Principal’s Message:

This will be my last newsletter article as you will already know, I am retiring from 6 March 2015 and taking the balance of my long service leave until then.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve in the role of Principal of this wonderful school since 1991. It is my eighth school as Principal having been in that role since I was 21 years of age, some 44 years ago. My first school was Ravenswood, a ghost town where between 8 and 13 children attended in my eighteen months there. I have been in small schools with just a few staff, opened a new school in Rockhampton, been Principal of a combined primary and secondary school, taken schools from middle sized schools to huge ones such as William Duncan State School in Nerang, but I always felt that Collingwood Park was the most special, where I was meant to be.

Thanks to the literally hundreds of staff members and the thousands of parents and children who have made my time at this school such an amazing and satisfying experience. I appreciate your support in my attempts to create, maintain and further develop a school that was truly student focussed, where the school community learned together and where all in our school family could feel supported and valued.

I will remember with pride, satisfaction and fondness everyone associated with this amazing school throughout my 24 years as principal.

While I will not be Principal next year, I will return to assist with topics on the student free days, to take sporting teams and to help out where needed. I also have a commitment to ensure that there is a smooth transition to a new president of Central District Sport and will be helping out there. My volunteer work in retirement will also include assistance with primary school rugby league administration as a life member and my presidency of Swifts Comets Basketball Club plus coaching club teams.

I will have the best of both worlds or lifestyles.

NEW PRINCIPAL APPOINTED

After a rigorous selection process involving statewide advertising and the consideration of relocations, a new Principal has been appointed. I am overjoyed to announce that the new Principal of Collingwood Park State School is Mrs Meridee Cuthill. Congratulations Meridee!
Principal’s Message Cont...

What a great appointment! Mrs Cuthill’s hard work since being appointed here as Deputy Principal many years ago and her commitment to this school which she loves, have contributed to making this school so fabulous. It has been a pleasure working in partnership with Meridee. I have said before that it is like our school is being administered by two school principals. Now Meridee will be a principal in her own right.

Mrs Cuthill’s appointment is really the very best possible outcome for this school. It provides continuity for the next four year plan commencing in 2015. The school has a Principal with a thorough knowledge of our school’s focus and direction, an intimate knowledge of the school programs, a familiarity with the families and staff, and a depth of knowledge of the children.

Last week, Mrs Cuthill declined the offer of a principalship much closer to home in the hope of achieving her goal of being principal here, a clear demonstration of her affinity with and dedication to Collingwood Park State School.

I know that the school community will put their support behind her and the school will go from strength to strength.

OUR SCHOOL IS WELL POSITIONED FOR THE FUTURE

From the start of 2015, the school will commence the first year of our strategic plan which has been developed for 2015-2018. Through the very successful last four years, our school is well-positioned to start this new four year cycle.

Our school will again benefit from the same level of Great Results Guarantee (GRG) funding that produced so many benefits for children this year. A master teacher working three days per week will commence at our school to coach teachers to be the best they can in the teaching of reading and numeracy. This is in addition to the literacy coach funded by the Department of Education and the numeracy coach funded through the GRG.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to Sally-Anne Everton who has been appointed as Master Teacher at our school for the next three years. Sally-Anne is currently our school’s acting literacy coach. The Head of Curriculum position three days per week will continue, with its multi-faceted role of supporting curriculum and pedagogy (teaching and learning).

Congratulations to Amanda Mulcahy who has been officially appointed to the Acting HOC role which she has been carrying out so successfully this semester. This position has been vacated by our Head Of Curriculum, Sandra Purser has been appointed as a Master teacher on the Gold Coast on a three year contract.

Mrs Jane Appleton will continue in her role as numeracy coach, a role she has performed with great enthusiasm and success since being appointed this year.

We wait to hear if our literacy coach entitlement will continue in 2015 before making that appointment.

The school will appoint an acting Deputy Principal for the start of the year, until a permanent appointment can be made.

MS PING TO RETIRE

Music teacher, Ms Deian Ping will retire at the end of this year after a distinguished career in education. Deian will officially retire in mid-2015, but will take long service leave from the start of next year until that time.

Apart from being a classroom music teacher, Deian has co-ordinated the successful School music program of choirs, musicals and instrumental music. Deian’s efforts have been outstanding in forming and conducting a range of choirs from glee clubs to boys’ choirs to choirs of elite singers as well as other “fun” choirs who may not have been as tuneful but shared her love of singing.
Principal’s Message Cont...

Her legacy is in her main love of musical productions where, ably assisted by her husband and co-music teacher, Mrs Brockman, Deian exercised her talent for organizing and directing musical productions. The school basked in the success of those ever more polished productions which were staged every second year. She passed on a passion for musicals to so many students who have continued to be involved in secondary school productions and musical theatre groups. She provided hundreds of children with lifelong memories of being on stage and contributed so much to their self-esteem and self-worth. It was an era in which children experienced a little fame and the school experienced lots as our choirs continually won competition after competition, and musical productions became more polished and lavish.

Thanks to Ms Ping, it was an era in which our music program was a model of best practice.

I know you will join with me in wishing Ms Ping all the very best in retirement. I am sure that Deian will continue to exercise her gifts and talents in producing the musical productions for which she has become famous outside of school. We will have a fitting celebration of her retirement before it actually happens in mid-2015.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the school staff, to wish all parents and students a merry Christmas, a happy new year and a safe holiday break.

Jon Simpson
Principal

Merry Christmas

We’re on the Web........

www.collparkss.eq.edu.au