FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

The first week of the new school year is behind us and I am very happy to report that it went fantastically well from my point of view. Most of our 369 students started on Tuesday and the only tears I saw were from a 3 year old who was sad he wasn’t starting this year. By 9:15am, every class had started learning Unit 1 of the national curriculum and by morning tea the whole school was running as if we had never been on a break. The only hitch for the week was receiving an email saying we were to get an additional $161,000 to use to improve our outcomes in our lower school as part of the ‘Great Results Guarantee’. It’s not a bad problem to have. (see following)

Great Results Guarantee
Our school has received additional funding from the Great Results Guarantee and we are deciding how we can use this money to better support our students and improve their outcomes. We are now working to develop our own Great Results Guarantee with evidence-based strategies and actions to improve literacy and numeracy. The funding is targeted at the early years and we are currently looking at extra teaching time, extra teacher-aide time, resourcing and professional development as some of the ways to utilise this funding. It is a very exciting task to undertake and one that will only advantage our younger students. Read more about the guarantee at www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee.

School Captains
During these past few school days, our Year 6 and 7 Student Leaders have been engaged in the selection of our School Captains for 2014. It was a two step process involving, firstly, speeches to our Year 6 and 7 students who voted to shortlist four candidates for both the Captain and Vice-Captain positions; and then a formal interview before a panel of teachers and students. We split both the votes and the interviews across the two grade levels and we had two interview panels, one for Captains and one for Vice-Captains. My thanks to our two parent reps – Mrs Chloe Boswell (P&C President) and Mrs Lynn Austin (P&C Vice President) and to our two student reps – Kaitlin and Maxine, who did a great job selecting our winning candidates. We now have our four captains chosen and this afternoon their parents will be informed in writing. Next week, I will announce their names in the newsletter and the following Friday, they will be presented with their badges on assembly.

P&C Meeting Dates Changed
Due to unforeseen circumstances, the dates of the February and March P&C Meetings have had to change. The February meeting has been moved from Friday this week to Tuesday next week (February 11) at 6:30pm. The March Meeting and AGM has been moved one day earlier to Monday 10 March. I apologise for the inconvenience but it was unavoidable.

P&C Welcoming Morning Tea
In place of Friday’s meeting, the P&C is putting on Morning Tea for all parents who wish to attend. It will run from 9:30am so parents can watch our assembly then walk over to the staffroom to enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit. All are welcome.

Mark Fisher
Principal
Prep B - The Whole Class for a great first week
Prep CD - The Whole Class for settling in well during the first week
Year 1L - Darzel for trying his best and writing great sentences
Year 1N - Anneke for wonderful active listening skills in the classroom
Year 2F - Richard for showing confidence and making nice friends in his first two days at Taigum State School
Year 2HS - Ian for always being on task
Year 2J - Richard for fantastic manners and following classroom rules
Year 3B - Ben for having good ideas in class
Year 3TM - Riley for excellent participation in English
Year 4G - Kida for an excellent effort in class
Year 4MI - Jada for being an organised and very helpful student in our class
Year 5WR - Dushyant for having a great start to the year by working hard and listening well
Year 6S - Tino for an excellent effort at writing a retell of the short story “Tiger, Rabbit & Chung-ho”
Year 6/7G - Kiara for being very helpful during class
Year 7C - Maxine for her thoughtful responses showing deep appreciation to the work.

FROM THE OFFICE

SCHOOL SWIMMING

School swimming commenced this week. Please remember all students must wear a swimming cap and rash vest so please remember to pack these items along with your child’s 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.

PERSONAL DETAILS UPDATE

If you have recently changed your address, contact phone number or emergency contacts, please complete a form at the office to update your details.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school due to ill health or other reasons, please phone the Absence Line on 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.
ALLERGY ALERT – HIGH IMPORTANCE

This is to inform all parents that a number of students currently attending our school suffer from LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES.

To safeguard these children, we find it necessary to become an allergen-friendly school. We are aiming to be a completely egg and nut-free school. This means, students are requested not to bring:

- any nuts, either by themselves or as part of a bar, packet or other food.
- Raw egg or cooked egg such as egg sandwiches, quiche. (Foods that have a smaller amount of egg – e.g. cakes etc are ok)

In addition, we request that if students have eaten a breakfast at home containing or consisting of eggs or nuts that parents check their children wash their face and hands with soap and water before coming to school.

Although some may feel these measures are extreme, the students concerned may suffer a fatal reaction if they even come into contact with a surface such as a chair or pencil that has been touched by a student who has eaten egg or nuts and not washed properly.

Egg and peanut based products will no longer be sold at school or at school events.

We all care for our children and know that as parents you share our concerns and will overlook the small inconveniences these measures may cause.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

TAIGUM STATE SCHOOL

UNIFORM POLICY

- Students must wear school uniform at all times unless directed by staff.
- Students may wear a watch or plain studs for pierced ears. **No other jewellery is to be worn.**
- Students are required to wear a swimming cap and sunsafe shirt over swimming togs during lessons.
- The following types of clothing may not be worn to school i.e. fluorescent clothing, clothing that is not sunsafe or contains offensive/inappropriate slogans or images.
- Shoes must be **enclosed** and black. Students without suitable footwear may be excluded from playgrounds and class activities. Footwear must allow safe and comfortable movement by students when playing.

Regards
Lynne Tunny
Deputy Principal

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAM

If your child is enrolled in Round 1 of Active After School Swimming Lessons please ensure that their consent form is signed and returned to school by Friday 7th February.

FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Welcome back. Tuckshop will be open on Fridays between 8.15am and 11.30am. The new tuckshop menu can be found on the Taigum SS website or you collect a copy from the office.

