

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

This week is a very disjointed one due to the show holiday on Wednesday and the Student Free Day on Thursday. Of the remaining days, Monday and Tuesday are particularly busy. Firstly, we have a group of our athletes participating in the Bramble Bay Athletics Carnival on those days. I wish them all the best in their particular events. We also have Cricket Coaching Clinics on Monday for all students in Years 3 – 7. On Tuesday, athletics continues, we have Assembly, and a free clown show for all students. Luckily, Friday looks pretty quiet.

PLEASE NOTE: Our August P&C Meeting scheduled for tomorrow has had to be cancelled.

Though many parents dislike the inconvenience of Student Free Days, they do perform a very important function for our education system by providing uninterrupted time for staff professional development and training. On Thursday, all our staff will be recertified in first-aid with an intensive course running from 8:30am to 4:30pm. The benefits of this training are obvious and very necessary, especially with 400 very active students in a confined space, five days a week.

Each year, the Department of Education and Training undertakes a survey of parents to gauge their satisfaction with important aspects of schooling. A random sample of 40 parents is selected by our school operating system and given a survey. If you have been selected to participate in this survey, I hope you will take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. Later in the year, the school will receive a report outlining the results of the survey for us. The results will help the school to evaluate and reflect upon how well we are going and identify areas for future development. The survey results are also an important part of the school's annual report. For these reasons, I hope that if you get a survey, you complete it and return it so as to help make our school a better place for our children. Apart from the parents, all staff are surveyed, as are all students in Years 5 and 7. This will occur in class next week for these students.

Next week sees the beginning of block practice for student teachers. Mr Swales has been able to negotiate the placement of 16 students in our classes from August 17 through to September 11. Most of these will be in their final 'pracs' and, as such, will be heavily involved in the day to day teaching of students in their classes. Apart from the enthusiasm and energy student teachers bring

to our school, an added benefit is that they allow their supervising teachers time to do things they otherwise would find difficult. So during prac, our teachers will be more able to provide one on one or small group instruction, more intensive intervention and much more focussed assessment whilst their classes are being supervised by the student teachers. I look forward to this four week period as it will be beneficial to all parties. Our only problem – how will we fit everyone in our staffroom at lunch time?

Also next week, our upper school literacy intervention will recommence for the identified Year 6 students. Ms Cartwright will be working with several small groups, two days per week for the next six weeks until the end of Term 3, concentrating on improving their abilities to plan, write and edit their written work, as well as reading and spelling.

Enjoy the holiday on Wednesday.



Mark Fisher
Principal

FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Week – our annual celebration is being held this year from 24 to 28 August which is now only two weeks away. Our traditional **Book Character Dress up Day** will be held on **Tuesday 25 August**, so our usual Tuesday Assembly should be a spectacular sight. In past years, we have had a great response to our dress up day when 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, royalty – kings, queens, princes, princesses and knights, sports people, Harry Potter characters, fairy tale characters, nursery rhyme characters, Disney characters and clowns** to name a few. I will be promoting both Book Week and our Dress up Day on Assembly over the next couple of weeks. In addition to our Dress up Day, we will be holding colouring-in competitions and other competitions to celebrate Book Week.



Gold Star Reading Club – Congratulations to our latest members of the Gold Star Reading Club. Our school membership now stands at 45 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.

Bookclub Issue 6 brochures have been distributed. Orders, together with payment, are due at the end of this month, Friday 28 August. 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.

Overdue Library Books – To date, we still have a large number of library items which are overdue; some of these are now many months overdue. It would be a great help if these books could be returned as soon as possible. I'd like to thank all those students who have already returned their overdue books.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

P & C NEWS

Dear Parents and Guardians

We have only 2 weeks left to bring in 5c and 10c coins. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fundraiser. We will announce the winning class on parade on Tuesday 25th August. Good luck to all the classes.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for the State of Origin raffle tickets in your child's bag. If you require more tickets, they can be obtained from the ladies in the Uniform Shop (Room 8) before school. We will also be selling raffle tickets outside Woolworths Taigum on the following days:

Thursday 13 August	–	6.00pm to 8.00pm
Saturday 22 August	–	10.00am to 12.00pm
Thursday 10 September	–	6.00pm to 8.00pm
Saturday 12 September	–	10.00am to 12.00pm
Saturday 17 October	–	10.00am to 12.00pm
Thursday 22 October	–	6.00pm to 8.00pm

If any parents or guardians are able to volunteer their time to help sell tickets on these days as listed above, it would be greatly appreciated. Students are most welcome to help their parents/guardians if they want. Please come and see me in the Uniform Shop or call 0402 930 769 if you are available to help.

Finally, we are seeking donations for the Father's Day Stall. If you have any items you are happy to donate, please drop them into the Uniform Shop. Thank you.

Have a great week
Therese Peachey
P&C President

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.

CONTACTING YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

The number of phone calls received during the school day from parents/guardians asking for messages to be relayed to their children has become numerous and time-consuming for the office staff. Arrangements regarding the collection of children from school should be made before your child leaves home in the morning.

It would be appreciated if calls of this nature could be limited to emergency situations only as it can be difficult to locate students who may be doing a class activity that is outside the classroom or in a room that doesn't have a telephone.

Also, it has been noted that a number of students are arriving late or departing school early on a regular basis. School hours are from 8:45am until 3:00pm and students are expected to attend during these hours unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Your attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.



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Places are limited so register today!

When: Fridays 14th, 21st and 28th August 2009

Where: The Salvation Army North Brisbane Church, Cnr Handford and Roghan Roads Taigum

To sign up or to find out more:

Phone 3865 1416 at The Salvation Army North Brisbane Community Welfare within office hours. Registrations close on 10th August 2009.



everyone's family