

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Last week, Mr Carter, our PE teacher, told me a very interesting fact. Brenton Rickard, our Australian double silver medal winning breaststroker in Beijing, learnt to swim in the Taigum State School Pool (though he wasn't one of our students). We should always remember that every great journey begins with a first step. This journey has turned out to be one in the public eye, but every day, thousands of Queensland Primary School students begin their own private journeys. Some are learning to read, some to write, some to do mathematical equations. Others are learning musical instruments or a foreign language. Many are learning how to behave in a society or get on with their classmates. Whatever the journey, Primary Schools are absolutely crucial to how it turns out. We lay foundations for students to build upon as they progress through High School, University, TAFE or Apprenticeship Courses. Unfortunately, we often are forgotten. The media seems to regularly be talking about Secondary Schools at the expense of Prep and Primary and yet we all know that many of our beliefs, our habits, our personalities and a great bulk of what we learn, happens in the early years. These are the years for us to concentrate on if we want the best results out of children. A great time to discuss the importance of Primary education is coming up on Monday 8th September. This is our Parent-Teacher Interview Evening for Term 3 and I would like to see as many parents as possible take the opportunity to talk about their child's progress over the term. That day is only three weeks away so keep an eye out for the notification form from your class teacher in the next week or so.

This week is Book Week and our big treat to celebrate it is a new library. Over the student free day last week, we moved most of the old library into its new home in 'A' Block. The new library is in operation already but not everything is quite finished so there will be a little inconvenience for a week or two until it is all complete. I encourage all parents to come up and have a look around and enjoy the new location. Our Book Week Dress Up Day was a huge success last Tuesday. We estimate 200 students came in costume. This is about four times as many as last

year and a credit to our parents and students for their effort.

Very shortly, families will be receiving requests to pay our voluntary contribution for 2008. Please note the word voluntary. We ask families to pay \$40 per year, if they can afford it, to help with the increasing costs of education. This money goes to buy computers, printers, consumables, etc that are essential to the efficient running of the school. If you are able to contribute, we are most grateful. If not, that is fine.

Last week our Parent Opinion Surveys went out and many were returned completed in a day or so. That is a fantastic response. However, we still have around twenty outstanding, so if you are still working on it, please return it to the office by the end of this week so they can be forwarded to the Department for analysis.

Mark Fisher
Principal

Online help with youth violence and bullying

There's a new Queensland Government website to tackle the issues of youth violence and bullying. The new Act Smart Be Safe website is a gateway for parents, students, teachers and the community to access information to help improve youth safety. The website also has information about Schoolies, partying safely, alcohol and violence, inappropriate behaviour and the impact of technology such as YouTube and mobile phones.

Act Smart Be Safe is a one-stop-shop for information and helpful advice for both students and parents. The website has been developed by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts and it will be updated regularly to include positive case studies, including successful programs in schools and national campaigns such as Bullying. No Way! Visit the new website at: www.education.qld.gov.au/actsmartbesafe

Funding guide for schools

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts has just released the 2008 version of its popular online booklet listing

grants for school communities. Now called Resourceful Schools, the new-look booklet is available to view or download from the departmental website at: www.education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp

Formerly called Finding Funds for Your School Community, the booklet helps P&Cs, school groups, students, parents and families negotiate the many avenues of financial support. The easy-to-read guide includes grants, allowances and entitlements from federal, state and local governments, as well as private sector initiatives.

Grants categories include arts and cultural development, capital works, community support, environment, family assistance, health and wellbeing, learning resources, recreation and sport, remote area assistance, safety, science, transport, vocational training and youth development. It also lists Centrelink entitlements, transport assistance and has extensive lists of useful phone numbers and websites.



TWO MINUTE DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONES

Parking around schools is limited and drivers have been parking in Two Minute zones, and No Stopping/Standing/Parking zones and bus stops. These actions are dangerous for children travelling to and from school. Some parents often park in driveways which results in calls from irate home-owners unable to get their cars in or out of their own driveways.



Police and councils have advised they will visit schools periodically during the year to issue traffic offence notices to offending drivers.

The success of the two minute zones requires cooperation from all parents to ensure quick movement of vehicles through the area.

Please observe the time frames (see above example) and only stay in the area for as long as it takes to get the children in to or out of the car. The driver must not park the car in these signed areas and go into the school with the children.

In some instances parents stop their car and stay in it waiting for somebody to take their children to class and then come back. **PLEASE NOTE!** This area is designed to **keep the vehicles moving**. It is not to be used in this manner.

Please do

- Plan your trip to avoid arrival at peak times
- Pick-up or drop-off children via the car's kerb doors
- Drive out safely
- If your children are not at your arranged spot, go around the block and try again

Do not

- Get out of your vehicle
- Double park
- Stay more than 2 minutes
- Arrive early in the afternoon and sit in the zone
- Use staff parking areas

If you would like more information on this or any other road/child/bike safety or other transport issue, please phone Queensland Transport on 1300 360 135.

PINE HILLS BASEBALL HAS A FRIDAY NIGHT T-BALL AND ROOKIE BALL COMPETITION.

- No travelling – all games played at Pine Hills Fields, Jinker Track, Bunya
- Games played at either 5 or 6pm
- Very affordable
- Well supervised
- Fun family atmosphere
- T-ball is for children aged 5-8
- Rookie ball for ages 8 - 10
- Ten week competition in term four
- Your child can play in a team with their friends
- Ideal game for your child to play and have fun in – the game is tailored to suit all ages and abilities
- Games last between one hour to one and half hours – depending on the age of the child
- Free glove, ball, bag and water bottle are provided to new players.

If interested, contact Pine Hills Lightning Baseball Club to reserve your place.
Junior Coaching Co-ordinator: Ron Youels
ronyouels@hotmail.com 0408 498 636
Registrar: Meagan Negri
megneg@bigpond.com.au