

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

I have much to talk about this week, so I will get down to business straight away.

Bushfire Appeal

It was magnificent to see the response we got for our breakfast and Free Dress Day in aid of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. We had hundreds take advantage of the bacon and eggs, with the ladies making a couple of runs to the shops to get supplies due to the tremendous demand. We had people still eating around 9:15. I must thank the wonderful efforts of our volunteer cooks and organisers who cheerfully gave of their time for the cause. In the end, we raised \$1500, a huge sum for a small school – well done everyone.

School Captain Investiture

Our special parade went very well last Tuesday. It was great to have Ms Vicky Darling our State Member and Ms Victoria Newton, our Local Councillor, as guests. I was also impressed with how many parents came to watch. The more parents who can attend assembly, the better the understanding of schooling becomes. It is really important that teachers and parents work as a team to benefit our children. I know this is a priority for many parents and I thank them for it. By the way, our student body was particularly well behaved and quiet as well, which showed our school off in a very favourable light to our guests.

Clean Up Australia Day

Friday we are cleaning up the school as part of this annual national event. Each class will have an area to clean and will spend 15 minutes picking up refuse. All students will have disposable gloves and teachers will ensure that they don't have to pick up any inappropriate or dangerous materials. At the end of the process, our school should look much neater and tidier.

12 Week Challenge

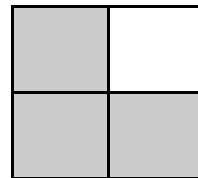
Week One of the challenge went well with each of our year levels doing their 20 spelling test. Spelling in many ways is quite straightforward in that it can be learned with repetition. The Week 2 subject, **Number**, is a little more difficult to grasp. I have selected only two facets of Number to talk about – place value and fractions. These are not ideas learned overnight, but both can be reinforced with regular attention. Place value is the most fundamental of concepts and it allows us to write any numbers we can think of using only the digits from 0 to 9. So, with just the digits 4, 5 and 0 and their repetition, enables me to write 45, 450, 4500, 45 000 and so on. What changes is the value of the column that they are in. 5 in the ones column means 5. A 5 in the tens column means 50. So, all

our students should know the value of each of the columns up to thousands in Year 3; up to hundred thousands in Year 5; and up to a million by the end of Year 7 (ie, ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, ten thousands, hundred thousands, millions). The concept doesn't change, just the numbers get bigger. The types of questions on place value, that a student might get would include:

- What is the value of the 7 in this number - 2 706 (answer 700)
- Expand this number 21 498 (Answer 20 000 + 1 000 + 400 + 90 + 8)
- Write 352 in words (Answer Three hundred and fifty-two.)
- Put these in order from smallest to largest 1011, 101, 1101, 110 (Answer 101, 110, 1011, 1101)

I'll have some of these for my tests for the 3, 5 & 7 students on Monday.

Fractions are difficult for many students but the absolute crux of fractions is simple, for example $\frac{3}{4}$ means I have 3 of the 4 equal parts of something. The key word is equal. A thing is divided into 4 equal parts and we have 3 of them as in this diagram.



Students need to know fractions such as halves, quarters, thirds, fifths, eighths and tenths. They need to know what the two numbers in any fraction mean – the bottom number is the number of parts a thing is divided into and the top tells us how many we have. They also need to know that the more pieces a thing is divided into, the smaller the pieces will be, thus $\frac{1}{5}$ is smaller than $\frac{1}{3}$ even though the number 5 is larger than the number 3. I'll have some fraction questions for each level on Monday in class.

Steve and Emma

Congratulations to Steve our chaplain and his wife Emma who gave birth to their first child, William Jack Unicombe on Saturday. Mum and baby are doing well. Steve is off for the week and maybe severely sleep deprived for next several months.

Dogs

This is a very important safety notice. Dogs are forbidden to be on Education Qld property when students are present. I will be talking to parents individually about this if they bring a dog onto the premises. Health and safety are major issues as

everyone is aware and the same rule applies to all other animals such as cats, rats, lizards, etc. It is, however, possible by arrangement with the class teacher to bring a pet up for show and tell type activities if it is properly caged and clean.

Mark Fisher
Principal

FROM THE LIBRARY

Bookclub Issue 1 has been ordered and orders should arrive back at school within one to two weeks. Orders will be distributed to students unless parents have specified their order is to be held in the Library for their collection.

Library bag reminder – All students are encouraged to use a library bag for borrowing books. For safety reasons, we ask that Prep and Year 1 students do not use a plastic bag for borrowing.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

P & C NEWS

Greetings everyone! We hope you are all enjoying the first term so far. I can't believe we are into our fifth week of school already.

Over the next 7 wks of term, the P & C will be holding two fundraisers. As usual we will be having an Easter raffle, so we would appreciate anyone who could make a donation to this fundraiser, no matter how big or small, perhaps a chocolate egg or bunny, fluffy toy or anything you think would be a great idea that could go into our Easter basket. All donations can be dropped off at the uniform shop, tuckshop or at the office. Tickets will go out within the next two weeks so don't forget to check schoolbags.



The P&C are very excited to say that one of our families here at the school has made a very generous donation of a "LCD TV" for us to fundraise. This week, we will be sending out a flyer which will tell you how you can have a chance to win this fabulous prize, so once again don't forget to check your children's schoolbags.

The Tuckshop has been open for two weeks and everything seems to be running smoothly, so many thanks to all our volunteers for all their hard work. We are always on the lookout for volunteered help so if you have any time you can spare, please call

into the Uniform shop, Tuckshop or at the Office with your details. Please note that our Tuckshop is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 8.15am.

Our next Meeting will be the "A.G.M." held on Tuesday 10th March at 7.00pm in the Staffroom. All are welcome to attend, so if you would like to be a member of our P&C Committee, volunteer in the Uniform shop or Tuckshop, please come along as it is always great to get behind our school and help our children.

Have a great week
P & C committee

FROM THE PHYS ED TEACHER

Congratulations to those who competed at the Bramble Bay swimming trials last Friday, in spite of the unpleasant weather. Thank you to the parents who attended, supported, and organised. Any students who wish to know the time they achieved in a race can see Mr Taylor.



VICTORIAN BUSH FIRE APPEAL

Well done Taigum State School for all the support that was given on 18th February with the Bacon and Egg breakfast, free dress day and all the donations. From this we were able to raise a huge \$1526.65 for the event. When you consider the size of our school and the amount that was raised, this is a huge achievement. I would like to thank everyone who supported the morning. A special thanks goes to the students, parents, grandparents, teachers and teacher-aides who all mucked in to help. It goes to show just how the Australian Community can rally together to give a helping hand when the chips are down. Thank you Taigum State School Community for a job well done.

REDCLIFFE LEAGUES HOCKEY CLUB INC

The Redcliffe Leagues Hockey Club Inc is looking for girls and boys between the ages of 5 & 17 to come and play hockey this winter season. This is for all interested players wanting to play grass or turf hockey.

Where: RLHC Clubhouse, Oxley Ave, Redcliffe (next to showgrounds)

Training: Training commences 26 Feb for boys and 4 March for girls. Fixtures start on 4 April 2009

Junior Girls contact Sue Barsby on 3315 5321 or 0409 476 540

Junior Boys contact Alison Pritchard on 3284 8859 or 0433 425 504