

Tuesday 21 April 2009

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school for Term 2. I trust that your Easter vacation was a good one. I know I enjoyed a few days away from the school routine, which can be hard for all of us at times. Of course we are now back into it again for the next ten weeks, save for two long weekends. As usual, I have included the Term Planner inside this newsletter. It is self explanatory, but I do want to highlight several important dates.

- Friday this week, April 24, is our school's ANZAC Service. It starts at 9:30am and all our parents are welcome to attend
- May 12, 13 and 14 are the days set aside for the Year 3, 5 and 7 NAPLAN tests
- We have a school dance scheduled for the last Thursday of Term, June 25
- Our Year 7s will be involved in several activities this year in relation to their choice of high school for 2010. Aspley and Sandgate State High Schools will be doing a joint presentation at school on April 28 (next week) and each school will be having its respective Open Day – Aspley SHS on May 6 and Sandgate SHS on May 11

Second term is always a busy one and equally very productive. I expect to see plenty of good work done across all classes in this period.

With nearly two weeks away from school, I need to remind all parents of a couple of important items that I spoke about to our students on parade this morning. They are arrival and departure times and behaviour. School officially begins for all at 8:45am when the bell goes to go into class. Until this time, we have the Years 3–7 students sitting quietly under 'C' Block and the Prep–Yr 2s under 'D' Block. Both areas have teachers or teacher aides on duty. We would appreciate if students arrived at school around 8:15 to 8:30am so they have enough time to be ready for class but not too much that they get bored and disruptive. Sometimes we have students here at 7am when nobody else is around. This is both a waste of student time and a safety risk. Should parents have to have their children here then, they should be in Out of Hours Care. School ends at 3:00pm and students need to go home directly, not playing or sitting around unless they are being picked up by car. I supervise the pick up area every afternoon and I know some students wait until 3:20pm for parents. I have no problem with this at all. However, all waiting students should not be running around, climbing trees or throwing sticks. Handball is fine and is in fact a good way to use the time while waiting. Once again, if pick up is later than this, then students should be at Jabiru.

I look forward to seeing orderly drop off and pick up of students all through the term. It is of benefit to all concerned for this to occur and I expect that parents agree with me. Please reinforce these points with your children.



Mark Fisher