

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

The last week of term is upon us and how quickly it came. Nearly eleven weeks have passed since we started on 27 January, and yet it doesn't seem that 2009 is that old. We have been very busy though with the formation of a 15th class; the focus on numeracy and literacy; interschool sport; selection of School Captains and Senior Leaders; parent-teacher interviews; and various other individual, class and school projects, which all help the weeks fly by. We now have eleven days break until Tuesday 21 April and the beginning of Term 2.

The second term is, in my opinion, the most productive of the year. All students are settled into their new classes, the weather is cooler and each teacher has a very accurate picture of the abilities and needs of every student. We start strongly into academic work from the first day and really go hard for the next ten weeks, with the exception of a couple of long weekends (Mondays 4 May and 8 June are holidays). As per usual, the first newsletter after the vacation will have the A3 calendar included that will give full details of the coming term. I will talk about two specific items for next term now to give everyone a little prior notice. Firstly, school banking will resume in Week 2 of Term 2. One of our mums, Mrs Louise Ferry has kindly volunteered to collect and bank the money. Collection will occur Thursdays throughout the rest of the year. Secondly, a playgroup will be running at Taigum State School from next term, initially based in the Jabiru building. Mrs Lynn Austin, our former P&C President, will be running it in conjunction with the RESPEC group. More details will be available early next term.

This week though, still has three days to run with tomorrow being our Easter Bonnet Parade. I hope that the weather will be fine enough to have it on the parade area at 9:00 am. However, if it is raining or the surface is too wet, we will make other arrangements. So whatever happens, the Bonnet Parade will go ahead tomorrow. Thursday is Hamburger Day to finish off the term. There are several varieties available which are all outlined on the sheet accompanying this newsletter.

So to end, please enjoy your Easter vacation. I hope to see all students back ready for a big Term 2 on Tuesday 21 April.



Mark Fisher
Principal

12 Week Challenge. This week: Comprehension

The reason we read, write and speak is to communicate. For communication to take place, we need to be able to comprehend each other. Thus comprehension is probably the most important part of literacy. When we talk about comprehension at school, we are usually talking about written comprehension, ie understanding the word on the page. It is a difficult skill and one that must be built on other skills before it can occur. Current research suggests that children need to be able to read about 100 words per minute before they are fluent enough to comprehend what they are reading. The reason for this is that their reading of the words is automatic enough that they don't need to think about decoding them, rather about their meaning. Simply put, if we want to improve comprehension, we improve all the other reading skills first – the phonics, the syllables, the chunking, vocabulary, etc. For students who do read fluently, we can work on questioning them about what they have read or respond to what they have read to develop their thinking about what they are reading. Some easy tasks to do after reading a passage may be to:

- Summarise it orally or in writing
- Pull out the main ideas
- Retell it in a different way without losing the gist of the piece
- Draw a picture about it
- Talk about cause and effect relationships in the piece
- Compare and contrast ideas raised
- And so on

Our goal is to get all students to have solid comprehension skills as this, more than any other ability, enables them to fly.

Literacy tips for the school holidays

During the holidays, your child can learn outside of the classroom and practise the skills they have learned at school.

Our school suggests these quick and inexpensive activities that you can do with your child during the break:

- plant a garden of plants or let your child help you look after some of the plants you have at home – involve your child in choosing the plants, researching and making a garden journal to record what is happening in the garden and figuring out how much water plants need and how often
- if visiting friends or going to different places over the holiday break, encourage your child to make their own postcards, creating a drawing on the front and writing a story on the back
- make up a bingo set using numbers, symbols, letters or words
- exploring the library is also a great holiday activity as there are books to read, listen to and

borrow, games to play and events to keep your child busy and exercising their literacy skills.

If you would like further information on helping your child with literacy and numeracy in the holidays visit:

www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Bookclub Easter clearance special has both been ordered and may arrive before the Easter vacation. If so, it 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 were included with last 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 only 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, please complete the coupon on the back of the brochure. Although the due date on the brochure was last Friday, orders can be submitted up until this Thursday (break-up day for the Easter vacation).

Easter colouring-in competition closes today and winners will be announced on Assembly tomorrow.

Overdue library books – there are some students in the school with overdue books. These students will receive another notice this week. Please assist us and help with the return of these outstanding books by this Thursday.

Gold Star Reading Club will commence again at the beginning of next month. Many students from our school joined last year and it would be lovely if we had more members this year. More information about the Gold Star Reading Club will be given in Newsletters after the Easter vacation.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

P & C NEWS

With only a few days left of this term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy

Easter, and hope to see you all back next term, safe and sound.

I would like to make a request for Mothers Day items for a raffle, as well as things to sell at our Mothers Day Stall.

I am also informing you all that this Thursday will be the last day for the Tuckshop to be open. The Tuckshop will remain closed until we find a Tuckshop Coordinator. I would like to thank everyone who has enquired but, unfortunately, we are only able to fill this position on a voluntary basis. This is not a paid position and we prefer someone who can make themselves available approximately 3 days each week.

Finally, I would like to personally thank Louise Moriarty for giving up her work days to run the Tuckshop, and for all the sacrifices she has made to keep the Tuckshop open throughout this term.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to be the Tuckshop Coordinator, please call me anytime on 0432 152 276.

Have a great Easter everyone.

Therese Peachey
P&C President

FANCUTTS TENNIS

TENNIS for all the family is available at Fancutt Tennis Centre, Lutwyche including coaching, squads, tournaments, external Superleague fixtures, Hot Shots tennis program and social play.



Only tennis player inducted into 2009 Aust. Open Hall of Fame was Wendy Turnbull, Mrs. Fancutt's first pupil to win a Wimbledon title. While in Qld, Wendy visited Fancutts & photo & story was in both Courier Mail and Quest Newspapers.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS PROGRAMS will be held at Fancutts Tennis Centre, Lutwyche Tues to Fri from 14-17th April for children up to 17yrs. A Separate Morning or Afternoon program is available. The full day program includes a Tennis Clinic 9-11.30am. (Beginners, Players, Advanced taught separately), lunch break, followed by Doubles **Tournament** 11.45-2pm & Singles Tournament 2-4.45pm for a **Trophy**.

Friendly Tournaments/Hot Shots for trophies are on Saturdays 11am-1pm at Fancutts during school term. Superleague fixtures are on Saturdays from 2-5.30pm & Sundays 3.45-6pm.

All enquiries, please contact Fancutts on 38572922 in office hours email us on Fancutts@bigpond.com.