

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

If you have been in the grounds this week, you will have noticed a new neatness and tidiness. This is due to the good work of all our year levels last Friday as part of the annual 'Clean Up Australia' campaign. Each class was given a particular area to clean and they attacked the task with enthusiasm. I would like to especially praise our Year 7 students who picked up the grass and small branches in front of 'A' Block. This is the first part of the school that people see and it now looks brilliant. Mr Tompkins was very impressed and was able to mow the area because of their work. I also need to thank our Senior Leaders who organised gloves and bins for all the classes.

12 Week Challenge – Week 3: Sentence Construction

Last week we concentrated on number and yesterday our 3, 5 and 7 students did their small tests on place value and fractions. This week we will focus on sentence construction as it is the basis, once word recognition is understood, of all our communication whether it be spoken or written. Of course, much of the construction of sentences is based on grammar and punctuation, so these skills are essential. Believe it or not, almost all students at some time tend to forget the simple rules of punctuation. Let me list the main ones:

- Every sentence begins with a capital letter
- Every sentence ends with a full stop or equivalent (question mark, exclamation mark, etc)
- Proper nouns have capital letters – eg Taigum, Mr Swales, Moby Dick, etc
- Inverted commas enclose direct speech
- Commas come between names on a list – eg Red, blue, green and orange are colours.

Although there are many other smaller points with punctuation, those 5 rules cover a lot of it. Grammar is a little different and a little harder, but once again, with a few simple rules, 90% of it is quite straightforward. Students do have to know some basic facts like what nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs are. Once they do, most of grammar isn't too hard and the starting rules are:

- Every sentence needs a verb
- The noun/pronoun and verb in the sentence must agree in number, ie I was tired. We were tired
- The verb tense tells when something occurred – ie Present – I go home. Past – I went home. Future – I will go home.
- Pronouns can often replace nouns
- Adjectives and adverbs add detail and interest to sentences

Grammar then extends beyond sentences into paragraphs. Each paragraph usually contains one main idea or thought, which is conveyed via a number of sentences. Understanding punctuation and grammar allows for good sentences which combine to produce good narratives, reports, recipes and so on. So next Monday, I will be asking our 3, 5 and 7s to combine several sentences that I give them to form a coherent narrative as their task for our challenge for this week.

Date Changes

Please note that there are some dates changes to those that appear on our Term One Planner. The school photos are occurring on 11 March (not 13) and interschool sport is one week later than reported. I apologise for these differences, but our planner was correct at the time of printing and the dates have been altered since.

St Joseph's Swimming Carnival

St Joseph's School is having its annual swimming carnival in our pool on Friday 13 March. Please note this date as the parent car park will be particularly busy on this day. We will open up the Jabiru area for cars during school hours to take some pressure off the bitumen area but it will still be very busy. St Joseph's parents hope to be out by 2:30pm to help ease the congestion in the afternoon rush. Walking or riding would be a great idea on that day.

Voluntary Contributions

We ask parents for voluntary contributions to our school each year. The amount is \$40 per family, no matter how many children attend. Please note the word 'voluntary'. If you can afford the \$40, we will put it to good use on your child's education. If you cannot afford it, please disregard the notes that go home.



Mark Fisher
Principal

DETA Article

Learning about length and measurement

From an early age, your child is taught about length and measurement in the classroom. You can share experiences in your home to help improve their numeracy skills. Explain to your child that the length of something is the distance between two points.

You and your child can measure the length of objects using different items as measuring units eg hands, fingers, feet, straws, paperclips, ice cream sticks or even pencils. Here are a few ways you can explore length with your child:

- During daily activities, take the opportunity to ask your child to compare lengths of different objects, or line up objects, such as shoes, from longest to shortest
- Remember to keep asking questions using language such as 'which object is shorter, longer, lower, wider or thicker?'
- Encourage your child to compare the heights of people in your family or objects in your home. You and your child could create a height chart and record the height of visitors and friends and discuss your findings
- Provide experiences and opportunities for your child to estimate length and get them to verify their estimations
- As your child learns about metres and other standard units of measuring such as

centimetres, you can encourage discussion on estimating the lengths of various objects.

Numeracy – how families and schools can work together

To support your child's efforts at school you can continue the lessons they learn in the classroom by helping them to develop their numeracy skills at home.

You may feel that the maths your children do at school is different to what you were taught, but you can help in many ways:

- Help your child to enjoy the maths they do at school by offering encouragement and asking about the work they bring home from school
- When travelling, play games such as counting the cars by colour or if you are travelling by bus or train ask your child to read the timetable to decide what time you'll get home
- Talk to your child about how numeracy is related to sports – to keep score, measure distance and indicate time
- Involve your child when preparing a meal and help them decide how much food to prepare for the whole family and whether there will be enough ingredients
- When shopping, use the catalogue specials to talk about discounts and whether it is cheaper to buy larger-sized products or a few smaller products
- Talk with your child's teacher about numeracy at home and at school, and raise any concerns with them

If you would like more information to assist your child in understanding length and measurement as well as improving his/her literacy and numeracy skills, visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

FROM THE LIBRARY

Bookclub Issue 1 should arrive this week. Orders will be distributed to students unless parents have specified their order is to be held in the Library for their collection.



New books available for borrowing –

Many of the books that we received as commission from our Christmas Book Fair are now on display and available for borrowing by students. 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, this week's news is all about donations, donations, donations...

First up, this week our Easter raffle tickets will go out to all our kids, so please if many of you could make a



small donation of a chocolate egg, bunny or fluffy toy, or even something that could go into our Easter baskets, we could have some terrific prizes for our Children.



Secondly, our Jelly Bean Jar Fundraiser went very well last Thurs & Fri mornings and it was just our first week. We will be continuing to collect your guesses every Thurs & Fri morning outside the Tuckshop for the next 4 weeks. If family members,

friends, etc wish to have a chance at winning this terrific prize, we will be outside Woolworths Supermarket at Taigum Centro on Saturday 28 March. The prize will be drawn at Assembly on 7 April with our Easter raffle and Easter bonnet parade, so good luck to all who enter.

Once again we the P&C Committee would like to thank the Gilfoyle family for donating this fabulous prize for our fundraiser. Many, many thanks.

And lastly, the P&C are holding a Cake Stall at the school on Election Day, Saturday 21 March. So once again we are calling for donations of self raising flour, sugar, eggs and icing sugar so we can get started baking cakes, muffins, etc for the stall. Any donations for the cake stall or the Easter raffle can be dropped off at the Uniform Shop, Tuckshop or at the Office.



Have a great week
P & C committee

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

One of our parents is looking for someone who would be able to pick up and drop home 2 children who live in Church Rd, Taigum. Petrol money will be provided. Please contact Kylie on 3865 5563 or 0433 431610 if you are able to help.



BRING HOME A BROTHER OR A SISTER

In July 2009, students aged 15-18 years from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis.

Host families help provide our students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331 or visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au