3 June 2014

Dear Parents

Almost invisibly, half of 2014 has passed by. We are currently in our seventeenth week of teaching and as always, it has been a busy semester. For our students, the culmination of their work and assessment will be listed on their report cards which will be going home on Thursday of Week 10.

Understanding Your Child’s Report Card

As you are aware, students and teachers this year have been working with the new Australian Curriculum, as interpreted through Queensland’s C2C curriculum resources. Whilst the Australian Curriculum is similar in many respects to the previous Queensland curriculum, there are some differences which have required adjustments. For example, some concepts are covered earlier than previously expected, there is a stronger focus on specific areas and in some cases a different standard of work is expected of students.

For Semester 1 report cards, teachers are evaluating student work based on our C2C/ESL units and assessments tasks from Term 1 and 2 in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History. Due to the implementation of a new curriculum, report card results may also reflect students’ ‘learning curve’ in terms of the change in expectations for learning in their year level. This is not cause for concern, as teachers are adapting and adjusting their teaching/learning to ensure that students receive the necessary prior knowledge and are supported through their learning tasks.

Also, C2C units are in ongoing review and adjustment, based on feedback from teachers. However, it is worth noting the fact that report card results in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History this semester are based on the new content descriptors and year level Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum, and as such may not be reliably compared to previous years’ results. For further information on the Australian Curriculum standards visit the online curriculum at [http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/)

Over recent years, parents, students and teachers across Queensland are gradually becoming more familiar with a 5-point scale (e.g. A-E) process for reporting in all schools. The new system schools are using refers to attainment standards called “benchmarks of achievement” or “criteria.” So what makes an “A”, “B”, “C” etc is predetermined by a scale of achievement. Any student who shows evidence of meeting a particular level, deserves that benchmark grade.

This is what you could consider the new difference for a “C” really means:

A “C” means that the student has met the criteria for a learner to be at the appropriate age level.

A “C” means that the student is doing everything required at their Year Level at school. The best description is to say that a “C” means that the student’s academic development is exactly where it needs to be.

That means attaining a “C” for Achievement means you are ON TARGET for your age level!

With all of this in mind, we must accept that it may be harder to get an “A” or “B”. These grades are not awarded simply to the top students in the class. They are only given to students who show that they are independently capable of working beyond the criteria required for their Year Level.

Interschool Sport

Interschool sport continues with Round 2 this Friday. The last round of games will be held on Friday 20 June. Notification will be sent home once dates for Term 3 sport have been received.
School Dance
The student council will be holding their first dance for the year on Thursday 19 June at the Salvation Army Church. The theme for the night will be ‘Monsters & Aliens’. We look forward to the creativity that will be shown on the night.

Leadership Training
Mrs Tunny and I spent the weekend at Caloundra, doing leadership training with 18 other principals from Metro Brisbane Region. We spent intensive sessions, working on five dimensions of leadership – modelling, inspiring, challenging, enabling and encouraging. We all worked on our areas of weakness and it was a very positive experience.

Mark Fisher & Lynne Tunny
Principal  A/Principal

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Students of the Week

**Prep B** - Kelser for a detailed retell of the story Henny Penny
**Prep CD** - Keaily for excellent listening and following directions
**Year 1L** - Emma for working hard in class throughout the day
**Year 1N** - Jordan for making a great effort in reading groups
**Year 2F** - John for excellent contributions to all class discussions
**Year 2HS** - Makenna for applying himself well to his work and having wonderful class manners
**Year 2J** - Jayden for improved behaviours in classroom activities
**Year 3B** - Shakota for a conscientious effort in her work
**Year 3TM** - Chauncey for working hard in reading groups – terrific predicting
**Year 4G** - Kida for fantastic work on mapping and writing directions
**Year 4MI** - Ben for persistence in all school tasks
**Year 5WR** - Krichelle for coming up with good arguments for her newspaper article
**Year 6S** - Zoe for being very thoughtful and careful to others in the class
**Year 6/7G** - Lemi for an improvement in spelling test results
**Year 7C** - Theresa for being a fantastic addition to 7C. Welcome Theresa!

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BOOK AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 30th May 2014.

- 1L - Gianni
- 1N - Charlii
- 2F - Cooper
- 2HS - Cooper
- 2J - Princess
- 3B - Jada
- 3TM - Abbie
- 4G - Anais
- 4MI - Kevin
- 5WR - Tracy, Tiffani and Paris
- 6S - Fuatino
- 6/7G - Tiara
- 7C - Noah
**FROM THE OFFICE**

**PREP ENROLMENTS – 2015**

Children born between 1st July 2009 and 30th June 2010 are eligible for enrolment in Prep in 2015.

**SPARE UNIFORMS**

If your child has borrowed a spare hat or uniform from the school office could you please kindly wash and return these items.

**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.

**SCHOOL PARTICIPATION OFFICERS**

**A.B.C. Campaign**

*If a child has an attendance rate below 85% this means they missed over 30 days of school in a year. This can seriously impact their education... Every Day Counts.*

It has been 3 weeks since we launched our A.B.C Campaign, and we are already seeing improvements in attendance rates. This is fantastic!! We'd like to thank those parents who are responding to our initiative, and, of course, to the children who are making a more concerted effort to come to school, and on time.

