FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents
A little bit of a different newsletter this week. With our school very quiet for Naplan, I thought I might reproduce this article, written by a mum called Suzy Freme who has a student at Wavell SHS. While it is aimed at a secondary school level, most of what she says is quite applicable to a primary school. I hope you enjoy it.

Mark Fisher
Principal

Getting a Private School Style Educational Experience at your State School
I've had four children go through school over a 30 year period. I can pinpoint where I could have done better with my two older sons. I can tell you where I could have advocated more for my disabled son. I can see my mistakes with my daughter, now that she is 14, and in year 9. But I can also see where I did the right things, the things that honestly made a difference to their education and how they achieved success both at school and later in life. And it had nothing to do with going to a 'prestige' school. I'm dumbfounded that so many of my friends think that sending their kids to a prestige school will see their future secured in some mysterious way. Let's be clear here, I am talking about buying prestige, not necessarily a 'better education'. They don't plan to contribute to the school other than in monetary terms. They just want to place their child somewhere where learning is a given, and where the old boys/old girls school network will take over from there. I never wanted my kids to have to rely upon the old boys network to succeed. It's a bit of a slippery slope really. It might get your foot in the door, but the rest is up to you. I know plenty of adults who are products of prestige schools and who are working as used car salesmen and teacher aides. Nothing wrong with that but I know their parents too, and that's not what the parents had in mind when they parted with the equivalent of $200,000 in today's money for their children's education. These are my observations as a Mum, and based upon my 30+ years of experiencing the education system, both state and private.

As a parent you have to value education. You have to make it clear that nothing comes before homework and study. Not sport, not socialising, not Facebook or Instagram, not television, not a part time job, not even chores. As a parent, I would rather they contribute to society in a worthwhile fashion by studying hard and achieving good academic results, than by vacuuming the house or taking out the rubbish. Chores around here are done in one solid block of 3-4 hours on the weekend, and are equally divided between indoor and outdoor tasks. These days we pay our daughter an hourly rate for those chores, in preference to having her distracted by a part time job. She's not quite old enough yet, but believe me, the pressure is on! It's hard when everyone else is getting their first job at Maccas and we're saying no. But we want her to understand that school is number one, no matter what. At her previous school, it was spelled out loud and clear, that the schools academic achievements were largely possible as no student spent more than 10 hours a week on co-curricular activities and part time work. I'm not sure how true that is or how it was enforced but it says a great deal for prioritising education.

It's good to be involved. I worked full time when my two older sons were at high school, so I couldn't do canteen roster or sausage sizzle on sports day. I know now that I missed valuable opportunities to interact with staff and teachers, and more importantly to observe how my sons interacted with those same people. I know now that I would have been privy to all kinds of inside info on my boys than would ever have come to light in a ten minute parent/teacher interview with a teacher I barely knew. I know now, that those teachers may
have been more inclined to ring me spontaneously with niggling study or behavioural issues if they’d known me better. Being involved means seeing how things are at the coalface for both staff and students, giving you a valuable perspective on your child’s school life. It’s also useful to adopt the line of thought, that if you aren’t being asked to contribute financially, then contributing time instead is a great way of making a difference. It’s vital to read school notes and newsletters, I am ashamed to admit that I never used to do this. I simply didn’t have time between two teenaged sons, a disabled toddler, a full time job and trying to pay the bills and keep body and soul together, to give this any priority whatsoever. This meant that often the boys didn’t have permission slips, money, correct attire or whatever was needed for school excursions, photos, sport or what-have-you, causing stress for all of us. These days all notes and newsletters go straight into a $2 display folder which I read through twice a week. All permission slips and money due is submitted immediately, so that neither we, or our daughter, have to think about it again. This allows her to feel organised and secure that all her ducks are in a row for any upcoming activity.

