

Dear Parents

Once again we had a wet Tuesday morning and we were unable to hold our parade. Consequently all my messages to our students about our expectations about 2008 are yet to be delivered. Should it rain again tomorrow, we will still be holding a smaller assembly in the Music Room for our School Captains' Investiture and the launch of our Active School Travel Programme. Only our Year 6 and 7 students will attend this so I am hoping for a few hours of fine weather around 9am tomorrow.

As you know, we are part of the BCC's Active School Travel (AST) Programme and as such we are going to promote walking and riding to school by as many students as possible. We will be running competitions, games and activities to advertise AST and tomorrow will be the official launch by Stacey Hall, the AST Project Officer. For further information on the AST Programme, I have included an A4 Sheet that explains it in much greater detail. I am really hoping that we grasp the idea wholeheartedly and have fitter students and fewer cars. For that we need your help, so please come to the parade or read the letter carefully to see how you can contribute. Whole community participation will mean whole community benefits.

Our Chaplain, Steve Unicomb, has just completed a week of training and will be up to full speed with working with our students from this week. For him to work with children, they will need to sign our permission forms. There are two forms, one for general chaplaincy services and another for students who work with Steve regularly or on a one to one basis. We will be sending the general form home to all parents who can choose whether their children participate or not. The general permission form also allows parents to decide what type of services Steve provides. Parents can choose spiritual based activities (prayer meetings, youth clubs, etc) or secular ones such as games, mentoring or pastoral care. Only specific students will receive the other form and only when it is necessary. Whilst I realise some parents may have reservations about the chaplaincy programme, Steve is a highly skilled youth worker who has a great rapport with children and is a tremendous asset in our school. I encourage all parents to take advantage of the benefits he can bring to our community.

Around 50 families at Taigum State School received permission notices earlier in the year, to participate in a sunscreen research project. Abbey Hamilton from QUT who is running the project, has asked me to remind all these families to send back the forms so she can start gathering her data. It is an important field she is working in and her results have the potential to possibly prevent students from developing melanomas in the future. So if you have the form please return it to the Office or to Abbey as soon as you can.

I try to be as positive as possible as much as possible. I think parents need to hear and know about all the good things that happen at school because that's what our purpose is. However at times I find it necessary to highlight a negative or two. Last week, we had several incidences of tension between parents at school over problems emanating from their children. These sorts of situations are also emotive and fraught with danger. Can I ask that the simplest way to avoid this type of tricky situation is to tell a teacher or the admin of your concerns and let us solve them for you. Most parents are confident that teachers can manage these situations

effectively and we are not as emotionally involved in the problems as parents and are mostly perceived as unbiased in our approach. I am happy to listen to any parents concerns about any difficulties in our school and I am to help. Please avail yourself of my services or those of other teachers, before approaching parents. More often than not, we can find a solution that is satisfactory to all parties.

To finish I have reproduced the contents of an email sent to me as part of the 'One Portal' trial that we have been chosen to be part of. It explains it in a much better fashion than I can. I'm sure you'll agree that with 'One Portal', we are really into 21st Century educational delivery and that our school will be pivotal to its further development.

OnePortal

This password secure web portal will become a gateway to information for corporate staff, teachers, students, parents and/or guardians and will transform the way we interact with web based and departmental information and resources.

OnePortal will provide a user-friendly environment where you will be able to build a personal profile to customise the departmental information you receive and house the most frequently used resources. OnePortal will provide 24 hour, 7 days a week access to the Learning Place, email, bulletins, discussion lists, blogs, and departmental resources etc.

For school-based staff, this rollout will also include the establishment of a new school intranet, through the Intranets in Schools project. This will allow seamless integration and interaction with the corporate-based OnePortal.

OnePortal Release 1 will be piloted in March 2008 to selected schools. Both OnePortal and intranets in Schools will be tested and evolved as part of pilot. Users within Release 1 will help play a big part in development by providing feedback which will determine how both environments will evolve.

Mark Fisher
Principal

From the Library

Bookclub Issue 1 orders are due tomorrow, Tuesday 19th February. For those families new to the school, there are 8 issues of Bookclub per year, 2 per term. Scholastic Australia provide the brochures and orders, together with payment are collected in the Library. Orders are placed online and delivery of ordered items is generally within two weeks. Scholastic also offer a guarantee that they will reimburse the full price of an item if the purchaser is not happy with it.