We are always looking for extra help so if you have some time on a Friday and would like to volunteer in the tuckshop, please leave your name and contact details with the office.

Many thanks,
Lisa Virtue
*Tuckshop Convenor*
Hi Everyone,

Welcome back! It's good to be back and the P&C are looking forward to another great year!

For all new parents I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our school and tell you a little bit about what we do:

As a P&C our main goal is to build a stronger school community, where all the children benefit. We hold various fund raisers throughout the year, which all the children enjoy, and all the money raised is ploughed back into the school. Last year we raised enough funds to be able to purchase an interactive Smartboard for the Preps. This is an amazing learning tool, and one which the all the children thoroughly enjoy using. We hold monthly meetings where strategies are discussed and voted upon. The meetings are also a great way to meet fellow parents; there is always a relaxed and friendly atmosphere due to our common goal, and a great time is had by all who attend.

Because of scheduling difficulties our February meeting will now be held next Tuesday (11th) at 6:30pm, in the staff room. We will be holding a Welcome Morning Tea this Friday 7th, straight after parade, for all parents. It will be a great opportunity to meet parents ahead of our first meeting! I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!

Finally, we are still in the process of arranging our permanent Opening Hours for the Uniform Shop and I shall let you know ASAP!

Many thanks and have a great week!

Chloe Boswell
P&C President

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Hello,

If you're new to the school I’d like to introduce myself. My name is Steve Unicomb and I'm the school chaplain. I'm employed here 2 days a week but I split that over 3 days, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. I also have a second job as a youth & children's worker at the Salvation Army, North Brisbane (about 1km north, up the road from school). I have a son who just started prep and a daughter who is almost 2.

My main role at School is to look out for the emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing of all the students, staff and even parents at Taigum State School. I do that in a number of ways. First of all, I aim to be a friend of all the students. I meet with some students one-to-one and talk about the life issues that they are facing. I help out at Sport, PE, in the tuck shop, excursions, camps and wherever else I can.

If you would like to talk to me you can either; catch me at school when you're dropping or picking up your kids, ring the school office and ask for me or email me at steveu@chappy.org.au

I'm also going on a camp in the school holidays called GENTS IGNITION. It's for boys in Yr 5-7. It's almost sold out, so if your son wants to go you'll have to sign them up ASAP. Go to http://www.sucamps.org.au/ for all the details. There's also other camps on this website for girls and boys in years 5-7.

Have a good one!
Steve Unicomb

STUDENT COUNCIL

ICY CUPS

Commencing in week 3, on Thursday 13th February, icy cups will again be on sale each Thursday, 2nd break, from the hall canteen. Cost is still only 50 cents.
Don’t forget that Wednesday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit. For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can then be redeemed for a range of great, exclusive reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>School Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Kickstart Music (Brass, sax)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Kickstart Music (Bass guitar, flutes, clarinets, percussion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Sport Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Apology Day – Senior leaders to Nalingu 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Active After School Swimming Program – Round 1 commences</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>Bramble Bay Swimming Carnival</td>
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PADUA COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIPS

1 March 2014

Due to our intake in Padua College in 2015 being Year 7 and Year 8, scholarships will be offered for the remission of tuition fees:

1. Year 8 for three years (2015, 2016, 2017);
2. Year 11 for two years (2015, 2016);
and also
1. Year 7 for three years (2015, 2016, 2017);

Registration via our website – www.padua.qld.edu.au/enrolments/scholarships

Cost: $120

Closing Date: Monday 10 February 2014
**NUNDAH WAVELL SOCCER CLUB**

Play Soccer and Have Fun!  
Join Nundah Wavell Soccer Club  
Sign on Saturday 8 February 8am-1pm &  
Wednesday 12 February 6pm-9pm  
at the Uniting Church Hall, 59 Simla Ave, Geebung.  
Boys and girls both welcome. Mixed teams U6-U14, U15/16 boys & U15/16 girls. Affordable registration fees.  
Opportunities for local and state representative teams. Home ground Marchant Park Ellison Road, Chermside.  
Pre-enter registration details online before sign on day.  
For more information, online registration & FAQ visit www.nunwavsoccer.org  
Or email info@nunwavsoccer.org

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Leading children’s choir, Voices of Birralee, invites young singers to join their Bardon program.  

2013 enrolments are now open for the following ensembles:  

- Birralee Piccolos – Prep – Grade 1  
- Birralee Kids – 7 to 10 year olds  
- Birralee Singers – 10 to 13 year olds

Voices of Birralee is a non-profit organisation, nurturing a child’s love of singing in a fun educational environment. Tuition is given by professionals who are highly regarded and experienced in their field. A strong emphasis is placed on holistic education, building social and cognitive skills, emotional resilience, confidence and musical expertise.

Rehearsals for Piccolos and Kids will commence Wednesday afternoon 5 February 2014 and Singers on Thursday afternoon 6 February 2014 and are held at 57 Carwoola St, Bardon. Other days and venues are available if the Wednesday or Thursday programs do not suit you. Please visit our website www.birralee.org to enrol or for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you!
CONFIDENT KIDS AND TEENS

Confident Kids is a fun, interactive group program for kids aged 5-14 years designed to boost confidence, emotional resilience, social skills and brain power. Kids learn simple strategies to reduce worries, anxiety, self-doubt or negative thinking so they achieve their full potential. The Confident Kids program provides children with self-esteem tools to keep confidence steady and strong throughout their life.

Program includes parent support and workshop. Facilitated by experienced psychologists who are passionate about helping kids be all they can be. Places are limited so if you are interested please visit www.confidentkidsandteens.com.au or email info@positivefamilies.com.au for an information pack, or phone us on 3368 1307.

Medicare and Private health fund rebates apply.