Try to cultivate a mind set that says that whilst schools do as much as they can to provide for students, they can do so much more when parents contribute whether it be by paying the ‘voluntary’ Building Levy, participating in the Working Bee, Fundraising, attending and being a member of P & C meetings or other committee meetings, volunteering for learning support, or running sausage sizzles or cake stalls. I know that my daughter freaked out when I said I was going to volunteer for the high school canteen and the dance committee, along with putting my hand up to make dance costumes. She tried to tell me most vehemently that ‘they’ didn’t need my help. Well, it turned out that ‘they’ DID need my help, and actually, it would be great to have a bit more help. She sings a different tune now. She loves seeing me at Canteen, and told me how proud she is that I help with other tasks within the school network. Funny how things change. She sees now that contributing also inspires respect on both sides and that is a lesson even I could not have predicted.

Attend parent/teacher interviews and take your child’s most recent report card with you, along with a list of any other issues you might like to raise. Do this even if you have a ‘good’ student. You’ll still find out things that you might never otherwise know.

Make sure your child has the necessary requirements. Everyone seems to know that the kids have to start the school year with stuff. But often we neglect to check whether this stuff needs topping up. USB’s get lost or damaged, pencils and pens wear out, sports hats get lost, school bags break. It’s hard for kids to keep up, never mind excel, if they’re missing vital pieces of equipment or clothing.

Involve your child in something where they can excel, and do it early. Having said that you need to value education, not every kid is cut out to excel academically. But EVERY child can excel at something. Whether it’s football, touch, netball, golf, hockey, lacrosse, cricket, baseball, volleyball, water polo, swim squad, athletics, cross country, creative writing, debating, sewing, building, cooking, dance, playing an instrument, horticulture, drama, voice, animal care, academic pursuits, or whatever. Let them try things when they’re young, let them find the ‘thing’ that’s their ‘thing’ so that they can achieve in that area and then support them in getting as good at that thing as they can possibly be. Who knows? Being truly excellent at their ‘thing’, might result in them bestowing prestige on their humble state school. And it doesn’t have to be something costly. Becoming a cross country champion for example, requires little, other than immense fitness, and that is something that all of us could work on with our kids for FREE!

Choose the right school for your child. We thought that sending our daughter to a little local private high school was going to be right for her. It wasn’t. Her interests are so varied and complex, that the little local private school didn’t know what to do with her. We looked at several other schools, 2 private, 2 state. We visited all of them. She chose one of the state schools, and she’s never looked back. It’s not the school we thought she’d choose, and it’s certainly not a ‘prestige’ school, although it’s considered a ‘good’ school, but she knew in her gut that it was the right school for her. Some schools are just better at, and better resourced for some interest areas than others.

Be particular about how your kids look when they leave home in the morning. Are they just doing the minimum in terms of grooming and wearing the uniform, or do they make a bit of an effort? How good are they at representing their school through their personal presentation? Private schools are very particular about uniforms and grooming. I mean, state schools are too, but it seems harder to enforce, perhaps because it’s not something valued by parents and students the way it is with the prestige schools. The prestige school students seem to almost wear the uniform like a badge of honour, whereas our state school kids wear it because they have to. That’s a real grass roots, historical thing at one
end of the spectrum, where the school has to be an institution that instils a sense of pride and belonging in the student population, which requires a broad range students who excel, something that is lacking at some schools. So maybe schools, even the most humble in the most disadvantaged areas, need to FIND things of which to be proud. And I know some of the state schools near me do exactly that. At the other end of the spectrum, it’s a simple thing of parents ensuring that clean and tidy uniforms are available, and that they themselves see their kids out the door with a better than just acceptable level of presentation. Presentation is important both at school and in the big wide world beyond school. Instil a pride in personal presentation now, and it will remain with your kids for life.

I could list a great many other factors that might contribute to a great result for your state school student, but those I think are the main ones. Apart from that one little aberration where we thought our daughter was destined for private school, we’ve been strong advocates for the state school system. We stand corrected. State school, the right state school, was the best option after all. So before you choose that private, prestige school, check out your local state schools. You might be surprised at the opportunities you’ll find there.

