

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Timing is everything. Last year at this time we had 356 students enrolled on the census day and we missed out on a new teacher by a handful of students. This year, we had 369 students on our books on the day and we have been allocated a new teacher to form a 15th class. Mrs Christine Gould will start teaching 7CG today. Mrs Gould has been with us preparing for the last two weeks so it's right into work from day one. As I mentioned last week, that means we have two classes in each year level from 5 to 7 now and no composite classes in the upper school. In fact, right through the school we have two classes in each level except for Year 2 which is made up those students from our initial half Prep intake in 2007. This is a good way to start the year.

We have heard a lot about the global financial crisis over the last few months. I have detected a strong under current of concern amongst our parents, which of course, I completely understand. For your information, I have spent some time discussing with our staff, ways to lessen the impact on our families. I have encouraged teachers to keep costs to parents to a minimum and 'big ticket' items like camps will have very long lead times for payments to allow parents to budget for them. Some costs can't be avoided such as interschool sport charges, Bramble Bay swimming nominations and every day school items that frequently need replacing. Let's hope for a quick reversal of fortunes across the world.

Facilities

There are ongoing parental concerns about some of our facilities. I am aware of the state of some parts of our school and I am working to improve them. The State Government has provided funding for some major projects but this is yet to come through. At present, the path and fence in the parent car park is being completed which will improve pedestrian safety immensely. We also will soon start on an internal upgrade of the students' toilets: new seats, new doors and door frames, and more dispensers. This will improve their look and amenity significantly. The other job that is at hand is the trimming of trees. Mr Tompkins has pruned many bushes and shrubs to improve safety and access. At present we have several piles of branches which are ready to be pulped but no one is available to do the job due to the ongoing work still taking place around the Gap area. Our swimming pool remains a major difficulty also. QBuild has been out working on it but the water quality is not yet good enough for me to allow our students to swim. Right now we are working towards reopening the pool by Wednesday to cater

for our PE programme, though this cannot be guaranteed. Whilst it is regrettable to miss out on swimming in this very hot weather, safety is our highest concern.

Recently Announced Federal Spending

Taigum State School welcomes the Commonwealth Government's Building the Education Revolution announcement. Details regarding specific projects for particular schools are yet to be finalised. I wouldn't like to comment on what this may mean for our school specifically until we have seen the full details, but I have some ideas in my head and I'm sure our P&C does as well. I will await further announcements with interest.

Senior Leaders' Badges

The first Senior Leaders' forms went out last week and there has been a high degree of interest about them, especially from our Year 6 students. I applaud all those seeking to become Senior Leaders for their enthusiasm. I must remind everyone that teachers do not sign the forms lightly. Often students must prove over time that they fulfil the requirements for a Senior Leader. We need to see responsibility, courtesy, consideration, pride in uniform, etc every day for long periods. Personally, I would wish to see these traits exhibited for at least a month into the new school year before I would confidently sign a student's form. Senior Leader Badges are earned not just handed out. I have set down a challenge for our Year 6 and 7 students that I hope they rise to.

School Captain Investiture Ceremony

This ceremony will occur on Assembly in week 4. We have two guests now, Councillor Victoria Newton and State Member Vicki Darling. I have also invited Mrs McArdle and Mrs Austin, our P&C President, to be part of the ceremony as they were on the panel that chose the Captains. If it rains, we will have the ceremony in the Drop-in Centre (Room 9) with the Year 6 and 7 students and their parents.

Enjoy the busy week ahead.



Mark Fisher
Principal

FROM THE LIBRARY



Library borrowing

commenced last week and it was pleasing to see so many students using library bags. All students are encouraged to use a bag to house borrowed items. Please note that if students do not bring their books back on their



library session day, they can bring them back any time during the week and borrow then.

Library sessions days are as follows:

Monday: 6S; 1C; Prep CD
Tuesday: 5W; 7SG; 7CG; Prep B
Wednesday: 4T; 4D; 6M
Thursday: 5G; 2B; 1i
Friday: 2/3H; 3J

Book Club Issue 1 brochures were distributed last Friday. Orders are due in by Friday 20 February. All orders need to be sent to the library for processing.

Payment needs to accompany orders and can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Taigum State School. If paying by credit card, instructions are on the order form on the back of the brochure.



If you have any questions regarding borrowing procedures or Book Club, please feel free to see me in the library.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

P & C NEWS

Hello to all. We hope you had a great week.

First of all I'm very happy to announce that we have a Tuckshop Convenor for term one. Our new Convenor is Louise, and the P & C Committee thank you so much for volunteering your time. I'm sure everything will run smoothly for the term. Also, we'd like to thank all of our Parents, Carers, and family members who have volunteered their time to help out in the Tuckshop. Many, many thanks. Our Tuckshop will re-open this Thursday 12th and Friday 13th from 8.15am and will continue every week on Thursdays and Fridays ONLY. If you don't have a tuckshop menu they are available from the tuckshop, or can be viewed online.

Just another reminder to you all that our first P & C Meeting for the year will be held this Tuesday 10th straight after assembly at 9.30am in the staffroom. All Parents, Carers and family members are welcome to attend so drop in for a tea/coffee. This week Tara from Jabiru will be coming to discuss a playgroup we may be having here for our young toddlers. Hope to see you all there.

Have a great week

P & C committee

Women Connecting

Women of all ages are invited to come and enjoy a free Open House at Womenspace, the unique centre of community for women in Brisbane.

When: 22 February 2009, 1 - 4:30pm

What: many different stalls; mini-pampering treatments; relaxing music; luscious afternoon tea

Where: 12 Homebush Rd, Kedron, Brisbane.

Free Admission

All women are welcome.

Find out more about this and other exciting activities at Womenspace at www.womenspace.org.au

Enquiries: 3357 7444

Email: coordinator@womenspace.org.au

Backyard Bonanza

Councillor Amanda Cooper has much pleasure in inviting you all to attend the first steering committee meeting to discuss the Backyard Bonanza for 2009 on 11th February, 5:30-6:30pm.

The meeting will be held at the Bracken Ridge Ward Office.

We hope to make this year's event the best one yet, so put on your thinking caps and bring any ideas you may have for displays/ entertainment and how we can improve on previous years' events.

Protecting against the sun

Queensland state school students are protected from our harsh sun by the Department's Developing a Sun Safety Strategy policy.



This policy requires that all schools provide an SPF 30+ broad spectrum waterproof sunscreen to students for outdoor activities and ensure they are wearing protective clothing. It also requires schools to develop educational programs on sun safety.

Schools develop sun safety strategies in consultation with their school community, and parents are encouraged to support the strategy by providing their children with appropriate protective clothing, including hats, sunglasses and swim shirts for water-based activities. Under the Department's policy, swim shirts must be worn by Prep to Year 7 students during all water-based activities except during races at school swimming carnivals.

The Queensland Cancer Council's website has plenty of tips for parents on reducing the risk of over-exposure to the sun. Visit their site at:

http://www.cancerqld.org.au/reduce_risk/prevention/prevent_sunProtection.asp