Dear Parents

We have very quickly come to the final week of our first term. Amazingly, that means that we are already a quarter of the way through the school year. We have finished two units of the Australian curriculum in English and Maths; we have had parent-teacher interviews; installed our school and house captains; had a season of interschool sport and still this week, we have more sport, an Easter Bonnet Parade and our delayed Harmony Day celebrations. I shouldn’t sound surprised by this as schools are always busy places, I suppose just reflected the pace of life in general, outside our fences. That leads me in to my first point in this newsletter. The busy pace of what we do makes it essential that every child is here every day if possible. If a student gets behind, there is little time for catch up in our very busy days. Missing more than a day a week means nearly a term lost every year. Next term, our school is going into overdrive on attendance. Last week, I looked through all the absence data and highlighted all those students who haven’t attended 90% of the time. It looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Absent more than 10% of days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>17 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 1</td>
<td>14 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 2</td>
<td>16 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3</td>
<td>14 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 4</td>
<td>8 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5</td>
<td>12 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 6</td>
<td>10 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 7</td>
<td>11 students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These columns total 102 students who have been away more than 10% of the term. That’s over a quarter of all the children at our school. What is worse, is that historically, Term 1 is our best term for attendance and it goes down from there. We have some new strategies in mind to try to improve these figures but I will talk of them in my first newsletter after the Easter vacation.

This week is the one we have allocated as our belated celebration of Harmony Day. Harmony Day falls on the same Friday as the National Day of Action Against Bullying, so we chose that as our theme for that day. On Thursday this week, we will have our own Harmony Day where we would like students to either wear orange or an outfit representing their family’s cultural background. Yesterday, I printed off the school enrolment list, broken down into the birthplaces of all our students. Note I say birthplace, not cultural background or nationality, as these may be different to place of birth. We have 373 students at Taigum State School today, 258 of whom were born in Australia. We then have students representing 24 different countries from the other five inhabited continents across the globe. For your information, I will list them as they are quite interesting: Argentina, Brazil, Burma, England, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Kenya, Mauritius, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua-New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, USA and Vietnam. That is quite a group and I’m very happy to be able to say that we all get along together quite well. We have our own mini United Nations.

When I looked at the figures in a different way, some other interesting points emerged. We have 59 students who are either of Aboriginal or Torres Straits Islander culture, which is about 16% (or one-sixth) of our student population. What really surprised me though, was our number of students from a non-English speaking background, that is, having English as their second language. That number is 140 or 37% (over one-third) of our students. We really do have a rather unique cultural profile, relative to many of the other schools in our local area. These figures provide us with serious challenges, particularly in literacy, but they also afford us tremendous opportunities to celebrate diversity and learn from each other. That’s what we intend to be doing on Thursday.
So to finish, can I wish everyone a safe and relaxing Easter break. We finish on Friday this week, April 4 and we return on Tuesday April 22, the day after Easter Monday. That first week back we have our Anzac Ceremony on the Thursday and then of course, Anzac Day is the Friday and a public holiday.

See you all then

Mark Fisher
Principal

Prep B - Andre for an interesting idea for a new ‘Russell the Sheep’ book
Prep CD - Cahlae for using the “High 5” successfully in the playground
Year 1L - Alex for being a respectful and friendly class member
Year 1N - Jermaine for being an enthusiastic learner in the classroom
Year 2F - Kelvin for being a friendly class member. Good luck at your new school!
Year 2HS - Bella-Rose for a great improvement in reading groups
Year 2J - Roqaya for fabulous classroom manners and improvement in Literacy activities
Year 3B - Audrey for excellent ideas in English work
Year 3TM - Shikayla for concentrating hard and active participation during NAPLAN practice
Year 4G - Latrell for better attendance at school and excellent work habits
Year 4MI - Lukas for being a quiet achiever and striving to do his best in all areas
Year 5WR - Dushyant for always listening hard and striving to improve
Year 6S - Adrian for completing in full all spelling tasks this term
Year 6/7G - Lani for great exploration of an atlas during Geography
Year 7C - Charlotte for being a focused learner, especially giving thoughtful answers in Mathematics

BOOK AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 28th March 2014.

- 1L - Alexandra
- 1N - Devine
- 2F - Beau and Robbie
- 2HS - Ian
- 2J - Jessica
- 3B - Ladu
- 3TM - Chauncey
- 4G - Tyler
- 4MI - Sharn
- 5WR - Maverick
- 6S - Talon
- 6/7G - Adeline
- 7C - Daytana

FROM THE OFFICE
SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAM

The Child and Adolescent Oral Health Program will be offering treatment to the students of Taigum State School soon. Years Prep - 7 have been issued with a consent/medical history form. If you wish your child to be treated please return the fully completed consent form (3 pages) to your class teacher by 4/4/14. Due to the demands on our service parents who return consent forms late will not necessarily have their children treated on site and may be offered treatment at another site. Once dental staff receive a completed form your child will be examined. If your child requires further dental treatment, a ‘consent to treatment’ form will be issued for your signed consent. You will be notified via the school newsletter of the date the school dental program commences treatment at this school.

For any enquires please contact staff on 0408 783 526.

BICYCLE ROAD RULES

Under the Queensland Road Rules bicycles are considered vehicles, so people riding bicycles must obey all the general road rules.

Rules that apply specifically to bicycles and cyclists are outlined below.