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**Students of the Week**

- Prep B - Rahman for having greatly improved listening skills
- Prep CD - Dontayvious for an excellent attitude to learning
- Year 1L - Bajedo for getting 10/10 on his spelling test
- Year 1N - Jared for working hard to stay on task
- Year 2F - Cooper for excellent results in spelling tests every week
- Year 2HS - Valcen for displaying great listening and work skills in class
- Year 2J - Maayewin for a great improvement in handwriting and number facts
- Year 3B - Ryan for filling up his whole card with stamps
- Year 3TM - Harley for participating well in English and contributing wonderful ideas for writing
- Year 4G - Eh Kler for a fantastic improvement in classroom work and behaviour
- Year 4MI - Juan for showing leadership skills and helping others
- Year 5WR - Preston for working really hard and writing great sentences in English
- Year 6S - Sevval for being a hard working student who consistently gives her best
- Year 6/7G - Tiara for being eager to always solve math problems on the board
- Year 7C - Skyler for her sportsmanship and encouragement during the cross country

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**BOOK AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 9th May 2014.

- 1L - Erem
- 1N - Jared
- 2F - Robbie
- 2HS - Chloe
- 2J - Jessica
- 3B - Emily
- 3TM - Chauncey
- 4G - Sebastian
- 4MI - Lukas
- 5WR - Dylan
- 6S - Carl
- 6/7G - AJ
- 7C - Glory
Our A.B.C Campaign launch last Friday was a great success! A big THANK YOU to all the students who attended, it was a great way to launch our campaign! Also we'd like to thank our student helpers Jaymie-Leigh, Shakira and Quinn for doing an absolutely amazing job in working with us to ensure it ran smoothly!

This week we'd like to elaborate on what our roles, as School Participation Officers, entail. Our aim is to have every child achieving, at least, 90% attendance rates. It is vital that children attend school every day, and even a single day a week missed will severely disadvantage them; not just educationally but socially as well.

So, for those children whose attendance rates are not what they should be, we will be getting in contact with their Parents to discuss the reasons for their absence and to find out if there are any ways we can help to encourage the children to come to school. We will also be initiating a rewards scheme for those children whose attendance rates increase, and are looking at the possibility of hosting a breakfast more regularly with those children achieving 90% attendance rates going into a draw for the chance to enjoy a breakfast at school.

We'd like to thank you all for the support you've shown us so far and we look forward to achieving our goals and making sure that we're All Being Counted!

Many thanks,
Chloe, Moira & Bambi
School Participation Officers

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.

At the Salvation Army Taigum, I run two youth groups, EPIC & Salvage. They have both started up again on Friday nights!

EPIC is for grades 3-6. EPIC is on Friday fortights (ie. 23 May & 20 June) from 5:30pm - 7pm. At EPIC we play very fun games, do crazy challenges and talk about God, Jesus & the Bible. At 6:30pm, all the family is invited back for a family feast. The cost for EPIC is $4 per child or $10 for a family (that includes dinner). Parents need to sign their kids in and out of EPIC, and fill out a permission note on their first night.

Salvage is for grades 7-12. Salvage is on from 7pm - 9pm every Friday night during the school term. We have a heap of fun, talk about issues relevant to teenagers and also explore the Bible and talk about God & Jesus. I'll be giving the year 7's a term calendar for Salvage this week.

Also, just a reminder, the chaplaincy service is here to help students and families with their emotional, social, physical & spiritual wellbeing. If I can help your family in any way, please just ask. My email address is steveu@chappy.org.au

Steve Unicomb
Chaplain
FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Tuckshop is now open both lunch breaks on Fridays.

HELPERS REQUIRED
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

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.

FROM THE LIBRARY

“To learn to read is to light a fire. Every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.”
- Victor Hugo

BOOK FAIR

Come along to our Book Fair and you'll find a cool place to discover hot books!

Thursday 22 May – Wednesday 28 May
First Break – 11.10am to 11.30am
Second Break – 1.00pm to 1.30pm
After School – 3.00pm – 3.30pm

Book Fair will be located in B block (Rooms 9 & 10)
DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>NAPLAN Testing (Years 3, 5 &amp; 7)</td>
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<td>Active After School Rugby League Program Lesson 3</td>
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<td>Uni of NSW – Computer Skills Test</td>
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<td>Book Fair</td>
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COMMUNITY NOTICES

SANDGATE DISTRICT STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Find out how Sandgate District State High School can ‘Expand the Horizon’ for your son or daughter.

