: 0434 897 664 or email me on simon.le-chalmers@bigpond.com. If you would like your child to participate in our first soccer clinic, please contact me on the above number or email to register.'