

Dear Parents

My sincere thanks to all those parents who endured the inconvenience of the car park over the last couple of weeks with good grace. We now, however, have a very smooth, tidy and clean surface to exit the school and one well worth the wait. Over the next week or two, we will put in line markings and a temporary fence that, with luck, will be made permanent in the near future. This fence will run about a metre inside the existing boundary with our neighbours and provide a safer path for students walking to and from the direction of Zillmere. I have included a very rough diagram of what it looks like. The fence will cut out three or four existing parking spaces, but will divert pedestrian traffic away from the footpath where cars enter and exit, making it a much safer prospect for all concerned.

An interesting aspect of the whole car park shutdown last Thursday was the remarkable response of parents in finding alternate ways of picking up their children. I would estimate that only around a third of the usual number of cars entered the school that afternoon. It was amazingly quiet, calm and uncongested. This bodes very well for this week when we have our first Walking, Wheeling Wednesday. It seems that many of us can get out of our cars and walk or ride when we have to. With luck, we will have a huge response on Wednesday. As part of our first active travel day, we will be putting on a cooked breakfast for all our students at a cost of \$1.00 per child for bacon, eggs and toast. Any parents who come along and join the festivities can also eat for \$1. Our teachers will be on breakfast duty from 8am. Mr Swales and I went into town last Thursday for Brisbane City Council's launch of the Active School Travel Programme and listened to some town planners and traffic managers who told some very interesting facts. 10% of all car trips are less than 1 km. A quarter of all car trips are less than 2 kms. Reducing 10% of trips is similar to the difference in morning traffic from school days to school holidays. The Council points out that many commuters who travel into the city are already using buses, trains and car pooling and that trips to schools are still the main reason why there is so much congestion between 8 and 9am. Our efforts, therefore, will make a great difference to the liveability of our city. I hope that we can do a brilliant job come Wednesday.

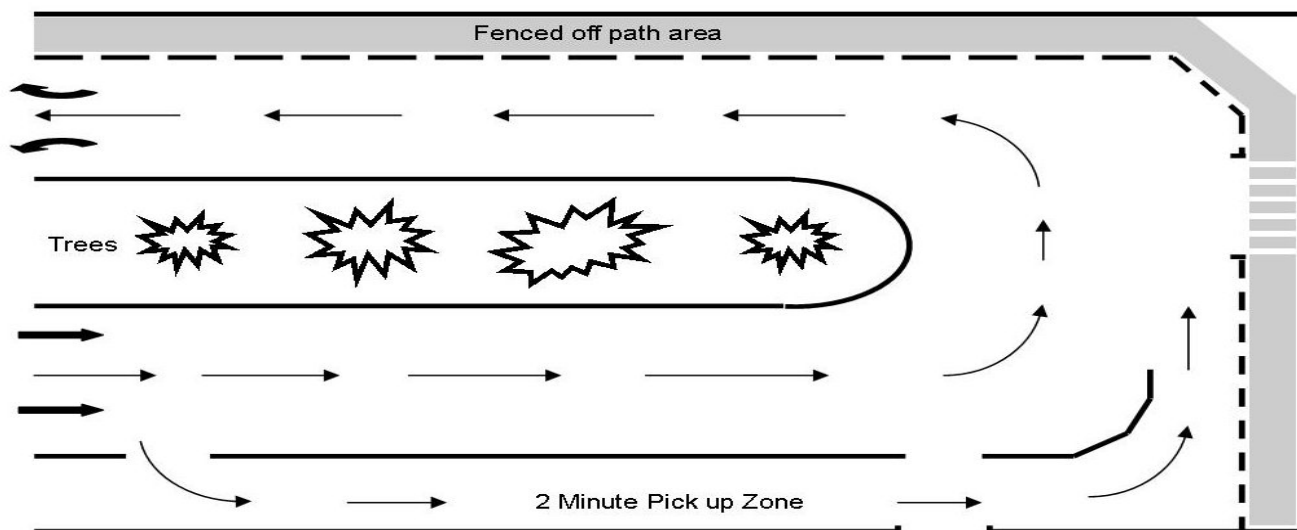
While in the car park in the afternoons, I talk to many parents. I am often told of rumours, or about others who are discontented or parents who are annoyed about aspects of school. It is quite understandable that with 300 sets of mums and dads, not everything will be to everyone's liking. Often though, most problems can be worked out very simply, through discussion or negotiation. However, only problems that we know about can be solved. If you do have any questions or difficulties or annoyances, the first step is to inform us. Tell your teacher, tell the Office Staff or talk to Mr Swales or me directly. I guarantee we will deal with any problems, no matter how small or large, if we are told about them. Keeping quiet about undesirable situations only makes them last longer or become more difficult to remedy.

A great time to talk about school issues, whether good or bad, is in a parent teacher interview. You may have noticed on the planner that we have set aside the last week of Term One as our official interview dates. After much discussion with parents, we have elected to change our system somewhat and have all our interviews across the school, on one afternoon and evening – Tuesday April 1 from 3.00 to 7.00pm. This change allows all parents an opportunity to come, even those who work through the day and have, in the past, been unable to attend. Obviously some will not be able to make a Tuesday appointment, so all teachers will have a few daytime slots set aside on other days to accommodate this. April 1 is in Week 10 and this is Week 7 so notes will be coming home shortly for bookings. Please keep an eye out for them so you can take advantage of chatting with your child's teacher, an activity that is highly beneficial to all parties.

Parents you will be please to know that School Student Banking will commence on Thursday 20th March 2008.

Just a reminder to parents of students in SEDU, Prep Years and Years 1 to 3 our Easter Bonnet Parade will be on Tuesday 18th March about 9.15 just after Parade.

Mark Fisher
Principal



P&C News



The Easter Raffle was given out on Friday, so thank you to everyone who supports this fundraiser. Could all tickets SOLD or UNSOLD please be returned by Friday 14th March - we will draw the raffle on Tuesday 18th March on parade.

The election is being held on Saturday 15th March and our school will be one of the polling booths, so the P&C will be holding a Sausage Sizzle on the day so if you would like to come along and help for an hour or so please pop into the uniform shop and leave your name and number.

Tomorrow night (Tuesday 11th March) the AGM is being held in the Staffroom from 7pm: - all new people welcome

Touch Football Results

BOYS

Senior A	Taigum 13	Virginia 0	Junior A	Taigum 8	Virginia 3
B	Taigum 1	Nashville 3	B	Taigum 1	Nashville 5
C	Taigum 3	Nashville 1	C	Taigum 0	Nashville 1

GIRLS

Senior A	Taigum 3	Bald Hills 5	Junior A	Taigum 0	Bald Hills 8
			B	Taigum 0	Sandgate 4

Sandgate JFC AFL Auskick Centre

Sign on & 1st Session: Friday 14th March

Time: 5 – 6pm

Venue: Sandgate JFC

Address: Lemke Rd Taigum

For more info. Contact: Ben Drew on 0433 521 821

Cost only \$50.00!!!

To pay by credit card register online at aflauskick.com.au

Please make cheques payable to: AFL Queensland

Your Regional AFL Contacts are:

AFL Queensland – Brisbane North Office – (07) 3865 8700

AFL Auskick Development Officer – Ben Drew – 0433 521 821