- While riding, you must sit astride the seat and keep at least one hand on the handle bars at all times.
- You can only double another person if the bicycle is designed to carry more than one person and has a passenger seat, and each person wears a helmet.
- You, and any passenger you are carrying, must wear an approved, correctly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet at all times.
- Your bicycle must have at least one effective brake.
- Your bicycle must have a bell, horn or similar warning device in working order.
- Hand signals must be given when turning right.
- You must avoid becoming a hazard by riding into the path of a driver or pedestrian – this rule applies to all road users.
- You must not hold on to another moving vehicle while riding a bicycle.


ICAS TESTING

The Australasian Schools Competitions are run by the University of New South Wales. This year, Taigum State School will be taking part in 4 competitions: Computer Skills, Science, English and Mathematics. These competitions are only available to students in Years 3 to 7.

All of the competitions provide an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. Each student receives a Certificate and a detailed results letter. The entry fee is $8.00 for each student per competition entered.

Letters were sent home to parents/carers of children in Years 3-7 in February. If your child wishes to participate in any of these competitions please return the nomination form and entry fee to the office by Tuesday 22nd April 2014. (First day of Term 2)

All entries close on this date.

EASTER HAT PARADE
The Easter Hat Parade will be held in the hall during Assembly on Friday, April 4, from 9.00am. Parents and carers are welcome to join us for this exciting event where students from Prep, Years 1 and 2 will be singing special songs before they parade their Easter hats.

Prep students will be given the opportunity to make their Easter hats during class time whereas students in Years 1 and 2 will need to make their hats at home. It is not compulsory to make a hat. If you do make a hat to be part of this special event, please try to use recycled materials (except for eggs and egg cartons). The parade will not be a competition as it has been in previous years. The Easter Hat Parade will be a proud moment during which your child will sing a special song alongside their classmates.

If you have any questions relating to this event, please contact your child’s class teacher.

**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.

**FROM THE TUCKSHOP**

Tuckshop is open on Fridays between 8.15am and 11.30am.

**HELPERS REQUIRED**

We are always looking for extra volunteer help in the Tuckshop. In order for the school to continue to provide this valuable service to the children we are asking if you have any time to spare on a Friday and are able to volunteer in the tuckshop, please leave your name and contact details with the office.

Many thanks,
Lisa Virtue
*Tuckshop Convenor*

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

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

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.

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**FROM THE LIBRARY**

“You may have tangible wealth untold, Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold. Richer than I you can never be, I had a mother who read to me.”

*Strickland Gillilan*

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**FROM THE P&C**

Hi Everyone,

Just a reminder that all raffle tickets (sold or unsold) must be returned to the uniform shop by Thursday 3rd April, as the raffle will be drawn on Friday during assembly.

Remember, you have to be in it to win it!

Many thanks and have a great week,

Chloe Boswell  
P&C President
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22nd April</td>
<td>School Banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th April</td>
<td>Walking Wheeling Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th April</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1. School resumes on Tuesday 22 April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**APRIL 2014**

**WAVELL STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Open Day Information**
Sunday 18 May 2014
2.00pm – 4.30pm
Assembly Hall
Telopia Avenue, Wavell Heights

Organised Guided Tours of the School
An Address by the Principal
Opportunities to meet Teachers and Students
Afternoon Tea

*Parents and Students of any year level are most welcome to attend*

**AUSSIE HOOPS BASKETBALL**

- Term 2 programs now open
- Programs for children 4 + years
- Fun, active, social, and safe
- At an indoor venue near you

For more information please email Luc at development@northsidewizards.com or call 0419 724 392
www.northsidewizards.basketball.net.au
SCHOOL HOLIDAY SOCCER & RUGBY CAMPS

School Holiday Soccer & Rugby Camps held in the Brisbane area from 9am to 3pm daily with an aftercare available until 4pm

We are a registered child care provider for CCB

Book 3 children and get the 4th Free

Free Sports Shirt (Value $15) when quote code FREESHIRT

Register online at www.starsportscamps.com

for additional information http://starsportscamps.com/schedule/

Mum is the word this Mother’s Day at Rocklily

Sunday 11 May 2014

Rocklily Buffet Breakfast
6.30am - 10.00am
$25.50 per adult | $15.50 per child (4-12yrs)

Seafood Buffet Lunch
11.30am onwards
$65.00 per adult | $30.00 per child (4-12yrs)

Bookings Essential - Phone 3265 7066

Cnr Sandgate Road & Zillmere Rds Boondall
School Holiday Activities — April 2014

Wednesday 9th April

Star Gazing!
Springbrook Observatory, Gold Coast hinterland.
Time: 7-9pm
Cost: $10 (or speak to a Youth Worker)
Transport provided. — Stop off at Adventure Lake to have a BBQ for dinner.

Thursday 10th April

Ten-pin Bowling!
Aspley bowling alley
Time: 11-2pm
Cost: $5, bookings essential
Transport available, please call to enquire.

Wednesday 16th April

Golf!
Victoria Park golfing complex.
Time: 10-1pm
Cost: $5, bookings essential
Transport: available, please call.

Thursday 17th April

Bush Adventure!
Brisbane State Forest or other local national park
Time: 10-2pm
Cost: Free
Transport: available, please call
Age: 10-17 yrs
Participants must bring packed lunch, sturdy shoes suitable for walking tracks, sun cream, sun hat and water.

For more information on any of the activities, or to book, please call Vicki on 33542555/0408 001 299 or yiro@picabeen.org.au.