

Dear Parents

Welcome to the 2008 School Year. For those of you who are new to the school this year, I hope you have a great start to your time with us, and for those who are returning, I am sure you've enjoyed a pleasant break and are ready once again for another busy term. Plenty is happening in 2008, both in and out of school. The big world event of course is the Beijing Olympic Games in August. Just to give you an example of how quickly times pass, I'm sure many of you can remember Juan Antonio Samaranch announcing the successful bid by Sydney for its Olympics. That, believe it or not, was more than fourteen years ago. (23 Sept, 1993 to be exact). That means none of our students were born at that time and probably most have no memory of the Sydney Olympics at all. In 1993, nobody would have imagined that by 2008, nearly everyone one would own a mobile phone, every household would have a computer, the internet could answer almost any of our questions and that we could send email round the world and communicate across thousands of kilometers in a matter of seconds. Ipods didn't exist then, nor did DVDs, Plasma TVs and so on. Many of the jobs our children will pursue when they leave school weren't invented in 1993. Some of them were not known in 2003 and some of the jobs that your sons or daughters may enter at 17 aren't invented now. That is a sobering thought and a great challenge for schools to keep up and remain relevant to the community in the midst of this remarkable change.

How we do this is utmost in all our minds and is regularly reported in our media. Put simply, it is impossible to teach every child every skill they will need in their lifetimes. What we can do and do effectively, is arm them with the knowledge and skills they need to learn and adapt to whatever situation they find themselves in. If we give them a strong grounding in literacy, in numeracy, teach them problem solving and encourage life long learning, we will have gone a long way to guiding them to successful paths after school. We also need to develop good people, good citizens who have a strong moral and ethical framework, good work habits, optimism, resilience, team work, sportsmanship, etc so they will be able to cope with the multitude of challenges and problems that we face in everyday life. And lastly we also have a responsibility to ensure their health and fitness is catered for as we move into an era where energy saving devices are everywhere and high fat fast food is so very abundant and accessible.

The key to provide this mix of intellectual, emotional and physical knowledge and skills to our students is very simply to have good teachers. We have a wonderful group of teachers at Taigum State School who are enthusiastic, energetic and professional. They are professional in their manner and optimistic in their outlook. However, the trait I find the most refreshing is their keenness to accept new ideas, new methods and new technologies. To that end, we have a number of major new initiatives occurring this year, including :

- **First Full Intake of Prep** – This year marks the first full intake of Prep for all Queensland State Schools. At Taigum State School we will start with two classes with twenty students in each. The extra time spent in Prep will have flow on benefits in all classes as these students move through the school
- **2008, The Year of Physical Education** – The State Governments Smart Moves Policy takes affect from Term 1 to increase participation rates in fitness activities. Teachers will be working with children to be more physically active and combat Australia's growing obesity problems. For sun safety, sun shirts will have to be worn at all times during school swimming lessons and we will be providing sunscreen at school.
- **A Big Year for Teacher Training** – This year our staff will participate in professional development activities in ICT (Pedagogical Licence, Spreadsheets, Intranets), Literacy (Prep to Year 3 Terms 1 and 2, 4 – 7 Terms 3 and 4), Philosophy (Communities of Inquiry) and Science (Primary Connections) as well as many other smaller activities
- **A Big Year for ICT** – Following on from our successful 'One School' Trial in 2007, this year we will be part of the 'One Portal' Trial that will eventually lead to teacher, student

and parent access to school computers from home. All our teachers will also be involved in extensive use of their class laptops which we are supplementing with digital cameras and microphones so they can progress ICT skills with their students in new and interesting ways

- **Safe and Active Travel** – Taigum State School has been chosen as one of thirteen metropolitan schools in the Brisbane City Council's Safe and Active Travel Programme designed to encourage walking, riding and public transport as alternatives to driving to school. As part of the programme, we also receive a new secure bike enclosure, presently being constructed behind our library.
- **Chaplaincy** – We welcome Mr Steve Unicomb as our School Chaplain for the next three years working two days per week. Steve will be with us for four half days Tuesday to Friday and will be a valuable resource for our students, parents and teachers.

