

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

We have settled well into our final term for the year with our first week running very smoothly. We have had a few new enrolments and our total school population in Prep to Year 7 is presently 380. All classes have been working very strongly and I'm confident of some excellent results across the board. Of course, not all students find academic work easy. Many struggle with basic numeracy and literacy. As a school, this is one of our toughest challenges. Late last term, we received our school data from the Year 3, 5 and 7 tests and we have used this and other school based assessments to identify those children who need further support. Today, a literacy intervention programme will begin for our Year 5 to 7 students. With the allocation of extra funding, it will run through to the final week of term, giving these students support in spelling, writing and reading. We have been able to fund 4 full days a week for this, with the children in two groups doing two days of intervention each. Additionally, all Year 2 students caught in the diagnostic net earlier this year will begin intervention as well. Finally, we have 15 Year 4 and 6 students receiving the federally funded tutoring through the 'Even Start' programme. The organisation and coordination of these programmes allows us to cast a wide net to help as many students as we possibly can.

Anyone who has been to our school lately will know that our new library and specialist rooms in 'A' Block are already in use. The Federal Government provided \$143,000 for this refurbishment and, apart from a few finishing touches (paint, carpet, trim, etc) in a couple of spots, all work is now complete. The building will be officially opened on Friday 24th October at 9:30am and we are very privileged to have the Hon. Wayne Swan, our local member and Federal Treasurer, as our guest for these proceedings. As recently as yesterday, he was in New York discussing world finance, so we are very lucky that he is able to spare some time from his busy schedule to open our new block. Any interested parents are welcome to attend on the day and stay for a short morning tea afterwards.

As I stated briefly last week, Monday 27th October at 6:30pm is the Blast Concert in City Hall. The Choir, Ms Templeton and I will be representing Taigum State School as we join with the nine other schools in the Active School Travel Programme, to celebrate our achievements in 2008. You might be interested in what those achievements were. Every Wednesday since Easter, 60 – 70% of all our students have either walked, ridden or car pooled to school. That's between 2/3 and 3/4 of the

students. Even on a very cold and windy Wednesday in July, we had a figure of 62%. This is remarkable. In our new bike cage, provided as part of the programme, we have regularly had very little room. On one day in early September, I counted 36 bikes, meaning nearly 10% of our school population had ridden that day which wasn't a Wednesday. I hear students talking about active travel, I hear parents talking about active travel and I see the effects in the Car Park in the afternoons with noticeably fewer vehicles present on Wednesdays. The Brisbane City Council sees the benefits as increased physical activity for children and parents, reduced traffic congestion at school gates, improved road safety skills, improved community networks, improved air quality and savings on car fuel bills. I have seen all these at our school and all parents, teachers and students should be complimented for their efforts. By the way, all our school community is invited to the Blast Concert so I hope many can attend.

Term 4 is Spring and Summer and thus is swimming and interschool sport. With that in mind, I need to remind everyone of the new rules for pool use. All students need to have upper body protection at all times whilst in the water. The best protection is a 30+ sun shirt but ordinary T-Shirts are acceptable. Sunscreen on noses and ears is also a good idea. The only time students do not need to have a shirt on is whilst racing in Swimming Carnival events (Thursday and Friday, Week 8). On land, we require hats on when in the sun. We enforce our famous 'No Hat- No Play' rule at all times in Year 4. If students wish to play on the oval or other uncovered areas they must follow this important safety rule.

My final section is a correction. I wrote a paragraph last week based around our School Motto being 'Strive to Achieve'. In fact our motto is 'Strive for Best'. Whilst it makes no difference to how the item read, being principal I should know our own motto. In wondering where I got 'Strive to Achieve' from, I did an internet search that found that phrase as the motto for Epping Boys High in Sydney, South Cheshire College in England, Lakeside College in Victoria, Millburn Academy in Scotland and our own Geebung State School. So I have no idea how it came into my head but I apologize for this error. It won't happen again.

A last reminder: Monday is Student Free Day so school resumes on Tuesday with assembly at 8:45am.



Mark Fisher
Principal

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

This Friday 17th October, the Salvation Army at Taigum is putting on an event called 'AfterShock.' This is for High School kids, but because the Grade 7's are almost in High School they are invited. There will be heaps of fun stuff to do including; bands, jumping castles, Xbox's, free fairy floss, fun competitions and tons more good wholesome fun. It's from 6:30pm till 9:30pm and it costs \$10. I'll be giving the grade 7's more info about it this week.

I'll also be giving the grade 7's info about Schools Out camp. This is a camp run by SU Qld (my employer) that I'll be going on. It's on Monday 15th December – Friday 19th December. It's for celebrating the end of Primary School. The week will include a day at Dreamworld, swimming in local rock pools, great food, night programs, games, chilling out and exploring God and life. The camp costs \$210 and I'd love to bring along some kids from Taigum.

Steve Unicomb

FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Club – Brochures for Book Club Issue 7 were distributed last week. The closing date for Book Club is **Thursday 23rd October**. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to Taigum State School.

Ed Alive Community Software Plan – Brochures have been enclosed with this newsletter. Some important changes to this scheme are:

- a wider range of software programs offered
- eligibility for parents to claim their 50% education tax refund on items purchased
- tax invoice stamped and returned to parents with orders

However, one important change is that orders can no longer be paid for by cash. Items ordered can be paid for by cheque, money order or credit card only.

Please send all orders and payments to the Library by **Friday 24th October**. All orders will then be sent in bulk to Ed Alive. Unfortunately, orders received after this date won't be able to be accepted.

Christmas Book Fair – Our annual Christmas Book Fair will commence on Thursday 13th November and continue until Thursday 20th. There will be some great books available to purchase as well as some bargain items. More details will be included in later newsletters.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

LEARNSCAPE NEWS

Last term, Year 5 Tour Guides from both classes, conducted tours of our Learnscape Garden for several groups of ACU student teachers. The following is an extract from the text of a thankyou letter written by one of the student teachers:

On behalf of the second year, pre-service teachers from the Australian Catholic University, I would like to offer this letter of thanks for showing us your wonderful reconciliation garden last term. We all really enjoyed ourselves and learned a great deal.

Please pass on our thanks to the rest of your team. Our guides did a fantastic job. We were amazed at the students' professional ability to not only memorize, but present the information as well. It would be fair to say that there are some university students who still find presenting in front of people a challenge, so well done! I am sure by the high standard of the students' work that we can expect great things from them, not just in the future but over the next few years as well!

We would also like to encourage you as volunteers, that your work has broadened our knowledge of local aboriginal culture and is making a big difference in building bridges of friendship between our two cultures.

Kathryn Smith – (Pre-service teacher from ACU)

A big thankyou to Ms Rigby for her assistance with the training of the children, and especially for her artistic work with the t-shirts. Also, a big thanks to the Student Council for our special hats.

Lynette Goodberg

Cricket Clinic

When: Mon 12th, Tues 13th and Wed 14th January, 2009

Time: 8.30am to 12.30pm each day

Where: St Paul's School playing fields, Attunga St, Bald Hills

Who: Open to boys and girls 7 – 15 years old
Cost: \$125 – Drinks, Morning Tea provided
Coaching Co-ordinator – Shane Jurgensen (ex Bull's player)

RSVP: Monday, 24th November 2008

To: Tooth Centre Reception, St Paul's School
Or

Email: night5@chariot.com.au