Wow how time flies. Here we are at the back end of the year and there is still so much to do and pass on. I was sincerely hoping to be able to detail the staffing arrangements for 2016 but unfortunately this isn’t the case. Due to the nature of changes next year ‘ducks had to be placed in a row’ and subsequently we have been left with very little time to find replacements.

Following the email yesterday which most would have received, indicating that Mrs Musumeci had won the state-wide advertised position of acting Principal for the first three terms of next year, we are in no better position to announce a replacement teacher. The merit selection process was somewhat lengthy and had to follow due process.

Ms Smith will be leaving us permanently today as her contract ceased at her request as she has chosen to pursue alternatives within the Department and will be taking up a position in the Special Education Unit based at the Tully Primary School next year. As I was aware late last term that my leave had been approved, I was able to secure on permanent transfer Mrs Angela Loudon from the Gold Coast whose family will be moving up here in January.

As professionals both Mrs Musumeci and Mrs Loudon needed secure confirmation of class arrangements in the new year, so we decided to allocate Mrs Musumeci to the Prep / Yr 1 class and Mrs Loudon to the Yr 5/6 class. Earnest negotiations continue to find our Yr 2-4 teacher. This is all dependent on other complexities such as day 8 enrolments but we do harbour a degree of confidence that classes will be structured this way.

One of the contributing factors with this allocation is the collaboration the Department established with Griffith University this year to conduct research into Effective Age Appropriate Pedagogies (teaching approaches) for Prep. We were one of five schools in the Far North Region and forty nine in Queensland to undertake action plans as part of Griffiths wider project. Our results have been brilliant, to such an extent that we are keen to extend this further through the year levels. Most parents in our current P-Yr 1 class will be familiar with Addatron and his trials and tribulations. Parents outside this class would do well to quiz your friends of students in this class to glean cognisance into what happens in ‘choosing time’ but more importantly how excited this group is about their learning.

My situation has created much comment which isn’t unusual really! Can I clearly state that I’ll explore my options in the forthcoming months and consider each and every one of them. Retirement is an option. No I haven’t signed any cessation forms. Yes I continue to have enormous faith in the future of this school. Yes I do believe in the system to produce excellent teachers. Yes I do recognise that schools are about people not individuals. Yes I know good schools are only as strong as their home school relationships. Yes I recognise we have more development to achieve in this relationship area. YES I’m confident LTSS can develop into a truly great school.

Yes I realise that this could be my last newsletter. Yes I have so much more to say if this circumstance eventuates. If you have reached this far perhaps we could have a chat sometime as time is short.

If this is the final missive can I simply say THANKS......it’s been a privilege.

Loyalty, Tolerance, Strength & Success.