

Tuesday 15 July 2008

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 3. It is a ten week period ending on Friday 19 September. Term 3 actually looks a little quieter than the first two of the year as many of the traditional activities have already occurred. The 3, 5, 7 tests were done in May and our Athletics Carnival ran in June. Highlights for this Term include the Year 7 Camp, the University of NSW Maths, English and Computer Tests, Book Week, the Opinion Surveys for Parents, Staff and Students, and Parent-Teacher interviews. As usual, the full Term overview is included on the inside of this Newsletter so you can plan well ahead.

Yesterday, being a Student Free Day, the School Office was open and we have had nineteen new enrolments to date, with perhaps a few more arriving later this week. As sometimes happens, many of those enrolments are in one year level, in this case Year Six. We may need to reconfigure some classes but we are hoping that we will be able to absorb these new students within our existing arrangements. Should the need arise to form a new composite, we will of course, liaise closely with parents so that we meet the needs of all our students. At this stage though, it seems we will run with the classes we have. What is interesting about our new enrolments is that we are obviously being seen in our community as a good school and parents are voting with their feet and coming to us. Our total enrolment is now 375, the largest it has been for many, many years.

Education got several mentions in the media over the holidays with the Sunday Mail making much of what they called 'out of control bullying'. The paper claimed that 70 students per day were being suspended for fighting in Qld State Schools. This article was highly misleading. Firstly, fighting is not necessarily bullying. Sometimes it can be but often it is purely a fight between two or more individuals. Secondly it is important to note that although 70 sounds a lot, there are 480,000 students attending state schools every day. That means the number suspended is about 0.0015% of all students. Put another way, 99.9985% of our students are doing the right thing. At Taigum State School last semester, we had two suspensions for fighting and both were fairly minor incidents. Our school, like all others, is a very safe place for students for most of the time and the Sunday Mail story is greatly exaggerated and overblown.

Enough of bad news stories, some good news was that our Athletics Carnival was a great success and Bribie House won with 1738 points. Stradbroke was close with 1715 and Moreton received 1634 points. Next week we shall publish all our individual Athletic Carnival points from last term. Unfortunately there is no room this week, but they will be worth waiting seven days for.

Mark Fisher
Principal