Dear Parents

This is the second to last newsletter of 2013 and although we are near the end of our school year it is a very busy time. A good indication of this is how many activities will take place between this newsletter and the last one on Tuesday next week. We have Senior Swimming Carnival, Volunteer Morning Tea, Carols by Candlelight, Year 7 Graduation, meeting new teachers and report cards going home. That is a very full agenda indeed as I will elaborate on some of these points below.

**Volunteer Morning Tea**

Our volunteer helpers play a huge role in the effective running of the school. Whether they be on the P&C, serving in the tuckshop, reading with children, working in the uniform shop or in any other capacity, our volunteers are a fantastic resource and make a difference to our students. Tomorrow, we, as a school, say thank you to them. So at 9:30am, all who have helped out this year are invited to morning tea on the library deck. I hope to see everyone there.

**Carols by Candlelight**

Our carols night is always a great way to informally say goodbye to our school year in a fun way. As usual, Mrs Tompkins is organising a fantastic night for us all on Thursday at the Salvation Army Hall and we like to see everyone there dressed up in a Christmassy fashion. The carols start at 6:30pm but food is served from 5:45. The entry fee is $5 per family and this is going to be donated to the ‘Kmart Wishing Tre’e to buy presents for underprivileged children, a very worthy cause.

**Year 7 Graduation**

The Year 7 Graduation is always one of the highlights of our school year. It’s the night that we formally farewell our senior students, thank them for their time with us and wish them well in their next chapter of schooling. I enjoy seeing them dressed up as it really shows how much they have grown and matured with us and how ready they are for high school. Our hall ceremony starts at 6:30 with the speeches and presentations to be finished by 7:15pm. Students will then stay on for dinner and finish at 9:00pm sharp.

**Meeting New Teachers for 2014**

As is traditional, on Tuesday afternoon at 2:30, students get to meet their new class and teacher for the next year. This will occur next week as planned but I must stress that our staffing and our class structure are based on predictions of 2014 enrolments. We expect to have about 370 students in 15 classes, but if these numbers change by as little as about 5 or 6 either way, we may have reorganise everything in the first two weeks of school next year. We, of course, would like to get it exactly right first time so no change is necessary, but we will have to see exactly how many students come through our gates in the new year.

**Report Cards**

Teachers are presently finishing Semester 2 Report Cards, ready to hand them out to all students on Tuesday afternoon. Please take the time to talk about them with your child as this feedback is very useful to them as they embark on a new round of studies in 2014. If you need to talk to the school about the reports, please take the time to do so.

**Working Bee**

All the best laid plans sometimes come to nothing. The constant rain ruined any chance of working in the learnscape but I was very impressed by how many came to help. Sadly I had to tell them all to go home, but the effort and commitment was there. All students who came will get credit on their Senior Leaders’ forms. Thank you to all those who arrived in the cold and wet, we will try to have another working bee, early in the new school year.
Gonski Funding
There have been quite a lot of position changes this week in Federal politics regarding educational funding. Nobody is quite sure how it will look in practice next year, but I can reassure all our parents that whatever happens, we will be making every dollar stretch as far as it can, to give our students as good an education as possible. In the end, that's exactly what it's all about.

Mark Fisher
Principal

Students of the Week

Congratulations to all students for their participation in the swimming carnivals.

BOOK AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 29th November 2013.

- 1i - Quincy
- 1L - Ian
- 1N - Dennise
- 2H - Mya
- 2J - Maddie
- 3B - Kavin P
- 3TM - Jericho
- 4C - Paris
- 4/5G - Jack
- 5W - Taniela
- 6S - Meron
- 6/7G - Alana
- 7C - Alexander

FROM THE OFFICE

SCHOOL SWIMMING

All students must wear a swimming cap and rash vest so please remember to pack these items along with your togs and towel.

Only those students with an illness substantiated by a letter from their parent or a medical certificate will be excused from swimming lessons.
ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school, please use the Absence Line – 3632 9866, or alternatively, send an email to admin@taigumss.eq.edu.au or a note to your child’s class teacher.

For auditing purposes all student absences must be explained.

2014 ENROLMENT and HOLIDAY INTENTIONS

Please advise the office in writing if you have children currently in years Prep to Year 6 who will NOT be attending this school in 2014. If you have a child starting Prep next year and have not completed the enrolment paperwork, please do so as soon as possible. This is very important for us to know for staffing purposes.

If you are having an extended summer holiday and do not intend starting school on the first day, 28 January 2014, could you please put this in writing and forward to the office with your child for auditing purposes.

