

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Last week, I had the great pleasure to attend a conference in Adelaide entitled 'Principals as Literacy Leaders (P.A.L.L.)'. Sixty Principals from four States and Territories were selected to begin a process of literacy teaching renewal in their schools over the next two years. I was one of fifteen principals from Queensland (from both the State and Catholic systems) who enjoyed some fantastic professional development in the teaching of reading. This area was chosen as it is the cornerstone of all subjects, and improving reading thus improves students' performances across the board. We completed the first two modules of the course in Adelaide and will have another two over the next year with number three occurring in Brisbane in June and the fourth in April 2010. During this time, I will be leading our Taigum teachers through a process designed to evaluate and improve the way that literacy teaching is delivered to our students. Pair this with the five days of literacy PD done by all our teachers in 2008-09 and we can expect some significant gains for everyone concerned. In closing on the subject of literacy, I'll share an interesting fact that was brought up in the discussions. As you know, the English language has 26 letters in its alphabet. These letters, singly or in combination, can make 44 different sounds (or phonemes). Those are relatively small numbers and should be quite easy to learn except for the fact that there are 1200 different spelling variations of those 44 sounds (eg fun, phone and tough all have an 'F' sound). No wonder some children find reading and spelling such hard work.

Tuckshop

For this term, Louise Moriarty has been running our Tuckshop. Unfortunately, due to changes in her circumstances, she is unable to continue in the role after Easter. If there is no one to step into her place, the Tuckshop will not be able to operate. I realise that many parents depend on the Tuckshop running to make lunch organisation much easier and simpler for them in the busy times in which we live, but no volunteers means no days open. Should you be able to offer any assistance next term, please see Louise or the other P&C ladies in the next couple of weeks. I would hate for the Tuckshop to close, but this will be the case if there is no replacement found.

A Few Reminders

With only nine school days till Easter, I thought I would remind all parents of what is occurring in the next two weeks. Some of these have already been noted in previous newsletters but another reminder is always useful. On Friday morning, our Year 7 classes will be getting a free bus to Aspley High School to see their annual motivational offering, Rebound. They will be back by 10:30am and thus able to participate in the last week of interschool sport for the summer season. Our pool is now closed for renovations and P.E. lessons will take

place on the oval. Next Monday, April 6 is our Parent / Teacher Evening from 3pm to 6pm and all parents are encouraged to make an appointment to talk to their child's teacher about Term One's progress. Last but not least, the Easter Bonnet Parade is on Tuesday next week for all students in Prep to Year 3. Term 1 ends on Thursday 9 April as 10 April is Good Friday.

12 Week Challenge

I had a break last week from the challenge due to several factors, but this week is the turn of mathematic operations. Put very simply, we expect all students by the time they leave primary school to be proficient in adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Furthermore, they need to know that multiplication is an extension of addition ($4+4+4=3 \times 4$) and division is an extension of subtraction ($24-6-6-6$ is the same as $24 \div 6$). Really the only complication to using the operations through school is the numbers used get bigger and sometimes we mix two or more operations in one number sentence. A good basis for using operations is to know addition facts up to $9+9$ and their reverses as subtractions, and to know the multiplication tables up to 9×9 and their division partners. With this knowledge and good setting out, any operation task is possible. Unfortunately, often operation problems are not written in numerals, so it is also essential that students are able to recognise the words that mean add, subtract, multiply and divide so they can solve written problems. A short but not complete list of these words is below.

+	-
Add, plus, increase, enlarge, sum, join, combine, more, etc	Subtract, minus, take, less, decrease, remove, difference, smaller, etc
x	÷
Multiply, times, product of, multiple, groups of, sets of, by, etc	Divide, share, quotient, split, factors of, group, separate, etc

So what you can do at home is practise number facts; practise counting in 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s etc; ensure that students know the words for the four operations; and concentrate on division and subtraction, as these two always tend to be more confusing than addition and multiplication for most children. Another simple concept that is well worth reinforcing is the need to check answers by doing their reverse, for example to check that $63 - 27 = 36$, it is easily proven by adding 36 to 27 to make sure the answer is 63. I have found a very good website on numeracy, should you wish to do some online reinforcement work - <http://www.coxhoe.durham.sch.uk/curriculum/Numeracy.htm>

A little written equation to finish: Good knowledge + good process = good answers.



