

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

It almost feels like the first day of school today. We have a brand new class starting with a new teacher; several changes to other students in Years 4 to 6 and the new LOTE room ready to go. As you can understand, it is highly uncommon for a class to be starting at this time of year and I greatly appreciate the excellent way that our students and parents have coped with the change. We have had very few concerns raised and plenty of positive comments about the process. In the end, smaller classes are better for every student and teacher, and we all realise that our school benefits from all this so a little short term inconvenience is worth a great deal of long term gain. This week, if we count our young students in the ECDU, our enrolments hit 400 – a 30 year record I believe.

Some parents may have seen the news reports late last week about the residential development that is about to take place in Taigum and Fitzgibbon. I have received some information but it is very basic. The land involved is the parcel bounded by Telegraph Road to the North, Beams Road to the South and the railway line to the West. At present it is scrub, but by Christmas 2009 a high density affordable housing development will begin to take shape. Undoubtedly this will have an impact on enrolment numbers at our school, but exactly what that impact is will be determined by which roads service the new area. If Roghan Road is to be the main access, I would think that many students would be coming to our school. However, if connections are made to Telegraph Road, many students would have the choice to go to Norris Rd or Bracken Ridge State School. We are in the enviable position of having plenty of room to expand so we would be able to cope with whatever needs our community will impose upon us. Education Qld will be closely watching the evolution of our local area and will be planning to effectively meet future requirements. I look forward to finding out more. It seems that exciting times are ahead.

This week is numeracy and literacy week and I have three pieces of news relating to these subjects. Firstly, we had 20 students sit for the University of NSW Maths test last month. 16 received participation certificates, 2 received credits (putting them in the top 20%) and 2 received distinctions (top 5%). This is a wonderful effort and I congratulate all those who took part. Their results are as follows:

Distinction

Dhanul Kottagodage
Laura Weston

Year 7
Year 4

Credit

Blessy George
Alexandra Lascu

Year 3
Year 7

Participation

Manul Kottagodage
Adrian Lascu
Kira Barry
Myles O'Bery
Rebekha Robinson
Chandler Silvertand
Jasmine Harris
Cheukman Lau
Joel O'Neill
Cebrina Segi
Cathryn Neubauer
Cody Orchard
Alec Salotto
Tapiwa Shoniwa
Gemma Silvertand
Genghis Watts

Year 5
Year 5
Year 6
Year 6
Year 6
Year 6
Year 3
Year 3
Year 3
Year 3
Year 4
Year 4
Year 4
Year 4
Year 4
Year 4

On Wednesday, 20 of our Year 6 and 7 students will participate in the District Maths Competition at Norris Rd State School. Mrs McArdle and several of our student teachers will be supervising and I'm doing a couple of training sessions with our junior mathematicians early in the week. I wish them well in their endeavour and no matter where they finish, it will be a great experience and they all will definitely learn a lot about mathematics on the day.

Thirdly, all those parents who responded to the Maths and Literacy intervention vouchers for the eligible students in Years 4 and 6 need to know that this programme is about to begin. We have 5 tutors who will be working with about 4 students each over the next 6 to 8 weeks. Some students will be involved in maths, others in literacy but all will benefit from the one to one and small group intensive instruction they will receive. Notes with the specifics of the programme will be going home shortly. Further to literacy support, we will be employing a teacher for 2 days a week all next term, to work with students in Years 5 to 7 who are having difficulties in this subject area. These two initiatives will go a long way to helping many of our students who find reading and writing a problem.

I'll finish with two ICT items, one a rerun and one new and very interesting. Last week we had our first eNewsletter go out. It was exactly the same content as our regular paper newsletter, it just looked a little different and it was emailed. I received mine in my inbox, personally addressed. As we get used to this format, we will add extras to the eNewsletter like colour pictures and student work, but the best part of this for many parents is they don't have to rely on their children to bring them home! If you wish to get yours by email,

paste this link into your browser and follow the prompts

http://mailouts.austnews.com.au/subscription/T/taigum_ss_signup.html

Our second ICT highlight is the arrival of our first interactive whiteboard. This board allows a teacher to use interactive computer programmes with students by projecting them on to a large screen. It is a new, fun and engaging way to operate and our first board will be available to all classes in the 'A' Block computer lab which will be ready for a Term 4 start in about 4 weeks. If teachers find the board to be a useful tool, there will be more purchased so all students can benefit.

A couple of reminders for our big week next week: Monday is Parent – Teacher Interview Evening and Thursday is our School Disco at the North Brisbane Salvation Army Church. I hope to see many parents attend both events.



Mark Fisher
Principal

P & C NEWS

Just a reminder that there are only 2 days left to get your raffle tickets in for our Fathers Day raffle. There are fabulous prizes up for grabs, 1st prize being a 1.8 metre glass door display fridge. More tickets are available and all tickets must be returned sold or unsold to the Uniform Shop by Wednesday 3rd Sept as the raffle will be drawn on Friday 5th Sept. Also, remember that all kids and teachers from the class who sells the most tickets will receive a free McDonalds McValue meal voucher, so good luck to all that enter.

Also, don't forget to keep those shopping dockets going into to the Taigum State School barrel at the Bracken Ridge Plaza. We are currently in 7th place and wouldn't it be nice to think we could get a wee bit higher on the ladder to raise more money for much needed equipment for our kids.

Have a great week
P & C committee

How much is too much TV?

Researchers agree that children should watch no more than two hours of carefully selected television programs a day to achieve optimum health and wellbeing. CSIRO Project Coordinator, Jane Bowen, said the two-hour guideline was the result of significant scientific studies and would potentially encourage families to be more physically active.

'This recommendation should be viewed as a maximum amount of time - less than two hours is certainly preferable to support a healthy lifestyle,' Ms Bowen said.

'We found that children who watch television for more than two hours a day are more likely to be overweight, be less physically active, drink more sugary drinks and snack on unhealthy foods.'

Dr Aric Sigman, an associate fellow of the British Psychological Society, said his analysis of 35 scientific studies over the past decade showed it was important for parents to monitor the types of programs children watch.

'There is some evidence that flickering television shows like cartoons and commercials can harm eyesight and potentially cause short-sightedness, particularly in children,' Dr Sigman said.

'Excessive television viewing is also associated with irregular sleeping patterns because it suppresses the production of the hormone melatonin, which has important functions in the immune system and sleep cycle.'

'Parents could help offset these potential health risks by actively monitoring their child's television consumption and allowing only good quality programming within recommended time limits.'

TV tips

- Don't allow televisions or video games in children's bedrooms.
- Create a family agreement about the amount of TV time allowed each day.
- Use a TV guide to select quality programs and don't flip channels randomly.
- Swap screen time for active time, starting with 20 minutes less TV a day.
- Turn the TV off when no-one is watching.
- Check movie and DVD reviews before renting or buying to ensure good quality programming.



ARE YOU A ROYAL MUM?
Have you had a baby at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital or do you know of someone who has had a baby at the Royal.....maybe your mother or your grandmother?

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Royal Women's Hospital in Brisbane, we will be erecting a special Honour Board at the Hospital listing the names of all Mums who have given birth at the Royal since 1938 and have registered as a Royal Mum.

So if you, your mother or someone you know is a member of this very special group, make sure you register as a Royal Mum now and be part of Royal history!

Registrations can be made by calling the RBWH Foundation on 1300 363 786 or logging on to www.rbwhfoundation.com.au