So, to recognise all those students who are maintaining an attendance rate of 90% and above, we are organising something special. This will be held next term and we shall announce what it is closer to the time, but it is something that we are positive all the children will enjoy!

Thank you, again, and watch this space for more information!

Chloe, Moira and Bambi
School Participation Officers
“Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend. Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.”

- Groucho Marx

FROM THE P&C

Hi Everyone

Just a reminder that this Friday we will be selling icy poles and other refreshments during Interschool Sports, down on the back Oval. Don't forget your money!

Last Friday, during Parade, I was very proud to present on behalf of the P&C, cheques to Noah, Isaiah and JD to assist them in their sporting endeavours as they have been selected to play for Metropolitan North Sporting teams! Congratulations boys, we're all so proud of you!

Many thanks and have a great week!

Chloe Boswell
P&C President

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

Monday to Thursday mornings: 8.15am to 9.00am
Thursday afternoon: 2.30pm – 3.15pm

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Chappy week is a special week to promote school chaplaincy! The official chappy week was a couple of weeks ago, but I'm going to be celebrating it this week. On Friday morning at assembly I'll be attempting the Chappy Challenge. During this week, I'm going to be asking each class to give me an ingredient to go into a milkshake that I'll drink at assembly. Feel free to come along and watch!

The role of a chaplain is to provide emotional, social & spiritual support for students, parents & staff in a school community. I also aim to just be as helpful to the school as I can. Let me know if I can help you or your family in any way.

These school holidays, the Salvos at Taigum is running KidsGames! It's a fantastic holiday club that's being run by churches all over Brisbane. There will be games, sports, craft, bible stories & heaps more!

Our KidsGames starts with an opening ceremony on Sunday June 29 and then runs on Monday 30th June - Wednesday 2nd July, 8:30am - 3:30pm. The cost is only $30 and includes morning tea and lunch on each day!

We can only take 100 kids and we're expecting to fill up fast, so register online at www.kidsgamesqld.com.au or talk to me for more details. My email address is steveu@chappy.org.au

Steve Unicomb
Chaplain
**SCHOOL BANKING**

During term 2 student bankers have a chance to win some great prizes.

All you have to do is make three student banking deposits at school during the term and then entry into the competition is automatic.

**Major student prize:**
One student will win an underwater family adventure holiday including:
• Five nights’ accommodation at the Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast;
• VIP Passes for two adults and three kids to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World, and Wet’n’Wild Gold Coast;
• A Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure; and
• A $3,000 travel voucher to get them there.

**Runner-up student prizes:**
130 Toys"R"Us Gift Cards to the value of $250 each.

**School prize:**
There will be a separate draw of $1,000 cash for a school in each State/Territory of Australia.

So, if you are a regular banker, keep up the good savings. Or, if you haven’t banked for a while, now would be a great time to get into the habit again. Good luck to all who participate!

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 Dollamites 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.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS**

Concert Band Rehearsals will start in Term 3. Rehearsals will be in the School’s Hall from 3.00pm – 3.30pm on Monday afternoons commencing in week 1 of Term 3. Every student in the Instrumental Music Program should attend.

The concert band will have a performance later in Term 3 and they will also participate in the end of year Christmas Concert.

Students are encouraged to practice at least 4-5 times each week for a duration of 20-30 minutes, to get their lips conditioned for performances.

Any parent wishing to discuss their child’s participation in the music program can contact me on 0416 216 997.

Regards,
Ken Lincoln
Instrumental Music Instructor
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

DATES TO REMEMBER

COMMUNITY NOTICES

A DAY MADE BETTER CAMPAIGN

Does a teacher at your school go above and beyond in their classroom?

A Day Made Better recognises exceptional primary school teachers across the country. Last year, we received 5,700 nominations for over 1,000 inspirational teachers. This year, with your help, we're aiming to gather 10,000 nominations from every corner of Australia. Every nominated teacher will receive a certificate and gift to acknowledge their incredible contribution. And, if a teacher from your school is chosen as one of 10 winners, they'll receive $2,000 worth of supplies and an Apple iPad for their classroom.

Put your school on the map by encouraging parents, staff and students to nominate one of your exceptional teachers today.

Support an exceptional teacher today at adaymadebetter.com.au

Kind regards,
The A Day Made Better Team
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

CONFIDENT KIDS & TEENS

Confident Kids + Teens is an interactive and fun 5 week Resilience coaching program for 5 - 14 year olds. Children learn about their personal strengths, resilient thinking skills and social skills. The aim of the program is to boost confidence and emotional resilience and to teach children practical tools to reduce stress, anxiety, low self-esteem or lack of confidence so they can meet life’s challenges.

The 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 hurry. Medicare and Private health fund rebates apply.

Only available at Positive Families Paddington. Visit www.confidentkidsandteens.com.au for full details and Book Online to secure your child’s enrolment. Or email us at info@positivefamilies.com.au

Larne Wellington | Director /Principal Psychologist
Positive Families

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