Mark Fisher
Principal

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



On Saturday 4 April, the North Brisbane Salvation Army Church at cnr Handford & Roghan Rds, Taigum will be hosting a MEGA Garage Sale. Furniture, clothes, books and bric-a-brac, sausage sizzle & drinks, egg & bacon muffins, thrift shop, hay rides, balloon sculpting, face painting, fairy floss, home baking stall, hand-made jewellery and a coffee shop. **The garage sale will be held indoors**, so come rain or shine, we'll be looking forward to hosting this event for our community.

Steve Unicomb

FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL

This year, once again, the Student Council would like to encourage people to knit squares for World Vision blankets. During the winter



months, people can knit squares and they can be left at the school. We would also like donations of 8 ply wool, any colour. More info will be given in the next Newsletter and on parade.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Bookclub Issue 2 and the **Easter clearance special** have both been ordered. Issue 2 should arrive this week and will be distributed to students on its arrival, unless parents have requested their order be held in the Library for their collection. The Easter clearance may arrive before the Easter vacation and if so, will be distributed immediately. **Late orders** can always be submitted but as usual, will take between one and two weeks to arrive.

Community Software brochures accompany this week's Newsletter. This is the only offer for 2009 and features the Mathematics computer software, *Maths made Easy*, amongst others. Parents are reminded that they may claim a 50% tax refund on this educational software. The complete list of software available and prices are on the order form on the back of the brochure. If you wish to order any software item, please complete the order form and send it, along with payment, to the Library. Payment can be made by cheque, money order or credit card. If paying by cheque or money order, please make them payable to EdAlive. If paying by credit card, the coupon to complete is on the back of the brochure. Although the due date on the brochure is this Friday, orders can be submitted up until next Thursday (break-up day for the Easter vacation).

Colouring-in competition winners were announced today on Assembly. Congratulations to the winners and highly commended entrants, and

thank you to all students who participated. Entries can now be collected from the Library.

An Easter colouring-in competition is now available to all students from Prep to Year 7. Due to the short time frame, all entries are due next Monday afternoon.

Library books – there are some students in the school with overdue books. These students will receive a notice this week. Could you please assist us and help with the return of these outstanding books. Thank you.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

P & C NEWS

Hello Parents, Guardians & Students
With this Term nearly over and Mother's Day not too far away when we return, I am asking for donations from everyone so we can put together a Mother's Day raffle and a Mother's Day stall. Any donation would be greatly appreciated and can be left at the Uniform Shop. Thank you.

Have a great, safe and happy Easter.

Therese Peachey
P&C President

LOST PROPERTY

We'd like to advise all parents and children to check the lost property box in A Block prior to the Easter Holidays as anything left after this time will be sent on to a charity.

Electronic Newsletters

A major problem with newsletters is getting them home. Many parents complain that they haven't received one in many weeks. To address this problem we provide two alternatives. Firstly, our newsletters go up on our website within 24 hours of their issue. Secondly, it can be emailed directly to your home by typing this link http://mailouts.austnews.com.au/subscription/T/taigum_ss_signup.html into your web browser and following the prompts thereafter. The emailed version is in full colour and is very attractive. Neither of these delivery methods depends upon children so they are very reliable.



**Wavell Turns
50 !**

**All past students, staff and parents are invited
to
Back to Wavell Day
Saturday 4th April 2009
10 am to 4 pm**

Contact: Cheryl on 07 3350 3390 or check the website
www.wavellshs.eq.edu.au