

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

In these newsletters, I mostly try to inform parents about the activities occurring in our school. This week though, I shall depart from that and spend a little time explaining the priorities of the Department of Education and Training (DET). It is useful at times to explain the 'bigger picture' so we may easier understand our part in it. Education is a life long experience. Compulsory education in Queensland is from ages 6 to 16, but of course, there are avenues to follow before 6 and well after 16. With that in mind, the Department has developed a 7 point plan under these headings: Early Childhood Education and Care; Student and School Performance; Teaching and Learning; Training and Skilling Queensland; Infrastructure; Workplace Reform, and Policy Development. I will elaborate upon these points below.

**Early Childhood Education and Care** – DET is keen to provide quality programmes to children younger than 5 years old by the planning and provision of access to a Kindergarten program for all Queensland children in the year prior to starting Prep at school; the roll-out of up to 240 extra kindergarten services across the state in areas where they are most needed and the introduction of a universal access to kindergarten funding scheme that will ensure more funds are directed to children and families in areas of greatest need.

**Student and School Performance** – DET will provide a range of important programs to specifically focus on improving literacy and numeracy including curriculum leadership and engaging school communities in education; professional development for teachers and setting targets for student progress; investing almost \$73 million to employ literacy and numeracy coaches, offering summer school programs; and delivering intensive teaching for students in Years 3 and 5 who are in the most need of extra help.

**Teaching and Learning** – DET is working closely with all bodies to create the brightest possible future for young people by being strongly involved in major new measures that will transform education in Queensland. While a national curriculum is being developed, the Department is continuing to implement and build on the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) Framework which took effect in 2008.

**Training and Skilling Queensland** – The Department is investing \$700 million in the State's vibrant Vocational Education and Training (VET) market of over 1300 registered providers. The VET

market, including Queensland's 13 TAFE institutes, is delivering programs to more than 230,000 students, while working in partnership with industry to deliver training to workers and job-seekers.

**Infrastructure** – The 2009-10 State budget allocated more than \$2 billion to continue to modernise and build schools across Queensland. This includes \$1.16 billion for school infrastructure under the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution.

**Workplace Reform** – The main areas of workplace reform are maintaining the teacher transfer process; identifying subject areas where demand is high and filling them; an Indigenous workforce policy and ensuring the recruitment and selection of quality teachers to principal positions.

**Policy Development** – The Department's priority is to develop effective policy to help provide Queenslanders with high-quality services in early childhood education and care, State schooling and training. Building the knowledge and skills of Queenslanders is more important than ever. Education and training offers the surest pathway to current and future participation in Queensland's social and economic future.

Whilst I realise this is all quite dry, it is important to know where our education future is heading. The priorities that directly affect Primary schools are the ones that drive everything that we do at Taigum State School. Always the best way ahead is in partnership with parents and I hope this gives you a good snapshot of what our State system of education wishes to accomplish.



Mark Fisher  
Principal

### World Teachers' Day a time to say thanks

This Friday 30 October is World Teachers' Day. Celebrated in more than 100 countries, World Teachers' Day acknowledges the efforts of teachers in an increasingly complex society. Every day teachers are building skills that translate into future careers. They are shaping our future workforce and creating the next generation of leaders and innovators. Students, parents and community members are invited to help demonstrate their appreciation by contributing in a way they think recognises the work of their teachers.

The Department of Education and Training also recognises the outstanding work of its teachers



30 OCTOBER  
2009

through the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools, Teacher Excellence Career Milestones and 25-year Service Medallions, presented each year on World Teachers' Day.

## FROM THE LIBRARY

**Book Club Issue 7** was ordered last Friday and completed orders should arrive back at school within one to two weeks.

Thank you for your continuing support of Book Club. Through the commission we receive from Scholastic, we are able to purchase extra resources for the Library.

### Christmas Book Fair

– Our annual Christmas Book Fair will commence in two weeks. The fair will begin at lunchtime on Thursday 12 November and conclude at 9:00am on Thursday 19 November.



Colouring-in competition sheets are now available from the Library. Each class winner will receive a \$5 book voucher which can be spent at the Book Fair.

**Overdue Library Books** – Thank you to all those students who have returned their overdue books. As there are only five weeks of Library left for this year, it would be great help if **all overdue books** could be returned to the Library as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle  
Librarian

## FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAINS

On behalf of our school, we would like to wish all our teachers a HAPPY WORLD TEACHERS DAY on Friday. Thanks for your generous support of all the students at Taigum State School.

*"Teachers plant seeds of knowledge  
that last forever"*

Have a great day  
The School Captains

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN



'Schoolz Out' is an awesome camp coming up in the Christmas holidays and it's just for Year 7 kids. Being run by SU Qld (the employer of most school Chaplains in Qld), it is a celebration for the end of primary school. There will be heaps of fun stuff including swimming in rock

pools, a day at Dreamworld, as well as talking about the transition to high school and exploring God and life. It goes from Mon 14 Dec – Fri 18 Dec. I am going to be a leader and I would love to have some Taigum Year 7s come along with me. It costs \$230 but I'm looking into ways to get some subsidy so it doesn't cost as much.

More info can be found at [www.suqld.org.au/camps/schoolzout](http://www.suqld.org.au/camps/schoolzout) or come and talk to me if you have any questions. You can also ring the school office and leave a message to have me return your call.

Steve Unicomb

## P & C NEWS

Dear Parents & Guardians

Last Thursday night I sold raffle tickets outside Woolworths Taigum. I would like to thank Ben Webster, Victoria and Benjamin Peachey, Joe, Rhianna, and Tiany Harrison, and Nichole Barlow for helping me sell 179 tickets. Your help is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Clare Olsen, Jenny Moore, Bambi Silvertand, Rebecca Mayer and Chris Newton for running the tuckshop last Friday.

All raffle tickets (sold or unsold) and money need to be returned this week as the raffle is going to be drawn next Tuesday 3 November.

We are planning on having a Christmas stall on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> December. It would be wonderful if everyone could donate some Christmas items for the stall. Donations can be left at Room 8 or in the Office.

Finally, I wish all the teachers the very best for World Teachers Day on Friday. I am truly grateful and appreciative of all the hard work you do for the students at the school.

Have a great week

Therese Peachey  
P&C President

### Free program supports families following divorce

The University of Queensland is offering a free 12-week parenting program designed to improve outcomes for children following divorce. The program targets separated and divorced parents who have children aged 2-14 years, who have separated or divorced within the past 24 months, and who are having difficulty managing conflict with their ex-partner, coping with feelings, or managing child behaviour problems. For details, contact Family Transitions Triple P on 07 3365 7303 or email [ftemail@psy.uq.edu.au](mailto:ftemail@psy.uq.edu.au).