

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

My sincere thanks to all those parents who took time out of their busy schedules or made the effort to thank their child's teacher last Friday. I can't remember hearing so many positive comments and it's great that some even bought small gifts. Special thanks to Mrs Silvertand, who once again this year, baked a cake for all the teachers. Friday was hard work for all our stomachs as we had a cooked breakfast, then the aides and the student teachers put on a very fancy morning tea for the teaching staff who by then were bursting at the seams. However, it was a very kind gesture of theirs and much appreciated. Congratulations also to Mrs Tompkins and Mrs Bell who were both presented with their medallions for 25 years service to the profession.

Speaking of student teachers, Friday was their last day with us. For the past two months, we have had twelve young, enthusiastic and energetic pre-service teachers very actively engaged in our classes and with our students across all levels from Prep to Year 7. It has been our policy for some time to maximize the numbers of prac teachers at Taigum State School so that our staff and students gain the benefit of their knowledge, viewpoint and dynamism. They, of course, benefit hugely from their time with us and the school is enriched by their presence. We have been fortunate in having a number of high quality student teachers with us this year, many of whom, I have no doubt will go on to become excellent educators in the future.

In today's Newsletter we have included a preference/ feedback form concerning your child's educational needs in 2009. I encourage everyone to read them carefully and respond with as much detail as is necessary. The form is one source of information that helps us to formulate classes for next year. We also take into account teacher, specialist and teacher aide feedback as well as academic and behaviour factors. We attempt to match students to teachers to allow for the best education we can deliver. All information is confidential and we try to fulfill parental requests if we can however, sometimes this is impossible. In most cases last year, all parties were reasonably happy with arrangements. Most parents gave us very useful information and most believed that a formal interview was unnecessary. If you find that you can't give us a good picture of your child's needs using only the form, please organise a meeting through the office. I think in 2007, we had around 120 forms returned and we had interviews with about 12 parents, either face to face or by phone. Please return the forms as soon as possible so we can begin one of the major organisational tasks for 2009.

Tomorrow is another of the major organisational steps for a successful start to next year, with it being the Prep Orientation Day. I realise I am repeating a little of what I wrote last week but just so everyone is aware of what will be occurring, I shall outline the itinerary. It is as follows:

- 8:45am New Prep parents are invited to Assembly to see how it runs
- 9:15am Parents meet in the Music Room where they hear from Mr Swales, Mrs McArdle, the P&C and me about school operations
- 10:00am School Tour – Prep class, tuckshop, bookshop, library, pool, playground, etc
- 10:15am Morning Tea in the new library and end of the formal orientation process

These days are immensely beneficial to first time Prep parents and I look forward to seeing the usual large numbers who take an active interest in their child's first steps on their educational odyssey.

Two short messages to finish. This week is Walking Wheeling Week when we want students to try to actively travel every day if possible. I know this is difficult for some but even two or three trips are better than none. Secondly, I must remind parents that we prefer students arrive at school around 8:15 to 8:30 each morning. Recently we have had some children here as early as 7:15 am. Out of Hours School Care is available for these students. Please encourage your children to arrive in the thirty minute period before class starts at 8:45am.



Mark Fisher  
Principal

### eNewsletter

To sign up for our eNewsletter please type in the link below into the address bar of your browser. Australian Newsletter Services has made the signup process automated and it only takes a few minutes to follow the prompts. Your email address will only be used to send out school eNews and nothing else. It will not be passed on to a third party.

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If you experience any difficulties please feel free to contact AustNews IT Department on 1800 245 077 or email [help@austnews.com.au](mailto:help@austnews.com.au).

## FROM THE LIBRARY

**Book Club** – Issue 7 has been ordered and should arrive back this week. Orders will be distributed on arrival.

Issue 8 brochures will be issued to students this week. The due date for orders will be Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ed Alive Community Software Offer** has been sent away and ordered items should be returned to the school in approximately two weeks.

**Christmas Book Fair** – Our annual Christmas Book Fair is now just over 1 week away and preparations are underway to decorate the Library for this event. The Book Fair commences at lunchtime on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November and concludes at 9am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November.



▪ **Our Colouring-in Competition** to celebrate the Book Fair commences tomorrow. The due date for entries is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a \$5 prize in the form of a Book Fair voucher awarded to prize winners. This voucher can then be spent at the Book Fair.




Other competitions will run during the week of the Book Fair.

▪ **Christmas Dress Up Day** is on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November. Students can come dressed in their Christmas attire and a gold coin donation is asked for. This money will be put towards buying gifts which the Salvation Army will distribute.

Kind regards


Theresa McArdle  
Librarian



### 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 **Biscuits**

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

## FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Please remember to get your orders for the Super Slice Drive in before **7<sup>th</sup> November**. You can drop off your orders and money at either the Uniform Shop or the Tuck Shop.

There are still heaps of show bags left. They are great value for only \$4.00 – chips, curios, sauce, mini dagwood dog, a sour pop and an up and go drink – place your order today.

Have a great week

From the Tuck Shop Committee

## P & C NEWS

In December, the P & C Committee are holding a "Christmas Monster Raffle" with some fabulous prizes up for grabs. Also we will be having a Christmas Stall with lots of great presents to purchase for that special mum, dad, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, granny, grandad or even your teacher or neighbour. We are calling on many of you to help make or donate something for our Stall, no matter how big or small, which we can sell to our kids for that great Xmas pressie. So come on, get behind the school and help support this fabulous fundraiser. All donations can be dropped off at the Uniform Shop, Tuckshop or at the School Office.

Another event in December will be the Carols by Candlelight held at the Salvation Army Church. The P & C will be selling neon glow candles, Santa hats and also we will be having a lucky door raffle with some terrific prizes on offer, but more about that in the weeks to come.

Next week, order forms will be going out to all Prep students for "Prep Art on Plates." For the cost of \$10 each, parents can purchase a plate for their child to do their own artwork on in class. All plates will be lacquered and come complete with a plate stand for display. What a lovely keepsake. Look out for order forms in your child's school bag.

This is the last week to get your orders in for the Super Slice Drive. All orders and money must be in by this Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Lastly, next Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am is our monthly P&C meeting in the Staffroom. All are welcome to attend so drop in for a tea/coffee as it's always nice to see some new faces.

Have a great week.

From your friendly P&C Committee