

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

I mentioned our Athletic Carnival last week and how much I was looking forward to it. This week it appears that due to the heavy rain, we are going to have to re-organise what we do. At present our lower oval has a large lake at its northern end. Without further rain, it will probably take another 7 to 10 days to dry out. As more rain is forecast for the weekend, we have decided to play it safe and move our carnival to the top oval. This means that our 200m and 800m events cannot be run. However, we will still have our 100m races, relays, shot put, long jump and high jump – more than enough for an enjoyable carnival. This year, for the first time, our Year 4 classes will be involved in the upper school athletics day as well, so there will be plenty of action and entertainment for our spectators. We hope that many parents will be able to come down for some part of the day and cheer on our junior athletes. The full programme for the competition days will be out next week. In relation to the status of our lower oval, Qbuild has commissioned planning and design of a drainage system that will inhibit the formation of the sheets of water and make the oval all weather. This work is set to take place in Term 3 so that all our grounds will be in tip top shape by summer.

Our Walking Wheeling Wednesdays have been a little quiet lately with the week before last being the lowest level of the year. We built up a little last week but only to a 63% participation rate. It's been cooler and wetter lately, which doesn't help, but we need to encourage all students to be more active travellers, especially those in Prep to Year 3. This week we will be giving out the first of the encouragement prizes to our students who have walked, ridden or car pooled regularly this year. We have water bottles, reflectors, lights, rubbers, rulers, pencils and a variety of other incentives for our very active travellers.

It's only a couple of weeks until our first report cards for 2008. I thought it an appropriate time to explain how the ratings are given to each student. The most common misunderstanding among parents is that the A to E scores are based on a test in each subject area. In fact that would be a very simple and quick way to do it but it would not represent a valid indication of all the work that a student does in the six

months of a semester. In reality, these ratings are based on a wide number of indicators, including observations by the teacher; discussions between student and teacher; student demonstration of knowledge and skills; oral presentations; samples of student work and yes, some testing. The teachers then look at their class as a whole to compare work between students to get some comparative measures. Teachers in the same year level then compare their classes with each other. When the rating is on the report card, they can be confident that it represents an accurate representation of each student's achievement, to the best of our ability to measure it. In most cases, parents already have a good idea of what to expect in written reports anyway, as they have attended parent teacher interviews in Term 1 and been in constant contact with their child's teacher throughout the year. Reports go out Friday May 27 unless prior arrangements are made for those perhaps leaving on an early winter vacation.

At report time, discussion often turns to how well students are doing. I have included an article I found last week that has a familiar message. Children get better results when parents are involved in their education and then school. I invite everyone to read the piece and to come up to the school at any time. You are always most welcome.

Mark Fisher  
Principal

### **Parental involvement boosts student achievement**

*Durham, New Hampshire (AP)*

University of New Hampshire research shows that students do much better in school when their parents are actively involved in their education.

Researchers Karen Smith Conway and Andrew Houtenville used information from around the country from more than 10,000 eighth-graders, their parents, teachers and school administrators. They looked into how frequently parents discussed activities or events of interest to the child or things the child studied in class. They also reviewed how often parents discussed selecting courses or programs, attended a school meeting and volunteered at school. Conway said that parents being involved is consistently associated with higher levels of achievement. She said the study found that schools would need to increase

spending by more than \$1,000 per child to achieve the same results gained with parental involvement.

#### FROM THE CHAPLAIN



*Some more information about KidsGames.* Most kids should have received a KidsGames rego form last week. If they didn't, there are some at the school reception desk or you can download one from [www.brisbanekidsgames.org.au](http://www.brisbanekidsgames.org.au). The KidsGames team that I'm involved with here at Taigum SS will run from 8:30am till 12:30pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June till Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July. The cost for one child is \$40 for the whole week. It doesn't say it on the rego form, but a second child from the same family will be \$35 and the third and subsequent children from the same family will be \$30. We can only take 100 children, so get your registration forms in quickly.

Steve Unicomb

#### FROM THE LIBRARY

**Book Fair:** Our May Book Fair netted sales of \$2720 which was a marvellous result. Thanks to everyone in our school community for your support as always. As a result of our sales, we were able to select \$816 worth of books as our commission. These books will be available for borrowing shortly.

**Michael Salmon Visit:** Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who have given us such positive feedback. It certainly proved a very exciting event and many students are very keen to borrow the books the library purchased during his visit. Michael also commented a few times during his visit on the lovely manners our students displayed and he said he would love to return again some time in the future.

**Gold Star Readers:** We now have 17 students who have joined the Gold Star Reading program and they are enjoying being part of the club. All students from Prep to Year 7 are welcome to join. Registration forms are available from the library. Please let me know if your child joins so they can be part of our monthly draw and their own Gold Star can be added to our Library display.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle  
Librarian

#### P & C NEWS

Last Thursday was the delivery of the Pie Drive. All orders were sent out without too many dramas. We hope you all are enjoying your treats...

Keep those recipes coming in for our Cook Book. I'm sure many of you have a favourite recipe. If so, share it with us so we can print it in the book. Drop it into us at the uniform shop and don't forget to include your name...

This week's recipe is sent in from Ruth.

#### ~Zucchini Slice~

2 packed cups (350grms) grated zucchini  
3/4 cup S.R. flour  
2 cups mixed vegetables of your choice  
1 1/2 cups grated reduced fat cheese  
1/2 cup corn kernels  
2 whole eggs  
3 egg whites  
1 diced onion  
1 cup diced lean ham  
salt & pepper to taste

#### Preheat oven to 180 deg.

In a large bowl add all ingredients and 2/3 of the cheese. Mix well to combine. Coat a quiche or lasagne dish with cooking spray, Spoon mixture into dish, and then sprinkle extra cheese on top.

Bake for 30-40 mins or until golden brown. Serve hot or cold.

Have a great week  
P & C committee

#### EARNSHAW STATE COLLEGE OPEN DAY "Prepare today for tomorrow" Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 10.00am -8.00pm

Earnshaw State College warmly invites you to our annual Open Day. Come along, enjoy the entertainment and find out about Prep -Year 12, including:

- Subject selection
- Year level information
- Tertiary and Careers expo
- Visual and Performing Arts
- College P & C
- Enrolment

Further information and a program is available on our college website <http://www.earnshawsc.eq.edu.au/> or phone 3621 7333