

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

As I am writing my piece for this newsletter, it is pouring outside. The rain is very welcome and necessary but it causes havoc at school when trying to keep 360 students dry and safe. I thought it a good time to explain our wet weather procedure so all parents are aware of how the day changes if it is raining. Obviously, class time is no different but the procedure changes at break times. If it is only sprinkling and the ground is just a little wet, we let all students into the playground during lunch but close the ovals. If it rains a little harder and the ground is somewhat soaked, we keep all students under the buildings. This is cramped and noisy but it gives them the chance to move around, play and relax. In heavy rain or when the grounds are completely waterlogged we have what we call a 'wet weather lunch' where all students stay in the classrooms for lunch and are supervised by their teachers. Outside activities like Phys Ed are run under blocks or in classrooms. It is an inconvenience for all on campus but necessary to keep everyone warm and dry. For your information, our rainfall at school lately has been as follows:

Thursday to 9am Friday:	32 mm
Friday to 9am Saturday	7 mm
Saturday to 9am Sunday	3 mm
Sunday to 9am today	55 mm

We have a rain gauge mounted on our SEDU, which I check every day.

As you know, I put out a Term planner every quarter. Each time I do this, I am guaranteed to forget something. I have outdone myself this term by omitting our Athletics Carnival. Usually, athletics is a third term activity but external considerations have pushed it into Term 2 for all schools. Our carnival will be the Wednesday and Thursday of Week 10 – the second last week of school before the vacation – June 18 and 19. The full day will be the Thursday with high jump and 800m occurring on the Wednesday. The P&C will again be running the barbecue lunch and it should be a great event, weather permitting. At present, our oval has a small lake on its northern side, so further rain could well postpone these dates. We shall inform everyone of the exact arrangements closer to the day.

Next week is the first of our camps for 2008. Our Year 6 students are off to Garapine near Gympie for 4 days. As this is a long weekend coming up, they need to remember to be here ready to leave on Tuesday morning. The sixes will experience kayaking, bushwalking and plenty of other fun activities while they're away and I am sure they will really benefit from their camp experience. Our Year 7s will be off to Tallebudgera on the first day of Term 3.

I have included an item from Education Qld at the end of this newsletter. It is about the serious topic of bullying. It is important to raise this issue regularly to highlight the ways we can effectively counter it. I do not think we have a great bullying problem here, but from time to time, an incident occurs. My most valuable advice to parents is deal with it immediately. Don't let situations go on too long as the problem only magnifies. Please carefully read the article below.

Enjoy the wet weather and your long weekend

Mark Fisher
Principal

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

In the first week of the school holidays, June 29 till July 4, Taigum Community Church and The Salvation Army Taigum will be running a program called KidsGames, here at Taigum State School. It will be a week of sports, games, craft and Bible stories. It starts with an Opening Ceremony on the Sunday afternoon with other churches that are running KidsGames. During the week, it runs from 8:30am till 12:30pm including morning tea and lunch. The cost is \$40 for the whole week. I'll give out rego forms to all the kids this week. For more details, check out www.brisbanekidsgames.org.au.

Steve Unicomb

P & C NEWS

All orders have been received for the pie drive, and all orders can be picked up at the uniform shop, this **Thursday June 5th between 2.30pm-3.30pm**. Total money raised for this fundraiser was \$361.00, so thank you all for your support...

Also, last week a very kind donation of \$100.00 cash was donated by Trudy, one of our year 2 mothers, so many thanks to you from the P & C committee.

Next P & C meeting will be held next **Tuesday June 10th at 9.30am** after parade in the staffroom. All are welcome to attend, so drop in for a coffee and a chat, as it would be a nice change to see some new faces.

Have a great week
P & C committee

Chillout Canoeing

Chillout is a fun program for kids of all ages. You don't need to have prior experience— you don't even need to know how to paddle a boat! Just come along and have some fun, and meet some new friends along the way! If you're up for some fun on the water then try our 'Canoe Games' or 'Afternoon Splash Around'. If wildlife is more your thing then join us on our 'Wildlife Paddle'. If you're a morning person give our 'Fun N Sun Morning' and 'Early Morning Riser' paddles a go. For all you night owls we have a special moonlight paddle just for you— the dark and the glow sticks make it extra cool! So come on and try canoeing!

To book your awesome canoeing experience please phone 07 3278 1033 (bookings are essential)

Cost: \$10.00 per person / per session (to be paid prior to activity day)

Venue: Sinbad St, Shorncliffe - meet at boat ramp

Wildlife Paddle

Sunday, 6th July 2008 9am-12pm

Moonlight Paddle

Saturday 12th July 2008 6pm -9pm

Canoe Explore Friday 26th Sept 2008
8am-11am

Basketball Qld Women's Initiative GIRLS with GAME Skills Camp

@ Mckennairey Centre, Nudgee College

2199 Sandgate Rd, Boondall

Sunday 8th June

Beginners 10am-12pm

Representative 1-3pm

\$7 per player

Lots of prizes and giveaways

For more information please contact

Emma from Basketball Qld on

0411 314 554

Education Qld Item

Bullying – No Way!

It doesn't matter whether it's physical, psychological or even cyber. Bullying is a concern that our school takes very seriously and is working to address.

If you suspect your child is being bullied, you should make an appointment with the teacher or school principal to discuss your concerns.

Some signs of bullying include:

- Loss of confidence
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits, possibly bedwetting
- Health problems such as headaches or stomach aches
- Unhappiness or mood swings with sudden temper tantrums
- Reluctance to go to school and changes in academic performance.

What you can do:

- Talk with your child about school and keep the lines of communication open so children are more likely to confide in you.
- Encourage your child to feel okay to ask others for help and to keep their own safety in mind.
- Ensure your child knows how to report bullying and to ask you for help when needed.
- Report the incident to a teacher. Don't try to sort out the situation yourself.
- Make sure you are modelling healthy behaviours to your child, especially in relation to conflict resolution and anger management.
- Help protect your child from harassment and cyber-bullying by closely monitoring internet use and installing free internet filters.

For more information and ideas to understand and deal with bullying, visit the Bullying. No way! website www.bullyingnoway.com.au.