FROM THE P&C

Hi Everyone,

We only have two weeks left, but there is still so much going on! Don't forget that this Thursday at our Carol Service the P&C will be selling all the flashing, sparkling goodies that we showcased on Parade last Friday, so don't forget to bring some money with you. It should be a fun night and I look forward to seeing you all there!

Also, our Christmas raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 11th December, during the final parade of 2013. The prizes are:

- **1st Prize**: $250 Coles Myers Voucher.
- **2nd Prize**: $100 Coles Myers Voucher
- **3rd Prize**: $50 Coles Myers Voucher

All raffle tickets (sold or unsold) must be returned to the Uniform shop by Tuesday 10th December. Good luck!!

Many thanks and have a great week!
Chloe Boswell
P&C President.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN
As I mentioned in the last newsletter some of the local churches are putting on awesome Community Christmas Parties during December. Here is another event to mark in your calendars.

The SDA church at Dakabin hold an awesome walk through drama of the Christmas story called, "Road to Bethlehem." It's on 16th - 18th December, 6:30pm till 9:30pm. It's free but bookings are required.

The address is Watson Park Convention Centre, 337 Old Gympie Rd, Dakabin. Phone 32044231 to make a booking or go to brisbane.roadtobethlehem.org

I'll be promoting some different churches next week!

Many thanks,
Steve Unicomb

STUDENT COUNCIL

ICY CUPS

Icy cups will be on sale each Thursday, 2nd break, from the hall canteen. Cost is still only 50 cents.

FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Change of Tuckshop day in last week of school.
Tuckshop will be open on Wednesday 11 December instead of Friday 13 December, as this is the last day of school.

The tuckshop is also running a raffle starting on Friday 22 November. The raffle will run until Friday 6 December, with prizes drawn on this day. Students will automatically be entered in the raffle if they place a tuckshop order during this time (ie. 22 and 29 November, or 6 December), or they can purchase tickets from the tuckshop for 50cents each. 1st prize is a Hart Smart backpack, 2nd prize is a $5.00 tuckshop voucher, and 3rd prize is an ice-block voucher.

I look forward to your continued support.

Many thanks,
Lisa Virtue
Tuckshop Convenor
DATES TO REMEMBER

FROM THE LIBRARY

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair.

The school received $500 worth of new books for our library. We hope you enjoy your purchases too.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Join us on Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/taigumss
NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN FOOTBALL CLUB

SIGN-ON DAY

Saturday 1st February 2014
12.00 PM to 3.00 PM
Darien Street, Bridgeman Downs
PLAYERS WANTED
All Age Groups - from 3 Years old
Male & Female
Tiny Tots, Juniors, Youth & Seniors

Full Details:
www.northsidefootball.org.au
0417 191 141

HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families to host international exchange students arriving in for a stay of one term, one semester or two semesters. Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from Germany, Italy, Finland, Colombia and Mexico will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
Experience the action packed story of the magical flying car, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, with eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts, his two children Jemima and Jeremy and the delightful Truly Scrumptious.

Sensational sets, stunning special effects, Ian Fleming’s irresistible story, and an unforgettable score by the Sherman Brothers (*Mary Poppins*) all add up to a blockbuster musical that everyone will love. Boasting a stellar Australian cast of over 70 headed by David Hobson, Rachael Beck, Shane Bourne, George Kapiniaris and Tyler Coppin as the Childcatcher. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* will fly into QPAC for a strictly limited season from 19 November until 22 December 2013. To book tickets visit [www.qpac.com.au](http://www.qpac.com.au) or call 136 246.

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**WAVELL STATE HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Orientation Day for students*  
*In Year 8 2014*  
Monday 9 December 2013  
Assembly Hall  
Telopia Avenue, Wavell Heights  
8.30am for 8.45am start  
3.00pm finish  
(Morning Tea provided for parents at 10.00am)

**Students to bring/wear:**  
Primary School Uniform  
Notepad & Pens  
Morning Tea & Lunch including a drink  

**Shop Hours – Monday 9 December**  
Stationery  
1.00pm – 5.30pm  
Clothing  
1.00pm – 5.30pm  
Used Clothing (Dblock)  
1.00pm – 5.30pm

*Applications still welcome.*  
*Enrolment Enquiries contact Sandy Lock, Enrolment Officer on 3350 0328*
North Star FC invites all Under 9, 10 & 11 players, for the 2014 season, to attend its Stars Academy identification trials.

SSF DOC Shaun Yule will oversee all trial sessions.

Trials to be held at 24 Jennings Street Zillmere:
Wednesday November 20 @ 5:30pm
Sunday November 24 @ 4pm.

Sessions will run for one hour.

Register your interest with SSF Co-ordinator
Belinda Chilton ssf@northstarfc.org