

Dear Parents

Work on the car park is continuing slowly. I had expected it to be completed by now but the threat of poor weather has delayed parts of the operation. The car park to date has been leveled and the kerbing has been laid. Today they are putting down roadbase and Thursday or next Monday are the tentative dates for the final covering with bitumen. (I am hoping that all work will be finished by Friday as this is the day St Joseph's School has their swimming carnival in our pool, and consequently, a day when we have many extra vehicles use our facilities.) As I have already mentioned, the day the car park is surfaced, it will be closed completely. I will inform all parents of this the day before it occurs so alternative parking and pick up arrangements can be made. When work is complete, the car park will have exactly the same capacity as it had before. Several parents have expressed concern that the under tree parking will be halved, but this is not the case. That area that is presently piled high with dirt will be flattened and used as parking spaces.

We have had a very bad few days with our telecommunications systems, culminating in a complete phone shutdown on Friday last week. As I write, this fault has not yet been fixed so we still have no working landline. With luck, Telstra will have completed repairs as you read this on Monday afternoon. I apologise for the inconvenience but it has been unavoidable. We have also been intermittently offline with internet and email, but this fault is now fixed. It is amazing how much we rely on these technologies to run our normal business and how little we can do when they are unavailable. It's little wonder we put such an emphasis on ICT skills. They really are crucial to 21st Century living in Australia.

Of course, a great many things can be accomplished without reliance on electronic devices. On Friday, we used good old people power to clean up our school grounds as part of the Clean Up Australia campaign over the weekend. Each class went out with their rubber gloves and rubbish bags and cleaned up specific areas of our grounds. Apart from making our school more attractive, it was a great exercise in developing the values of community action, care for the environment and team work. Every student from Year 7 to Prep did their bit to make our school neater, tidier and healthier. Let's hope that this can be an ongoing habit and our litter remains at a minimum.

Another habit that we are keen to nurture is active travel to school. By active travel, I mean walking, riding, using public transport or car pooling to cut down on the use of cars and improve fitness. Our first 'Walking Wheeling Wednesday' is just nine days away and I hope that if your child is normally a car passenger on the way to school, that you are thinking of an alternative method of commuting on

Wednesday next week. Obviously, it is not practical for all of our students to walk to school. Many barriers exist such as distance, safety, weather conditions, lack of supervision, etc. However, if you can't walk or ride all the way, maybe you can do it part of the way. Why not park at, say, Taigum Centro and walk the rest of the journey. There is a very pleasant bikeway from Church Road up through Liberty Drive to school. I ride along it every morning and it is quiet, safe and a very direct route. There are several other places that you could leave your car including the Salvation Army Church on Roghan Road which has kindly agreed to let our parents use its carpark on Wednesday for any active travellers. A saying that has become quite common in the last five years or so is 'Think Globally, Act Locally'. On a world level there is much concern about greenhouse gas emissions, global warming and carbon footprints. A way we can contribute to the solution to some of these problems at a local level is by changing our habits to become more environmentally responsible. Imagine if we could cut down trips by car to school by 20% and this was then able to be done by all schools, and then by all businesses and eventually by all commuters. Imagine 20% fewer cars on our roads every day. Think of how much quieter, cleaner and safer our city would be. That's a tall order for sure, but every journey starts with one step. Our first step happens next week. I hope you can make it with us and contribute to a local action that helps everyone.

A few quick reminders about what is ahead. Don't forget our P&C AGM is on next Tuesday at 7pm in the staffroom. We'd like to see plenty of parents there. School photos are coming up on Friday week and on the same day, our Year 7s are going to a short presentation at Aspley SHS about the power of personal choices. I have listed them all below, so please add them to your diaries.

Mark Fisher
Principal

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Fri 7 March | St Joseph's Swimming Carnival |
| Tue 11 March | P&C AGM -7:00 pm |
| Wed 12 March | Walking Wheeling Wednesday |
| Fri 14 March | School Photos, Year 7 Trip to Aspley SHS |

Community Expo

Saturday 8 March 2008 - 9.00am - 12.00 Noon
Sandgate Town Hall - Seymour Street Sandgate

Come and see the wide range of community organisations in your local area

- Find out about joining a local group
- Hear how you can make a contribution in your areas of interest
- Free entry - all welcome
- Refreshments available
- We invite all interested community members to come and find out what's on offer in our local area

A joint community eventbrought to you by Vicky Darling MP, Member for Sandgate and Victoria Newton Councillor for Deagon Ward. Contact: Vicky Darling's Office on 3269 7018 or sandgate@parliament.qld.gov.au Victoria Newton's Office on 3667 6011 or deagon.ward@ecn.net.au

Walking To School

Walking is a great way to keep fit and enjoy our Autumn weather. Why not leave the car at home two days a week and walk your children to school?

Perhaps you can organise a walking group with other parents and children who live nearby. Your children will see this as an adventure and enjoy the walk. You may even see things that you've not noticed before.

- Increase the joy of walking and take a different path each week
- Enjoy the natural surroundings like birds and flowers,
- When was the last time you stopped to "smell the roses"?
- Enjoy life - take a walk!

Remember to use designated footpaths, not the road. Never cross the road between parked vehicles - approaching traffic may not see you. Instead, use children's and pedestrian crossings and cross at lights if provided. Look right, look left, look right again, be aware and teach your kids to **watch out, watch out there are cars about!!**

Walking to school will ease traffic congestion around the school, and give you time to think or chat with your friends -or people you've never met before. More importantly, you will enjoy some quality time with your children while teaching them to model your attitudes to a healthy lifestyle, road safety and the environment.

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

Dental Clinic News

Years Prep to 7 are currently being treated at Taigum State School. If you have not returned your child's consent/medical history form and want treatment it must be returned immediately. After dental staff have examined your child a "statement of treatment needed" will be issued for your signed consent. This form must be returned before treatment can commence. If you have any queries please contact staff by telephoning **0412 706 507**

School Student Banking

Just a reminder that enrolment forms need to be returned to school office as soon as possible, so a collection day for deposits can be worked out and started.

Touch Football Results

Touch football began this week for boys and girls and we had an excellent start to our season with 6 wins from 9 matches

BOYS

| | | | | |
|----------|--------|----|------------|---|
| Senior A | Taigum | 13 | St.Josephs | 1 |
| B | Taigum | 1 | Earnshaw | 4 |
| C | Taigum | 0 | Brighton | 9 |

| | | | | |
|----------|--------|---|------------|---|
| Junior A | Taigum | 6 | St Josephs | 5 |
| B | Taigum | 4 | Earnshaw | 1 |
| C | Taigum | 5 | Brighton | 2 |

(Lemar scored all 5 tries)

GIRLS

| | | | | |
|----------|--------|---|--------------|---|
| Senior A | Taigum | 1 | St Josephs | 0 |
| Junior A | Taigum | 3 | St Josephs | 1 |
| B | Taigum | 0 | St Josephs B | 1 |

Lost Property

Victoria Peachey in Year 3 has lost/misplaced or maybe someone has picked up by mistake her black drawstring swimming bag which has her name clearly marked on it. The bag contains 1 set red/white swimming togs, a pink zoggs swimming cap and matching goggles, a Bratz Genie towel also a green camouflage type swim shirt. These items were all brand new and expensive. It would be appreciated if these items could be returned to the school no questions asked

Thank you
Therese Peachey (Mother)