

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

I want to spend a little time talking about reading. Reading is probably the most important intellectual skill a child can learn. Please note that I said learn. Reading is not a natural process like walking or speaking, it has to be taught. Those who are very lucky seem to pick it up easily and early. Most of us though, need regular, structured, systematic teaching and plenty of practice and encouragement. Reading opens doors to all sorts of knowledge and is often called the key to learning. To succeed in school and in life we need to master the skills of reading and comprehension. At Taigum State School, reading is central to everything we do. Every teacher teaches reading. We have all Year 2 to 7 students involved in school wide reading groups four days a week. Mrs Murphy runs the Reading Recovery Programme for selected Year 2 students 3 hours per day every day and we have a number of teacher aides helping in classes all the time. Our Year 1 – 3 teachers are doing professional development in reading this term and our Prep and SEC teachers will be doing it next term. That is the formal part of the programme, the regular, structured, systematic teaching that I spoke about. The plenty of practice and encouragement part is also very important and is a place for a lot of parental as well as at school input. You will notice our school sign this week encourages parents to take the time to read to children. This is a simple task that often can be overlooked in our busy lifestyles, but it's one that can pay huge dividends to your children. Below my article, is another entitled 'Let's Read'. This is a programme encouraging reading at home and I commend it to you. Please read it carefully and become involved if you can. We've just finished our Book Fair and Mrs McArdle has been highly impressed with the number of students browsing and buying books. Our local libraries are running the 'Gold Star Reader's Club' right now and Mrs McArdle is heavily promoting it in the school library. The last fun reading activity I'll mention is the imminent visit to our school of author/illustrator Michael Salmon on Monday next week. Mr Salmon is a gifted writer, talker and cartoonist and we are giving all our students the opportunity to meet him and interact in activities for the

very small sum of \$2 per child. It will be money very well spent and I guarantee all who attend will never forget the experience. I've seen him three times now, and enjoyed it every time.

This week, all the staff are doing some interesting professional development, learning how to set up 'Virtual Classrooms' (VCs). The VC programme is run through EQ's Learning Place and enables a teacher to basically set up a web space which students can access at school or at home. The Virtual Classroom might, for example, contain the week's homework sheet or an assignment. It might have links to useful educational websites or it may contain some downloadable worksheets. The VC is the stuff of the future and is a very exciting area to explore. We will be doing just that on Wednesday afternoon and I'm sure your children will be quite soon also.

Congratulations to all our Bramble Bay Cross Country Runners from last week. We didn't get any Top 10 finishers but they all ran to the best of their ability and represented our school with pride. What more can you ask?

Mark Fisher
Principal

Let's Read

You are invited to a presentation of Let's Read. Let's Read is an initiative developed to promote reading with young children 0-5 years. Let's Read is designed to be owned by and delivered in the community. The Zillmere / Taigum / Geebung area is one of eleven sites selected to receive funding from the Queensland Department of Communities for this project to be implemented in their community.

This evidence-based early childhood literacy initiative is an initiative of the Centre for Community Child Health, developed and implemented across Australia in partnership with The Smith Family.

There are a range of components to Let's Read. These components are designed to work together in a way that will support and empower parents/carers to read with their children and develop the skills that

will enable them to learn to read when they start school.

At this community meeting presenters will discuss facts about early literacy, the development of the Let's Read initiative, and integral components such as training professionals, fundraising and community development.

Date: Friday 30th May
Time: 10:00am
Venue: Zillmere Community Centre
54 Hanford Rd, Zillmere

RSVP or enquiries to:

Maree Stratton, Project Officer,

Let's Read North Brisbane

Ph: 0438732457

Maree.Stratton@thesmithfamily.com.au

All community members are welcome, from community-based professionals that work closely with families, business owners, to parents and grandparents! Come and participate in a discussion about the importance of early literacy in your community, and ways to support children to reach their full potential.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Fair – The Book Fair concluded last Friday and a big THANK YOU to all members of our school community for your support. Our sales totalled \$2703.95 which means we receive approximately \$811.85 in books for the library. Thank you again to everyone for your support.

Michael Salmon visit – An information sheet and permission form is included in this Newsletter. It is hoped that all students will attend. The cost is \$2 per child as the school is subsidising the event. Please see me if you have any questions regarding this.

Colouring-in Competition – In conjunction with author Michael Salmon's visit next Monday, we are holding a colouring-in competition featuring Michael Salmon's artwork. Entries close this Friday at 3:00pm.

Gold Star Reading Club – Spare registration forms are available in the library. Please let me know when students join so that their name can be added to the "stars" in the library and to ensure they are included in our monthly draw. It is very pleasing to see so many of our students keen to join.

Kind Regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

P&C NEWS

Just one last reminder that all Pie Drive orders and money must be in by 10:00am tomorrow Tues 27th, and the delivery date will be Thursday 5th June. Don't forget that from your support all money raised goes back into helping the school and our kids... Also, keep those recipes coming in for our cookbook fundraiser, as we are really keen to get this up and running. Here is another recipe from one of our mothers.

~**Bumbu Bali**~ (Indonesian)

500grms diced beef 4 candlenuts
2Tbs sambal oelek 1 cm piece ginger
4 cloves garlic 10cm lemongrass
4 french shallots 4 kaffir lime leaf
1 Tbs sweet soy(kecap manis)
1 tomato cut into chunks
salt,sugar to taste

Method~

Cover the beef with enough water to cover, bring very slowly to the boil and simmer till cooked.

Put shallot, garlic, candlenut, sambal oelek and ginger into food processor and blitz to a paste.

Fry the paste in a little oil on medium heat for a few minutes, add lime leaf and lemongrass.

Add sweet soy, tomato and cooked beef.

Simmer for approx 15 mins then add salt,sugar to taste. Serve with rice.

Delicious... Thank you Astrelia.

FROM THE TUCKSHOP

We have limited stocks of 'Smilies' due to their unavailability from our supplier.

Slush Drinks will be on sale from Tuesday for \$1.50 each.

FANCUTTS TENNIS ACADEMY

Fancutts Tennis Academy

will continue the tennis program at the school courts next term on Wednesdays.



Beginners 3-3.45pm Players 3.45-4.30pm

School Holiday Tennis Programs will be held at Fancutts Tennis Centre, Lutwyche Mon to Fri from 30 June – 4 July for children up to 17yrs. A separate morning or afternoon program is available. The full day program includes a Tennis Clinic 9-11.30am (Beginners, Players, Advanced taught separately), lunch break, followed by a Daily Tournament for a Trophy Doubles from 11.45-2pm & Singles 2-4.45pm. Tiny Tennis is held 8.30-9am for 3-6yrs. All enquiries, please contact Fancutts on 3857 2922 in office hours.