

Dear Parents

Whilst the recent rain is very welcome, it has played havoc with school activities. We received around 200 mm last week but we haven't been able to mow, the bottom oval is too wet to play on and we haven't yet had an assembly. Unfortunately, we do not have an all weather area for our parades so we are at the mercy of the elements. I enjoy assemblies and I know parents share this view. Parade is a time when we can all hear the important messages, we can all enjoy our students' achievements and parents, teachers and students can all interact in a pleasant environment to build school spirit. Assemblies are especially important at the beginning of the year when we are setting high expectations, talking about new programmes and getting the school off to a strong start. Tomorrow on parade, for example, we have two guest speakers, Edward Monaei to talk about the parliamentary apology on Wednesday and Elizabeth Marshall who is to talk about good nutrition. It is also our first time for 'Students of the Week'. If it is wet, these will not occur. Next week's assembly is set down for our School Captain investiture and if the rain comes, we will still run this ceremony, but for only Year 6 and 7, in the music room. It would be a pity if the rest of the school doesn't see this but we can't postpone it any further. Let's hope it rains some more, but not on Tuesdays.

The other big disadvantage of the recent wet spell is the hold up to work on the parent car park. I was advised in writing that Monday last week was the official start date for earth works but it has to be dry for this to occur. As the forecast for the next fortnight is showers, I predict that we may be waiting some little time for our car park to be ready. I shall keep you informed as details come to hand.

As you remember, Taigum is one of the thirteen Brisbane schools in this year's Active School Travel (AST) Programme, run by the Brisbane City Council. We have already been provided with a new bike cage to securely store student bikes. This week and next, the AST School's Officer, Stacey Hall will be addressing the P&C Meeting, the Staff Meeting and our Parade to advertise the benefits and encourage as many parents, students and teachers as we can, to participate in walking, riding or car pooling. Fitness levels will be raised and local traffic congestion rates will be lowered. Stacey has also linked us to a State Government fund that is used to improve transport safety, so we will apply for more fencing and a bike path along the edge of the parent car park which would eliminate the need for any pedestrians or cyclists to cross the footpath in front of either car park. All in all, travel safety is going to have a terrific boost in 2008.

On Wednesday, our indigenous students will have the opportunity to participate in our local observance of the Apology to the Stolen Generation. They will be travelling to the Zillmere PCYC for the broadcast and other

associated activities to mark the occasion. Notes will go home to parents today.

We also have a group of swimmers representing our school at the Bramble Bay Swimming Trails on Friday at the Albany Creek Aquatic Centre. I wish all these students the best in their quest for a spot in the team and I also thank all the parents who volunteered to transport them. Thank for your generous support.

This week is officially 'Random Acts of Kindness Week' so I am looking forward to hearing some stories from our very supportive school community on this subject. I'll see what I can do here at school. It's a great opportunity to further improve the school climate and make it an even better place to attend.

School Student Banking will also be resuming at Taigum State School early this year. Please keep checking the school newsletter for information about when this will be starting up. Staff from the Commonwealth Bank will talk to our students about school banking on parade as soon as it can be organised

Could I also take this opportunity to remind parents/caregives to label students uniforms and swimming gear with their names. We had two students last week misplace uniforms in the change room and they did not get the correct uniforms back until the end of the day because there were no names on the uniforms. Already we have a lot of lost property at the pool, so if your child is missing bathers, shirts or a towel please check this out at the pool canteen.

Something else I'm sure parents and students will be pleased about is that tuckshop is starting up this week. The tuckshop will be opened from Tuesday to Friday as long as we have enough volunteers.

Mark Fisher
Principal