

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

I want to spend some time reporting on our ANZAC Ceremony from last week. It really was impressive. We had an army vehicle, a light horseman, three motor cycle police, representatives of the Defence Forces, a piper, a trumpeter, several special guests, a hundred visitors and 400 students on our front lawn. The ceremony was well conducted by our School Captains and our choir sang the Anzac Hymn and the National Anthems of Australia and New Zealand. It really was a credit to our school and our students. I must thank Mrs Jan McColm who organised it all so well. She started work on it about two months ago and her diligence was obvious to everyone present. Also thanks need to go to our P&C ladies who whipped up a fantastic morning tea for our guests. Thanks too, to our piper Mr Rob Grogan and Anna from Sandgate High who played 'The Last Post' so well on her trumpet. In my experience, this year's Ceremony was the best yet and I'm already wondering how Mrs McColm will add to it next year.

Term 2 brings a new phase to our sporting pursuits at Taigum State School as the Winter Season is upon us. The boys will be playing Rugby League and our girls will be competing in Netball for the next nine weeks. As our fields are being recontoured, the girls will be playing all their games at Bradbury Park on Rode Road at Chermside. The boys will be based at Nudgee College. I wish all our teams the best of luck for the season. At school, we are in Cross Country mode, with our school competition running on Thursday next week (7 May) for our students in Years 4 to 7. The older students run approximately 1.5 kms and the Year 4s and 5s run 1 km. As our lower oval is out of action, we have a new and exciting course that brings all the competitors from the upper oval through to the front lawn on Handford Road and back again. It should be a great race to watch and all parents are welcome to come and cheer on their children and their House team. Start time is 9:00am.

Within the next two or three weeks, work will begin on refurbishing all our Year 6 and 7 classrooms as part of the Federal Government's stimulus package. This is very welcome news but it will cause some short term inconvenience as all these classes will need to be relocated away from 'C' Block for a short period. We will have one class in the library, one in the SEC, one in the music room and one in the 'Drop In' Centre. The work being done includes internal repainting, recarpeting, new doors, electrical and data points, interactive whiteboards and some minor building work. The end result will be some greatly improved teaching and learning areas, which will be ready for use by Term 3 at the very latest.



Mark Fisher
Principal

12 Week Challenge

As there was no room on last week's Newsletter, this week we have two short examples of some of the work that the Year 3, 5 and 7 students will encounter in their tests in May.

Chance and Data

This part of maths is actually two distinct strands though we join them for convenience. Chance is very simply the likelihood of something happening. Students in the early years begin speaking of chance in basic terminology with simple examples. Two important words being impossible (or never) when something has a zero chance of occurring, and its opposite – certain, which means an event has to happen. As they grow in understanding, we introduce events between these two extremes and can even calculate exactly the chance of a given thing happening. For instance, tossing a coin gives us an equal chance of a head or a tail. The little equation for calculating chance is as follows: The number of things you want to happen, divided by the number of things that can happen. So, if you want to roll a three on a dice throw, there is one three on a dice, there are six numbers in total that could come up so the chance is calculated as $1 \div 6$ which equals $1/6$ or 0.16.

Data is the collection, tabulation and analysis of information. In schools we might collect data by doing surveys, asking questions, making tally marks, etc. We might tabulate it by making tables or drawing graphs. We analyse by comparing and contrasting, studying trends and making predictions. All this is done, of course, based on the level of understanding of the students in each particular Year level.

Reading

We all know what reading is. Something that it is not is natural. We have to learn to read, systematically and sequentially. The very basic and important early skill is to be able to hear sounds in words. This listening skill is a prerequisite to be able to use phonics, match sounds to letters and hear and recognise syllables. So much of what is important in reading is about speaking and listening to children and giving them examples of our language. Good oral language usually leads to a predisposition to read well. So from home it is great to speak and read to students as much as possible. Also talk to them about what they read, because, in the end, we read for meaning and that is the ultimate goal of a school, to have students fluently reading and understanding everything they read.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Bookclub Issue 3 brochures will be distributed this week. Orders, together with payment, are due in by **Monday, 11 May**. Please send orders to the Library. Payments may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Taigum State School. If paying by credit card, the instructions are on the back of the brochure next to the order form. Orders are usually delivered within one to two weeks of ordering. **EdAlive** Community software orders were sent away before the Easter vacation. These should be

delivered within two to three weeks and will be distributed to the students involved.

