

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Last week, I spent some time in the Newsletter congratulating our Age Champions and our winning House in our athletics carnival. These students were also acknowledged on Assembly so that the whole school, from Prep to Year 7, were able to see our elite athletes. This week is the turn of all those others who contributed to the success of the day. Students who didn't necessarily win their events, but took part and tried their best. I have a lot of time for children who are not natural sportsmen or women, but still enter each event and do their bit. For many it is difficult, embarrassing or taxing to run, jump and throw, especially when they are not likely to get a place or a ribbon. So, for all these students, and there are quite a few, I thank them for their effort and note that without them, our carnival would have been a much lesser spectacle. Included in this newsletter, is an insert with all students in Years 4-7 and the points they scored on the day.

I have also spoken regularly of our 'C' Block refurbishment process. To date, \$145,000 has been spent to improve and modernise the interiors of the six rooms in the block. I am happy to report this week, that apart from one or two exceptions, the work is completed and four of our five classes have moved back in. The end room in the block is being set up as a new computer lab, which will be home to 20 computers. We are waiting for the delivery of benches and furniture before this can take place. The five remaining classrooms are freshly painted, have new carpet and doors and each has its own interactive whiteboard. Our students spent last week enthusiastically experimenting with them. At present, 7SG is yet to move in to their new lodgings as we are awaiting the installation of a new concertina door, which should be delivered shortly. With the classes returning to 'C' Block, the rest of the school is back to normal operations. Our library, SEC and LOTE/Music rooms are all back to being used for their designed purposes, rather than temporary classrooms.

Before this work began, our Chaplain Steve Unicomb had his home in 'C' Block. Presently, he too, is in temporary accommodation while we prepare his new, and hopefully permanent, home. Adjacent to our parade ground, behind where I stand, is a new room under our library that was built last year. It has a large glass sliding door and easy access to the rest of the school. This is where Steve will have his base. The room has been a temporary storeroom, but Mr Lynn our groundsman is slowly removing the accumulated rubbish and we will then carpet and paint this room to allow its

use as the Chaplain's Office. Steve is very enthusiastic about his new location which should be in use by Term 4.

My final piece of facilities news for this week is concerned with energy efficiency. Some time ago, we were asked to submit expressions of interest in solar energy for schools, a federal programme initiated by the former government in 2007. This has sat dormant for some while, but last week I was informed that we will be getting a 1.5 kilowatt solar power system consisting of 2 large panels, each about 2m x 7m, mounted on a north facing roof, probably 'A' Block, that will produce enough power to run several of our classrooms. The panels and associated infrastructure will cost around \$50,000 and I am excited by the prospect of our school becoming cleaner and greener over the next decade with more solar generating capability as funds become available. Representatives of the firm installing this equipment will be visiting school this week to work out the details. At the same time, the State Government has a companion programme running to improve the efficiency of our existing lighting by replacing our old fluorescent tubes with new ones running on 30% less energy. Believe it or not, we have 400 tubes being replaced throughout the school.

Anybody who picks up their child in the parent car park will know I do duty out there each afternoon. This is not something I find a chore. In fact, I quite enjoy the 20 minutes or so, chatting to parents and students as they leave. Of course, my main reason to be there is to ensure the safety of children when in close proximity to cars. I am pleased to report that I have very little to do in the car park, due to the vigilance, courtesy and common sense of our parents. Even though the car park is very congested until about 3:10 pm, I consider it fairly safe and orderly. Please keep up the great work. Unfortunately, I am still regularly phoned by parents witnessing near misses on the roads close to our school, where there is no adult supervision of students. I hope never to make a call to one of our mums or dads to tell them of injury or worse to their son or daughter. Please remind your child frequently about the need for constant concentration on road safety, especially on very busy intersections like the one we have at Handford and Beams Roads.



Mark Fisher
Principal

FROM THE LIBRARY

Gold Star Reading Club – Congratulations to our latest members of the Gold Star Reading Club. Our school membership now stands at 43 which is marvellous news. Gold Star runs until the beginning of September so new members are always welcome. If students can please let me know when they join the Gold Star Club, their name can be added to our Gold Star Wall of Fame.

Book Club Issue 5 orders are due this Friday, 31 July. Payment is required when orders are placed and payment can 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, directions for doing so are listed on the back of the order form.

Book Week – our annual celebration is being held this year from 24 to 28 August which is in 4 weeks time. Our traditional **Book Character Dress Up Day will be held on Tuesday 25 August**. In past years, we have had a great response to our dress up day where students dress up as their favourite book character, and we are confident this year will be the same. Some of the more popular costumes in recent years have been pirates, princesses, sports people, Harry Potter characters, fairy tale characters and clowns to name a few. I will be promoting both Book Week and our dress up day on Assembly over the next few weeks. In addition to our dress up day, we will be holding colouring-in competitions and other competitions to celebrate Book Week.

Overdue Library Books – To date, we still have a large number of library items which are overdue; some of these are now many months past due. It would be a great help for these books to be returned as soon as possible. Many thanks to all those students who have already returned their overdue books.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

SCHOOL BANKING



We'd like to remind everyone that students can do their banking at school every **Thursday**. Student banking teaches children how to develop good saving habits at an early age. It's easy - children can open up a Commonwealth Bank **Youthsaver** account and make regular deposits while they're at school. If your child doesn't have an account with

the Commonwealth Bank, please obtain a pack from the school office.

P & C NEWS

Dear Parents & Guardians

Just a quick reminder that the 5 and 10 cents fund raiser is finishing up on 21 August. The winning class will be worked out by the amount each class has brought in divided by the number of students in that class. This week the winning classes are:

1 st	–	4D
2 nd	–	Prep CD
3 rd	–	3J

Have a great week

Therese Peachey
P & C President

Looking for a choir with a difference?

Auditions for the **Qld Youth Choir** will be held on Saturday 1 August by appointment. The **Qld Youth Choir** offers Queensland's finest and most comprehensive choral music program for **young singers age 5 to 25** to develop singing and performance technique, self-confidence, teamwork, personal friendships and a sense of community.

This year the choir celebrates **25 years** of shaping choristers, creating lasting memories and of course "choralography". New members will be able to participate in our anniversary celebrations including a concert in the QPAC Playhouse with special guests *The Idea of North*. For more information email admin@qldyouthchoir.com.au or phone **3257 4905**.

qldyouthchoir inc

CHALLENGED BY YOUR CHILD'S ASTHMA?

'Parenting Children with Asthma'

The University of Queensland is conducting research investigating the challenges faced by parents of children with asthma. This project involves a survey examining the factors that parents believe make management of childhood asthma more difficult.

What does participation involve?

Parents of children with asthma, aged 3 to 12 years, can participate by completing a set of online questionnaires about their family, their child, and their child's asthma. These questionnaires will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

You can complete the survey at:
<http://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/asthmaparents>

For more information, please contact
Caroline Gregory (ph: 07 3365 9186, email:
caroline.gregory@uqconnect.edu.au)

Your participation will be greatly appreciated!