

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Well what a week it was last week. With a strike and a flood, it was a very disjointed five school days. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their good sense and patience as far as these days were concerned. On Tuesday, we ended up having only 28 students at school. On the very wet Wednesday, we had roughly 60 sets of parents pick up their children through the day to avoid the flooding. On both occasions, this all happened calmly and efficiently. For your information, we had 310mm of rain fall on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. That's about a quarter of our average yearly rainfall. No wonder the roads and drains couldn't cope.

Our big news this week is that we have been allocated an extra teacher to form a 16th class at Taigum State School. On the census day at the beginning of the year, we had 369 students and thus were given 15 class teachers. Since that time, our enrolments have grown to 395, enabling another teacher to be added to our staff. It is our intention to split our 2/3 composite and form a Year 2 and Year 3 class from it. Mrs Hoad's Year 2s will join with some from Ms Barlow's group to make a new class, set to start at the beginning of Term 3 (July 14). The class will be housed in one of the newly refurbished rooms in 'C' Block. We will then have two classes in each year level, right through from Prep to Year 7. Mrs McColm, who has a long association with our school, tells me that the highest enrolment number ever reached was 456. If our growth rate remains constant, it appears that we may break that record sometime in the near future.

Whilst on the subject of 'C' Block, all our classes are now moved to other lodgings for the period of the refurbishment. Although it was due to start yesterday, there has been no progress so far. We hope that work will commence shortly so as our classes are not inconvenienced for too long. The end result however, will be worth the wait.

We have a busy week ahead, beginning tomorrow. Representatives from Wavell SHS will be visiting our Year 7 students to inform them of Year 8 life at their school. This will occur from 12 – 1 pm. Wednesday is also the University of NSW Computer test date. My apologies for last week where I wrote it was Maths. It is definitely computers this week. On Thursday (28 May) we are having a special free dress 'RED' day to raise money for the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal. We are asking all students to wear something red and bring a gold coin donation for this very worthy charity. Lastly, on Friday there is no interschool sport. Unfortunately this week, we do not have access to some venues and sport cannot occur. It continues next week though, as usual.

At the end of my article, I have included a very important message from the Education Department concerning swine flu. Please take careful note of what it says.



Mark Fisher
Principal

Arrangements for schools regarding Influenza H1N1 (Human Swine Flu)

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, a decision has been made at a national level to introduce a range of additional measures to reduce the spread of Influenza H1N1 09 (Human Swine Flu). These measures are a response to the fact that Australia has moved from the Pandemic Influenza phase Delay to the current phase Contain. The key Government objective of the Contain phase is to limit the spread of the virus.

Students returning from overseas:

Among these measures is an agreement that all States and Territories move to excluding, for a seven-day period, school students from schools that are returning or arriving from the following overseas countries: Mexico, United States of America, Canada, Panama and Japan. This list can be found on the Department of Health and Ageing website: www.healthemergency.gov.au and is reviewed regularly in light of the current situation. In Queensland we are referring to this period as a seven-day timeout period.

The seven-day timeout period allows time for the illness to appear if the student has acquired the illness. The seven-day timeout period is only considered at this stage necessary for primary and secondary schools. This is because outbreaks overseas have only been reported in school settings to date.

If you have a child who has returned or is to return from one of the affected areas, could you please advise the school and ensure that your child remains at home for seven days even if they do not have symptoms. The seven days includes weekends and public holidays. If your child becomes unwell, please seek immediate medical advice from your general practitioner.

This seven-day timeout period from school following travel in a country of concern will aid in slowing the spread of the disease and limit the possibility of school closure due to an outbreak in the school.

Event of school closure

In the event of a confirmed case of Influenza H1N1 (Human Swine Flu) in a student attending your school, the school will be closed for up to seven days.

During a school closure – or if your child is involved in a seven-day timeout period – every attempt will be made to provide schoolwork. This may be placed on the school website, emailed or mailed home. Parents and students will be asked to remain connected to school via the internet and to keep in contact with teachers through email where possible. There will however be no school supervision provided to children on the seven-day timeout.

Parents can assist schools to manage the current situation in the following ways:

- Provide the school with current contact details including current address, telephone number, mobile phone number and email address, and any other information you may consider to be relevant.
- Continue to follow standard good hygiene practices such as covering nose and mouth if sneezing or coughing and regular hand-washing.
- Be diligent in observing your family's health and seek medical assistance where uncertain.
- Ensure children avoid major gatherings e.g. sporting events and shopping centres during the seven-day timeout period or school closure.

Queensland Health continues to closely monitor this situation and should it change, the school community will be advised immediately. Please stay informed by paying attention to media reports. Updates will be available on the Department of Education and Training website at www.det.qld.gov.au and your school's website.

If you have any questions about symptoms or illness you can call 13HEALTH (13432584) 24 hours a day, seven days a week or contact your regular health practitioner.

For other information please contact the School Principal.

FROM THE LIBRARY



Book Fair – our May Book Fair closed last Thursday morning and despite the wet weather during the fair, we sold \$2394.65 worth of books and other items. With the commission we received, we were able to select approximately \$718 worth of books for our library. That is a tremendous result and our thanks to all parents, students, staff, student teachers and other members of our school community who supported the fair. These new resources will be available for borrowing after processing.

Bookclub Issue 4 brochures will be distributed this week. The due date is Friday, 5 June. If you

wish to purchase an item from the brochure, please complete the order form and send it, together with payment, to the library. Payment 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, please follow the instructions on the back of the brochure. Orders generally take between one and two weeks to arrive back at school.



Gold Star Reading Club – we now have 13 of our students who have joined the Gold Star Reading Club. Congratulations to these students and their certificates will be awarded at our next Assembly. If any student joins the Gold Star club, please let me know so I can add their gold star to our display.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

On Thursday 28 May, the Student Council are having a free dress day to support "Red Shield Appeal". Children are asked to wear something **red** and bring along a gold coin donation.

Also, keep the knitted squares for our blankets coming in. If you can't knit, it would be helpful if you could donate a ball of 8 ply wool.



EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

In an emergency, it is necessary for school staff to be able to get in touch with parents as quickly as we can. To enable us to do this, we need to have accurate contact information on our database. Please ensure you notify the school as soon as possible should any of your contact details change.

Vicky Darling MP invites you to the annual...

WELCOME DAY...

Celebrating our diverse community

- Free Community EXPO
- Come and enjoy free friendly soccer games
- BBQ & Drinks on sale
- Free Music & Entertainment
- Free Kids Jumping Castle



SANDGATE PCYC, KEMPSTER ST SANDGATE SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2009

12 noon Register soccer teams
12pm - 2pm Community Expo
1pm - 4pm Games & BBQ
4pm - 5pm Entertainment

For more information contact Vicky Darling's Office on 3269 7018 or sandgate@parliament.qld.gov.au