Gold Star Reading Club commences in May. We should have the registration forms shortly. To join the club, a registration form needs to be completed and taken to a local library. The form is then processed and students are issued with their own booklet. The student's aim is to read one book per month (for the next four months) and the title is recorded in the booklet. This is then signed by an adult and students then present it at the library at their next visit. Their name then goes into a draw to win a monthly prize. At the end of the program, an afternoon tea is hosted at the local library and Gold Star members are presented with a certificate and medallion.

I will also run a program at school in conjunction with the local library, also with a monthly draw.

Book Fair – our annual May Book Fair will commence at lunchtime on Thursday 14 May. The fair will be held in the Library and continue until the following Thursday morning. Students and parents will have an opportunity to peruse and purchase books and other items before school, at lunchtime and after school. Students will also have an opportunity to peruse the fair during their regular library session.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

FROM THE PE TEACHER

Taigum students have begun training for the Cross Country Carnival to be held on Thursday May 7 between 9–11am. Students must wear shoes suitable for rough, slippery, and steep terrain (definitely **no** thongs or sandals), and bring a hat and water. As the day is a House Carnival, students are expected to wear House colours. All family members are welcome to attend and cheer.

P & C NEWS

Dear Parents & Guardians

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you all had a great break from school.

On Friday 24 April, the P&C Committee supplied morning tea to the guests who attended the Anzac Day Ceremony here at the school. I want to thank Jenny Moore, Louise Moriarty, Melissa Webster, Sangita Singh, Bambi Silvertand, Ann Rodwell, and all the students (too many to mention here) for all their help in setting up, serving the guests and helping clean up afterwards. It was very much appreciated.

Next week on Wed, Thurs & Friday before school, we will be holding a Mothers Day stall selling items for students to purchase for their loved ones. If you have any donations you would be happy to give for this stall, please drop them into Room 8 as soon as possible.

I'd like to remind you that the Tuckshop is now closed until further notice. Please remember to supply lunches each day for your children.

The next P&C meeting will be held on 12 May at 9:30am. It would be wonderful to see new faces with new ideas on fund raising for the school. I hope to see you there.

All the best

Therese Peachey
P&C President

Easter Raffle Results

1st Prize Alex Williams 1C
2nd Prize Tristan Goodall 1i
3rd Prize J Newton

Jelly Bean Fundraiser

The winner of the LCD TV and jellybeans was Louise Moriarty. The total of the jellybeans in the jar was 728. Louise guessed 725.

Congratulations to all our winners. Thank you to all our families who supported the fundraisers and also thanks to our senior helpers at Taigum Centro. I hope you all enjoyed your Bakers Delight vouchers.

Many thanks
Lynn Austin

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Please keep the knitted squares coming in. Measurements are:

8 ply wool
No 8 needle
40 stitches
40 rows (80 knit rows)

The squares should be approximately 20 x 20cm or 8 x 8 inches.

If you cannot help by knitting we would love a ball of wool as a donation.



TUESDAY'S SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP

Free structured play for children and families, supported by Playgroup Qld and Respec, held every Tuesday morning from 28 April 9:30am–11:30am (after assembly) at the Jabiru Kids Room in between the Tuckshop and Swimming Pool. Tea and coffee supplied. Please bring morning tea for your children. Hope to see you all there.



SANDGATE DISTRICT STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Do you have a student commencing Year 8 in 2010?

OPEN NIGHT 2009 Mon 11 May
Performance Hall Braun St Deagon

Visit our school, speak to teachers, experience faculty displays, see our facilities, interact with students and meet our principal

5:30 pm School tours

6:30 pm Principal's address

7:00 pm Signature programs/school tours

*Enquire about Academic Scholarships
for 2010*