

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

The Swine Flu outbreak across the world has been widely reported upon by the media and there are now many cases in Australia. Last week, I sent home a letter to each family, outlining Qld Health's response to the outbreak. I would like to emphasise that the health authorities are in close contact with the Education Department and are carefully monitoring any cases, suspect cases or similar illnesses, across the State. For the most part, it appears the only real concern for schools is students returning from overseas trips, especially in North America. We do not have anybody in this position and, at present, there seems no immediate threat to our students. One thing we would appreciate is parents ensuring their contact details are up to date, if we need to speak to you at short notice. Mobile phone and email details are particularly useful for fast communication. Please inform our Office of these if you haven't already done so.

With a long weekend at the end of this week, we have only 19 school days left in Term 2. There are several important dates ahead in this period that I'd like to remind everyone of. Firstly on Thursday this week, our school rugby league team is participating in the Regional finals of the ARL Development Cup after winning our District competition several weeks ago. Our squad of 20 boys from Years 5, 6 and 7 will be competing against the other four district finalists – Padua, Grovely, North Lakes and Our Lady of The Angels. Should they win at this level, they will move into the final 12 in Queensland. I wish the boys and their coach, Mr Swales, and manager, Mrs McColm, all the best for Thursday.

Next week is Education Week, when we celebrate all the great things about schools (see article at end of Newsletter). We have scheduled our special BIG Breakfast on Wednesday 10 June to coincide with the education celebrations. We invite everyone, whether they are active travellers or not, to join us for a hot breakfast in front of the tuckshop for \$2 per person. Our breakfasts are usually well patronised and I hope as many parents as possible will be in attendance. It would be a great way to begin a cold winter's day.

Something that was left off our Term Planner, but is a very big event, is our School Athletics Carnival which we will be holding in the final week of term on Wednesday and Thursday, June 24-25. You may remember from last year that we altered our carnival slightly to encourage full participation from every student in the school. Each person who runs, jumps, throws or participates in a relay, scores

points for their team. It was a great success in 2008 and we expect as much this year. I believe our P&C will be having a special lunch offer on the days which should add to the carnival atmosphere. Right now, our students are practising their skills in P.E. lessons, preparing for the big day in about three week's time.

Thursday 25 June will be a very busy day indeed. Athletics will be on in the daytime and our school disco will be running that evening. As usual, we are having it at the North Brisbane Salvation Army Church on Roghan Road and, of course, everyone is invited to see our students from Prep to Year 7 do their stuff on the dance floor. Food and drinks will be on sale and more details will be out closer to the day. Speaking of the Salvos, our school raised approximately \$200 for the Red Shield Appeal from our free dress day last week. Thank you to parents for your support of this worthy cause.

Something I need to raise periodically with parents is the picking up of students from school, especially during school time. Our duty of care to students means that we must know the person picking them up. If you make arrangements for someone different to pick up your children, please inform the office so we know to expect them. It can be very uncomfortable for grand parents, friends or neighbours to be prevented from taking children because we do not know exactly who they are or whether you have authorised them to come in your place. As always, communication is the key. If we know the circumstances, we can follow the appropriate procedure. If we are unsure, we can't (and don't) let the students go.

To conclude, I wish to publicly thank our wonderful group of school cleaners. Their job often goes unnoticed but it is a critical one, both from the health and safety perspective and for the way it enhances the attractiveness of our school. When I left here on Friday, I saw papers strewn around the grounds, plastic, food scraps, etc everywhere. 400 students can make quite a mess. When I arrived here on Monday morning, I was amazed at how clean, neat and tidy the grounds were. Thanks to the cleaners who do a great job every day.

Go the Maroons



Mark Fisher  
Principal

## FROM THE LIBRARY

"Spies Evening" – Borders Books at Westfield, Chermside are holding a "spies evening" on



Thursday 11 June at 5.30pm. All primary school children are invited to go along dressed as a spy and join in the fun. Activities will include making Spy ID cards (Identification cards), writing coded messages in invisible ink, a best dressed spy competition and stories about spies and mysteries. For catering purposes, parents are asked to RSVP to Borders. The evening is the start of a Kids Book Club in which monthly themed evenings are planned on the second Thursday of each month. Future evenings will include the themes of: "Where's Wally" in July, "Safari" in August which is the theme for this year's Book week and "Superheroes" planned for September. There is no cost involved and Borders hope the evenings will encourage the love of reading for children. For more information, please see me at the Library.

**Book Club Issue 4 is due this Friday, 5 June.** I need to process the orders on Friday to ensure they arrive back at school before the winter vacation. Please bring any orders, together with payment, to the Library. Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. If paying by cheque, please make them payable to Taigum State School. If paying by credit card, please follow the instructions on the back of the brochure.



**Gold Star Reading Club** – we now have 17 of our students who have joined the Gold Star reading club. Congratulations to these students! Their certificates will be awarded at our next Assembly and all of our Gold Star Readers will be featured on our upcoming "Wall of Fame" display outside the Library. If any student joins the Gold Star club, please let me know so I can add their gold star and photo to our display. Kind regards

Theresa McArdle  
Librarian

## P & C NEWS

Dear Parents & Guardians

Last Tuesday we had the monthly P&C meeting. We came up with a fundraising idea to raise money for the school. We would like students to bring in 5c and 10c coins each week. At the end of November, the class that has brought in the most money will receive a free



breakfast, followed by free pizza of their choice for lunch, and then a free swim after 2<sup>nd</sup> break till

home time. Between now and November, there will be spot prizes and rewards. Each Tuesday on parade, an announcement will be made on who is coming 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then at the end of each term, it will be announced in the Newsletter how much each class has raised.

Our next P&C meeting is to be held on Tuesday 9 June at 9.30am in the staff room. It would be wonderful to see new faces, so come along parents and guardians and join us.

Have a great week

Therese Peachey  
P&C President

## LOST PROPERTY

We've had a couple of parents report that some of their children's possessions have gone missing even though the property was clearly marked with their child's name. We are asking all parents to check your children's bags and belongings to ensure that they haven't mistakenly taken something that doesn't belong to them.

## STATE EDUCATION WEEK 1 – 6 JUNE 2009

This year, State Education Week will coincide with Queensland Day celebrations as part of the state's 150th anniversary.

Families are invited to visit the school during State Education Week and join in our community celebrations.

Key events being held during State Education Week include Principal for a Day and Back to School, with My Favourite Teacher winners and Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools regional winners also to be announced.

State Education Week 2009 will wrap up on Queensland Day, Saturday 6 June, with two spectacular performances of *Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage*. The dynamic two-hour variety show will involve more than 2500 state school students performing at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketek.

State Education Week 2009 is an opportunity to recognise the amazing talent and achievements of our students and teachers and to celebrate the history of education in Queensland.

For more information visit:

[www.education.qld.gov.au/community/events/edweek/index.html](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/community/events/edweek/index.html)