

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

We find ourselves once more in the final week of a school term, wondering where all the time went. It has been a busy period and that always tends to make time seem to pass quickly. Right now there is much talk in schools, in the media and amongst the public about education. This week the 3,5,7,9 test results become available; last week there was talk on the news about 'Turnaround Teams' to help underperforming schools and there is a huge federal funding programme occurring as well. I thought to end the term, I'd summarise what this all meant for Taigum State School.

3, 5, 7, 9 Tests

In May this year, around one million students across Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participated in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. From 14 September 2009, The Queensland Studies Authority, which is responsible for the administration of the NAPLAN tests in Queensland, will begin distributing results to schools across Queensland. Every student who participated in the 2009 NAPLAN test will receive an individual report containing their results. This report provides a range of information about your child's performance on each of the literacy and numeracy tests. It also contains a detailed guide on what was assessed in each test and how to interpret these results. Should you have any questions about the tests, please ring the office.

We received our school's 3, 5, 7 test results yesterday and I am very pleased to announce that we have made major improvements in every area in every year level. Our numeracy results, in particular, have shown huge gains. We are, in fact, on the list of the top 60 Queensland Schools (out of 1300) that have shown the greatest lift in results from 2008. This is due to the tremendous efforts of the 3, 5 and 7 teachers this year, the 2, 4 and 6 teachers last year and all the staff on this site who contribute every day to raising the bar when it comes to Literacy and Numeracy. I am very impressed with their commitment and energy, and I am very happy for all those students whose academic results are on the up. It's a good day to be a student or a teacher at Taigum State School.

Summer Schools

Taigum is the one of the venues for the first Summer School trial. Approximately 20 of our students will join forty from other schools in participating in this programme over the second week of the forthcoming school holidays.

National Partnership Literacy and Numeracy

The Federal Government is providing funding for this partnership aimed at improving literacy and numeracy. Our school will be the beneficiary of some of this funding in the shape of an extra teacher on staff to act as a literacy and numeracy coach to work with other teachers to improve their practice.

BER (Building the Education Revolution)

This is the programme building libraries and halls across the country. Taigum School will have a new hall on our front lawn and a new library built at the back of the existing buildings. Work has started on these facilities and they should be completed by early next year.

There are several other initiatives occurring that I will detail as they come into force next term and in 2010.

In Term 4 we look forward to activities to finish this year and prepare for next. We will be having a Prep Orientation Day and the organisation of classes and staff for 2010. Our Senior Leaders' trip will occur, as will our Year 7 Graduation Ceremony and Parent Morning Tea. Of course, there will be a focus on academic work, right up to the last week of term when Report Cards go home to parents for Semester Two. Before all that though, we have two weeks of holidays. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable break and remind everyone that we resume school on Monday 5 October.



Mark Fisher
Principal

Help us keep our school secure these holidays

With the holidays fast approaching, please look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please phone the School Watch number – 13 17 88. The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

If you do see something suspicious, don't attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let's work together to help create a safer school community. If you would like to know more about the School Watch Program, please call Education Queensland's School Security Section on (07) 3237 0874.

FROM THE PE TEACHER

Following renovation work, our pool should be ready for students to start swimming in Week 2 of Term 4. So, here is a reminder of some essential swimming practices:

- Students **must** have a sun shirt, togs, and swimming cap before they will be permitted to enter the pool. Whereas previously the swimming shirt was optional, it has been made compulsory in State schools over the last few years.
- Students need to bring a towel, and it is also advisable to wear goggles and sunscreen.
- Please keep jewellery at home or in the classroom on swimming days. These valuables easily become mixed up in the change room and, particularly in the case of earrings, can be a safety hazard in the pool. If students must wear something in their ear, please make it a stud earring.

Members of the school community are always welcome to come and watch. The Prep students will be having their first experience in our school swimming pool, and they are already excited!

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

KRASH
Kids Really Are Special Here

These holidays I'm running a Kids Holiday Program at The Salvation Army, North Brisbane Church at Taigum. It's called **KRASH** which stands for **Kids Really Are Special Here**. It's on Wednesday 23 September and Thursday 24 September from 9am till 12noon. It's Free! There'll be outdoor games, board games, computer games, craft, bible stories and heaps more! Morning tea will be provided.

For kids in Grade 7 and high school, we have a shed called The Hanger. The Hanger will be open these holidays on Thursday 24 September and Friday 25 September from 1pm till 4pm. The Hanger has a pool table, Xbox 360, Table Tennis and we'll probably play 'Capture the Flag' as well.

Steve Unicomb

FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Club September Special has been ordered. Orders are usually delivered back to the school within one to two weeks. However, due to the high demand for these sale items, orders are most likely to be received after the September vacation. Thank you for your continuing support of Book Club. Through the commission we receive from Scholastic, we are able to purchase even more resources for the Library.

Overdue Library Books – Thank you to all those students who have returned their overdue books. With the September vacation fast approaching, it would be great help if **all books** could be returned to the Library as soon as possible. Students are most welcome to borrow books for the school holidays, provided they have returned items on loan.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

P & C NEWS

Dear Parents & Guardians

Just a quick note to thank you all for attending the Black and White Disco last Thursday Night. The raffle winners were as follows:

Tyela in 4T won the Esky

Maddison in 5G won the Market Umbrella
\$176 was raised from the raffle.

Also, please return all sold tickets for the framed jersey raffle as soon as possible.

Have a great week
Therese Peachey
P&C President

LOST PROPERTY

Parents, prior to the holidays, please check the lost property box for any missing belongings. The lost property box is located on the ground floor of A Block (underneath the Library). Anything left over at the end of this term will be donated to a charity.

Parenting Class

Sharon Grayson (Parenting Coach, Teacher, Mother and Triple P Facilitator) is happy to present a 6 hour Parenting Course over 4 weeks for parents with children under eight years of age.

Next Evening Course: Commences Monday 12 October 7.00-8.30pm,

19 & 26 October, 2 November, 7.00-8.30pm

Venue: Foundations Counselling Centre,
Shop 7, Clock Corner Shopping Centre,
Cnr Beams Rd & Balcara Ave, Carseldine

Cost: \$90 single, \$120 couple, which includes a light supper.

Payment in full by Monday 5 October is required to secure a place in the course.

Registration & Payment:

Foundations Counselling

Centre: Ph: 3263 9132 or

Email: foundations@westnet.com.au

