

6th October 2008

Dear Parents

When I look at the calendar for Term 4, I see all but nine boxes have something in them so, once again, we will have a very full ten weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays. I'll take up a few moments of your time, highlighting what I think are the important points to note:

1. The third Monday of term, 20th October, is a student free day. Our staff will be here doing planning and preparation but no students attend on that day. It is positioned in Week 3 in response to the needs of High School assessment and moderation.
2. The fourth Monday, 27th October, is our Blast Concert. This is the culminating activity for the eleven schools that have been part of the Brisbane City Council's Active School Travel Programme. On the day, our students involved will be visiting City Hall twice. Once at midday to rehearse, and then for the performance in the evening. All parents are invited. Our Walking Wheeling Wednesdays will continue right through to the end of the year.
3. Tuesday 4th November is the Prep Orientation Day. We will be hosting parents of our new Preps for 2009 from 8:45am on parade through to Morning Tea. Our new parents will get a taste of Taigum State School and the various activities we do each day.
4. Thursday 4th December is a double header for our Year 7 students. From 9.00am they will be doing High School Orientation Day at Sandgate, Aspley or Bracken Ridge SHS, depending on their school choice for 2009. (Wavell has not yet given us dates). Then in the evening, we will be having our Year 7 Graduation at the new venue, Kedron Wavell Services Club.
5. Tuesday 9th December is another double header as students meet their new teachers for 2009 and get their Reports. Then, later on we have our Carols Night at the Northside Salvation Army Church.
6. The last day of term for 2008 is Friday 12th December.

Much of what we do in Admin this term is directed at ensuring we plan effectively for the transition to our new classes for 2009. I will be asking all our parents for feedback regarding their children's intentions and needs for next year. This will start formally in Week 5 when we send home Feedback Forms to parents for 2009 classes. We will ask you to detail what you see as your child's strengths and weaknesses and what will best suit their learning styles, social growth and educational outcomes. We will use the information you provide for Parent Interviews in Week 7, whether in person or by phone should you need to discuss your position in greater detail. We endeavour to place students with teachers in the best possible mix using the input we receive from all parties. Not always is it exactly as every parent requests but we usually have around a 95% match. Of course, the numbers of classes and teachers is entirely dependent on our enrolments, which at present are very healthy.

As always, we have high expectations for student behaviour and effort. I highlight this as some children think that maybe as the year is almost at an end, they can drop their standards and take it easy. This is not the case. We will be involved with the business of education right up to the last week of school and we want all students to finish 2008 on a high note. The teachers are keen to see excellent achievement and I know parents are as well. Please take a few minutes each week to make this point to your child. Our school motto is 'Strive to Achieve' and this is what we wish to see from every student Prep to Year 7.



Mark Fisher
Principal