

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

The Student Free Day has caused a short week for our students but it was a very busy day for our teachers. Our focus was the Qld Curriculum Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) framework which now forms the basis for all our planning, testing and reporting to parents. We particularly were looking at the English syllabus with a view to have a comprehensive P-7 programme in place for the start of 2009, using the QCAR format.

The day went very well, with all teachers having a sound understanding of what the framework entails and how to use it to plan effectively. The sessions were lead by Mrs Innes, Mrs Webb, Mrs Tompkins and Mrs Hoad. Over the next few weeks, those four teachers will be off class working intensively with individual teachers so that our QCAR English skills will be first rate, ready for the New Year.

The Student Council, under the enlightened stewardship of Mrs Tompkins, has been doing some wonderful stuff this year for our school and the wider community. Their latest project, contributing to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal, has started off brilliantly. Each week, the Student Council is asking for different types of donations. Last week it was canned foods and today we counted 88 cans in the office. That is a tremendous response from our students and parents. This week it is lollies and nuts and I look forward to seeing more of the generosity of our Taigum community. Please read the Student Council article on the following page for more details.

As part of the State Government's commitment to education we have received a one off grant to address maintenance issues at school. Our local member, Ms Vicky Darling, rang last week to inform us that our share of funding was \$38 000. This money will be used to improve safety, amenity and appearance of paths, buildings and our facilities around the grounds. Speaking of facilities, our newest rooms, those in 'A' Block, are to be officially opened by Mr Wayne Swan on Friday 24 October at 9:30 am. All are welcome to attend.

To have an effective education, students must attend school regularly. Most of us take this for granted and 95% of our families have their children here as many days of the year as they possibly can. Unfortunately, a small minority do not see this as a priority and their children miss quite a percentage of school. The Education Department is getting serious with this low level constant absenteeism and is investigating remedies for it. At present, parents can be fined for not sending their children to school and in severe cases, Child Safety can become involved. Please read the article from Education Qld below and contact the school if necessary to discuss the problem if it relates to your circumstances.

Every day counts at our school

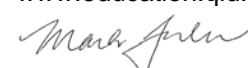
Our school encourages all parents and members of our community to support the new State Government initiative to improve student attendance. The new program – Every Day Counts – has four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day
- schools should monitor and create ways to improve attendance in schools
- attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community
- children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school.

While most students attend school consistently, there is a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future. If your child is away, you need to let the school know the reasons beforehand, or within two days of returning to school.

For more information or if you need support regarding your child's attendance, see your school principal or download the guide for parents at: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/



Mark Fisher
Principal

FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Club – Issue 7 is due in this Thursday 23 Oct. Please bring all orders, together with payment to the Library. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. If paying by cheque, please make payable to Taigum State School. Orders are usually delivered to the school with two weeks.

Ed Alive Community Software Offer – Brochures were sent home with the school Newsletter last week. Please bring all orders, together with payment to the Library. Please note that payment for software programs can only be by cheque, money orders (from Post Office) or credit card only. Cash can no longer be accepted. The due date for this offer is this Friday 24 Oct. Please note that orders cannot be accepted after this Friday afternoon.

Christmas Book Fair – Our annual Christmas Book Fair is now only three weeks away. The Book Fair commences on Thurs 13 Nov and will run for one week. There will be some great books available to purchase as well as some great bargain items. As usual, there will be some great stationery items also. Some other



fun activities running during this time will include:

- **Colouring-in Competition** – there will be \$5 Book Fair Vouchers for prizes which our winning artists can spend at the Book Fair
- **Guessing Competitions** – guess the number of Christmas items in the jars to win prizes
- **Christmas Quiz** – answer the Christmas Quiz questions correctly to win a prize
- **Christmas Dress Up Day** – we will be holding this during the Book Fair on Tuesday 18 Nov. Come dressed in your Christmas attire to celebrate our Christmas Book Fair. We are asking for a gold coin donation which will be put towards the purchase of some Christmas presents for the Salvation Army's Annual Christmas Appeal. More details will be included in subsequent Newsletters.



Kind regards

Theresa McArdle
Librarian

FROM THE TUCKSHOP

I am sure that you all tried out the special "Ekka Show bags" which were on sale during the 10 days of the Ekka. We have a number left over and have decided to put them on the menu until sold out. They were selling at the small cost of \$4 and because of the value in them, we will continue to sell them at that price. If your child wishes to order the show bag from the Tuck Shop please write on the Tuck Shop bag – Show Bag - \$4.00. This will then get processed and sent to your child's classroom in the Tuck Shop Box.

Also something to look out for – this week, we are sending home a brochure for the Super Slice Drive. In it is also a flyer for Christmas Fare. Please take your time and get your friends and relatives to look at all the goodies they have up for sale and get your orders in along with your money no later than 7th November so as we can get the slices back out to you in time for Christmas or in time for an enjoyable nibble.

Thanks heaps for supporting both the Tuck shop and the Super Slice Drive.

5A & 5B MISSING HOME READERS

At present, there are a number of Home Readers that have not been returned to the classrooms. It would be greatly appreciated if parents of children in 5A, 5B and from the old 5/6 class check that their children have returned all Home Readers to school. In particular, we are most anxious for the return of the much loved books from The Secrets of Droon Series which are currently missing from the classrooms.

Fiona and Lynnette

Student Council News



This Term, the Student Council are working on gathering donations for the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. Each week, we are asking for a donation in one of the following categories:

Canned food,
Drinks, pet food
Lollies, biscuits, packet foods
Christmas decorations

This week's category is **lollies**



P.S. We would also appreciate any new Christmas paper or ribbon that you may have left from last year.

Thanks

Taigum State School Student Council

Fancutts Tennis Academy will continue the tennis program at the school courts during 4th Term on Wednesdays.

Beginners 3.00 – 3.45pm

Players 3.45 – 4.30pm

Friendly Tournaments/Hot Shots for trophies are on Saturdays, 11:00am – 1:00pm at Fancutts during school term. Superleague/external fixtures are on Saturdays from 2:00 - 5.30pm & Sundays 3.45 – 6pm. All enquiries, please contact Fancutts on 3857 2922 in office hours or email Fancutts@bigpond.com.



FREE School Holiday Course – Caring for Kids

Do you have a child in Year 7 or Year 8, and aged between 12 & 14 years old? Save the Visible Ink, Zillmere are combining to offer an activity based course to young people who are helping to look after younger children of family and friends or are interested in helping in this way. The course is lots of FUN, there are no exams or homework and we provide their lunch and afternoon tea!

The course will be run over 4 days, from Tuesday, 16th to Friday 19th December, 2008, between 10am and 3pm daily. It will be held at Visible Ink Youth Space 3-5/67 Dunsford St, Zillmere.

To register for the course or get more information, call Kelly Rivas @ Visible Ink on 3407 8102 or Lynne Beasley @ Save the Children on 3034 8126. Places are limited, so call a.s.a.p.