Loans – All students from Prep to Year 7 are now borrowing from the Library, but **ALL** students are required to have a bag to ensure their books are protected from damage.

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

P&C News

It's hard to believe that we had any holidays; the weeks seem to be going by rather too quickly. The tuck-shop has been open for a week now and it seems that everything is running smoothly. We added a couple of extra Healthy Choice items to our menu and they are selling quite well. You will also notice that we have a few extra new faces behind the counter in Tuck shop and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the new people there and also welcome back and thanks to the old faces. It is great to see everyone getting in and doing their bit. And I know that your kids love having either mum, dad, grand dad or grand mum there even it is only just to say a quick hello. It is always nice to see old and new faces and remember that without these people who volunteer their time; the tuck shop wouldn't be able to run.



The Easter Raffle is coming up and we are calling on anyone who would like to make a small donation towards this fundraiser. A small Easter egg or a fluffy toy, or something that you see as a nice idea towards an Easter prize, your donation would be greatly appreciated; and you can drop it off at the Tuckshop, the Uniform Shop or at the office.



Your support with fundraisers through out the year helps to put money back into our school and this in turn helps our students, Thank you for your support.

This is something to put a little smile on your faces

- What did the grape say when the elephant stepped on it?
- It didn't say anything. It just let out a little wine.

Hope everyone has a great week.

Many thanks - P&C Committee

Road Safety Reminder

You can reinforce the principles of road safety in children by teaching, showing and setting good examples. Teach children to stop, look, listen and think:

STOP at the kerb

LOOK right, look left, and look right again

LISTEN for approaching traffic and

THINK before crossing the road.

Run through these steps with them so you are sure they understand each part.

Encourage your child to always use a crossing where provided. At unsupervised crossings, ensure traffic has stopped before stepping onto the road and, at traffic lights, wait for the green walk signal and that the traffic has stopped.

If a crossing supervisor is on duty, teach children to listen to them and only cross when the supervisor signals to do so. They make sure everyone crosses the road safely.

Above all, lead by example. Children usually imitate adults so always try to do the right thing when crossing roads.

If you would like more information on this or any other road/child/bike safety or other transport issue, please phone your Road Safety office on 1300 360 135.

Sign-Ons



Netball Sign-On

St Josephs Junior Netball Club

9-10 February, 10am -2pm

Players needed for sign-on, all ages

Club Located at Wellington St Virginia

For Information, contact Aimee Burgess, 0407 250399.

Sandgate Saints Soccer Club is still accepting registrations at the Sandgate PCYC, 106 Kempster St, Sandgate 3269-5358 - office hours 9am-5pm Monday to Friday?

St Josephs Junior Rugby League Club

Players needed urgently who are Turning 10 &11 this year - WE WANT YOU!

Training Tuesdays and Thursdays 5.30 – 6.30pm

All players welcome 6 – 13 years.

For Information, contact Coaching Director, Brett Gallagher, 0401214190.

Schools + Parents Magazine

The 2008 edition of schools + parents magazine is now available and is included in our newsletter. The annual magazine, published by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts, is for parents and caregivers to inform them of changes and events happening within schools.

This edition includes important information about changes to Queensland schooling as part of the introduction of the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) this year. It also contains articles about the first national literacy and numeracy tests this year and information on the Year of Physical Activity.

There are also stories parents may find useful about homework guidelines, school-based apprenticeship or traineeships (SATs) and preparing children for the 2008 Prep year

Solo Parents' - New Members Day

New Farm Park -Sunday 2nd March 11.00am. Look out for the yellow and blue balloons. Join us for a relaxing day at the park. Pack a picnic lunch, grab those folding chairs or a picnic rug, and don't forget the kids. Fantastic playground for children, with plenty of shady spots for the adults to kick back and make some new friends. We offer social activities including dinners, picnics, ten pin bowling, movie nights, family camps and dancing. We are open to all Solo Parents both mums and dads. For further information please contact: Linda 3269 8695/ 0413 426 605, or Jenny 3379 5532/ 0403 775 532, or Paul 3865 1164/ 0418 664 906.