2008 will be an exciting year and I hope as many parents as possible will take the opportunity to be part of what is happening here. One other thing that is happening which will improve parent access to our school is the resurfacing of the parent car park. Next week should see the bitumening of the parent car park from the Jabiru Building back to the Handford Road exit. This will make the surface usable in all weather and substantially reduce noise and dust levels for all of us.

Enjoy the year

Mark Fisher
Principal

A Message from Education Qld

Insurance cover for students undertaking physical activities

Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised that the Department of Education Training and the Arts does not have Personal Accident Insurance cover for students. Education Queensland has public liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with the injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver. It is a personal decision for parents as to the type and level of private insurance they arrange to cover students for any accidental injury that may occur.

The Children & Sunscreen Study

Abbey Hamilton from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is conducting research measuring how much sunscreen children apply and how this may be influenced by the type of sunscreen bottle they used. Queensland is known as the skin cancer capital of the world, with one in two people growing up in Queensland being diagnosed with skin cancer at some time in their lives. By improving childhood sun-protection practices the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer, can be reduced for the child now and in their future. One of the key indicators of sunscreen effectiveness is how thickly it is applied.

You may receive a letter inviting you to participate in the QUT Children and Sunscreen study. The school strongly recommends that you participate in this study. The time involved in this study is minimal, and at the end of the study you will receive a report on how much sunscreen your child tends to apply, which type of sunscreen bottle had the best results for them, and how this compares to the rest of the study group. If you receive a letter of invitation and would like to

participate in the study please contact Abbey on 3138-9619 or send your name and best daytime contact number to abbey.hamilton@qut.edu.au.

Sandgate Saints 2008 Soccer Season Sign On

Sign-on Days: Saturday 2nd February 9am to noon
Sunday 3rd February 9am to noon
Saturday 9th February 9am to noon
Sunday 10th February 9am to noon

Boys and girls must be at least 5 years of age to play soccer. For soccer players turning 11 years or older in 2008 and who have not already completed a Sandgate Saints Identity Card, please bring along a non-returnable, passport-sized photo or similar, together with one form of identification like a birth certificate to ensure smooth registration processing.

Sign-on fees are a low \$128.50 for 2008 PCYC members, or \$155.00 which includes PCYC membership. We have a choice of pay-on-the-day options with cash, cheques (made out to Sandgate PCYC please), EFTPOS, or Credit facilities available. Sandgate Saints membership includes a free training back-sack, end-of-season carnival, and a fantastic individual trophy. Sandgate PCYC membership also allows for access to many other healthy activities, and discounted entry to the monthly disco.

This year heralds the commencement of a huge skills-improvement campaign by Football Federation of Australia, where all U6, U7, and U8 teams, then in years to come progressively all ages up to U12's, will be playing in a fun-orientated game environment with reduced and flexible teams. No results will be recorded, and every player will score a goal by the end of the match. The focus is to concentrate on skill development of all players, and to reduce the sometime tension-packed side-line. The ideal atmosphere would be a fun carnival for kids, not a pressure-cooker. I am sure this fresh approach will yield more skilful players who will enjoy their soccer so much more in future years and hopefully at the elite level.

I do hope to see your students play at the friendliest, most affordable club in the district – the Sandgate Saints Soccer Club. Please forward this flyer onto your PE (or similar) staff, and P&C or P&F Sport Supporters Group (or similar), and your newsletter editor as we would like to help promote junior soccer within the Sandgate district.

John Hanley
President
(h) 3869.4117 (m) (0419) 643.356
johndhanley@yahoo.com.au

COMMERCIAL HOCKEY CLUB Sign-On Day

Sunday 3 February 9am till 12 noon
Finsbury Park – Newmarket

For new and experienced players of all ages (6 years to adults) Girls & Boys, Men & Women ph: 07 33569411 Web : www.commercialhockeyclub.com