OPEN DAY
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014
9:00am – 1:00pm
41 Braun Street, Deagon, 4017

For further information please phone 3869 9888 or visit www.sanddistshs.eq.edu.au

LEARN TO SWIM

Bracken Ridge Swimming Club offers Learn to Swim classes, Squads, and Adult Squads. The club offers 25 metre and 12 metre heated pools, and meets Tuesday nights in Term 1 and Term 4.

For further information phone 3869 0005 or email admin@brswim.org.au

PADUA COLLEGE

OPEN DAY
Sunday, 25 May 2014
11am – 2pm
www.padua.qld.edu.au

Email: enrolments@padua.qld.edu.au
Back by popular demand - High School Master Classes
Sunday 1st June
8.30 am – 11.30 am
High School “Master” Classes (limited places in each class)
Register on our website:
www.aspleyshs.eq.edu.au

Thank you to all families who have already enrolled for 2015 here at Aspley High School. We are really looking forward to working with you and your child over the next six years of their learning.

In response to your warm feedback about the Master Classes conducted last year, we are again offering them to families of currently enrolled students and those who are interested in experiencing the high quality teaching here at Aspley High School.

I am pleased to invite your child to join us for our High School Master Classes on Sunday June 1st. This is a terrific opportunity to visit our school again. Registration is open to those who are already enrolled and those who are considering enrolment. Just go to our website and register for the classes. I have included a description of those classes for you to help you to decide.

We are ready for 2015. Our specialist facilities (Science, Workshops and Arts) are ready to go. Our teachers are ready to work with you and your family to make the High School years really rewarding ones. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on the first of June.

Limited places please register on our website: www.aspleyshs.eq.edu.au

**SOCCER**
Experience soccer – full on! That's the Aspley Eagles Soccer Development program. Come and join our Aspley Eagles master class and the Brisbane Roar Inflatable field to showcase your soccer skills and be in the chance to win some prizes. Take the opportunity to test you skills against current Aspley Eagles students and staff.

**HISTORY**
What is justice? What is fairness? How has the idea of justice and fairness impacted on our history? Join in our discussion to identify and debate this intriguing topic. This session highlights one of Aspley High’s most powerful and effective teaching strategies ‘community of inquiry’ and engages students and parents in a fun and fascinating search for the essence of justice and fairness in human history.

**VOCAL – Musical Theatre**
Learn to sing a song. Learn a choreographed routine to match the song. Prepare and perform a short acted scene from a script. Have a laugh as you prepare, rehearse and perform the item for an audience. Drama, Dance, Music are all art forms and a wonderful medium for learning and teaching. These subjects develop the whole person — emotionally, physically, intellectually, imaginatively, aesthetically, and socially — by giving form and meaning to experience through performing. This workshop will be delivered in an atmosphere that is non-competitive, cooperative, supportive, joyful yet challenging.

**WOODWORKING**
How are your wood working skills? Come along to this ‘hands on’ master class and manufacture your very own woodworking item. A great lesson for all abilities and levels. You will be using hand tools and machinery and everyone goes home with a completed job. We are proud of the work our students do in Industrial Design and Technology. Come and experience for yourself.

**SCIENCE**
Particles, Particles, Particles! Everything we see, touch and smell is made up of particles. Explore their properties in this engaging and hands on application of Chemistry! We are proud of the Science programs here at Aspley High. Our Junior School laboratories are purpose built for year seven, eight and nine.

Regards
Jacquita Miller
Principal, Aspley High School
Would you like your family to live a healthier lifestyle?
Researchers at the University of Queensland are currently offering a FREE Triple P parenting program to parents of children 3 to 10 years in exchange for participation in research. Across three seminars you will learn strategies for:

- Managing both general and life style specific child problem behaviours
- Helping your child eat a healthy balance of nutritious foods
- Motivating your child to be more active
- Limiting screen time

The program is run at St Lucia and Ipswich, with free childcare available for families. To register visit our website: www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/life
Jessica Bartlett – Project Coordinator
Email: lifestyletriplep@uq.edu.au
Phone: 0424 321 086 (please leave a message)