Dear Parents

It’s good to be back at school after coaching for the past three weeks. As I have written before, the coaching experience is a valuable one as you get to share ideas, see other principals working and get to look at a variety of schools across our region. I always come back with plenty of new ideas on how to run our school and to make it as attractive and engaging as possible for our students. So I have the next three weeks at school, followed by the winter vacation break and another four weeks coaching. Once that stint is completed, coaching for me has come to an end completely. However, the ideas I have picked up will remain with me right through my career.

Attendance
The attendance rate of our students has been a real priority for us in 2014. In 2013 it was 89%, which is too low. Our target for this year is 95%. A you know, with our ‘Great Results Guarantee’ money, we have employed three Participation Officers, who have been very active in encouraging parents and students to understand that every day counts. We call the programme A.B.C. ABC stands for All Be Counted. I have good news to report. Our first term’s participation result was 91%, a small but significant improvement. Our second term results (up to Week 7) have shown another 2% increase, taking our whole school to 93%, very close to our target. That 4% increase in 2014 means that, on average, students are coming an extra eight days in the year, that’s eight extra days to pick up new concepts, to practise known ones and to interact with other learners to improve themselves. Every day counts!

Champion Chaplain
You may have seen the pictures of the ‘Chappy Challenge’ on Facebook and understand how brave our chaplain Steve is. For those who don’t know, every year in Chaplaincy Week, Steve asks our students for a challenge for him to accomplish. This year, each class chose an ingredient that Steve collected and mixed together to form a ‘drink’. The ingredients included green cordial, barbecue sauce, the liquid from a jar of pickled onions, mustard, sweet chili sauce, tobasco sauce and a variety of other things that only diabolical young minds could think of. He mixed them in a blender on assembly and downed the lot, not quite in one gulp. His only comment was that it tasted spicy. It is fantastic to have Steve on our staff because of his enthusiasm, his creativity, his rapport with our students and his genuine desire to make a difference. We are all the richer for his work at our school.

Twitter
From today, you can follow us on Twitter. Simply use the hash tag @TaigumSS and you will find out what’s happening at our school in 140 characters or less. Our first tweet concerned ‘Crazy Hair’ Day coming up on Friday. The next one might have to do with our school dance next week. I know plenty of parents view our Facebook page, so this just adds another medium for communication. Effective communication is one of the prime tools that ensure both parents and teachers can coordinate their efforts to improve the education of our students.

Athletics Carnival
An early notification of this upcoming event. Our Year 4 – 7 Athletics Carnival will occur in Week 2 of Term 3 on Tuesday 22 July. Mr Moore, our Physical Education teacher, has been preparing our students for the last month in each of the disciplines – running, long jumping, high jumping, discus and shot put. He is also doing before school and lunch time practice sessions for children who are really keen to do their best.

Mark Fisher
Principal
Prep B - Kayla for interesting choices for her Science wind ornament
Prep CD - Japvir for being helpful towards his friends
Year 1L - Ben for always helping out in reading groups
Year 1N - Kady for settling in well at Taigum State School
Year 2F - Ashlee for excellent expression when reading aloud
Year 2HS - Liam for showing great listening skills when sitting on the carpet
Year 2J - Arian for always following teacher instructions in all classroom tasks
Year 3B - Jada for working hard in all assessment tasks
Year 3TM - Brock for always trying his very best and for having such a positive attitude towards his work
Year 4G - Ariet for always working well in class
Year 4MI - Olivia for an excellent effort in homework – taking home extra research questions
Year 5WR - Isabelle & Kiara for settling in quickly to their new class and contributing good ideas and thoughts to class discussions
Year 6S - Talon for always being punctual and organised, and ready for each lesson
Year 6/7G - Garry for comprehensive answers in his Geography assessment
Year 7C - Alana for diligence in the balloon powered car testing process

BOOK AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 6th June 2014.

- 1L - Ata
- 1N - Rune
- 2F - Avneesh
- 2HS - Dennise
- 2J - Vekrom
- 3B - Shee Shee
- 3TM - Rafay
- 4G - Kayla
- 4MI - Ehptrer
- 5WR - Samem & Jacob
- 6S - Angelina
- 6/7G - Tijanah
- 7C - Caitlyn

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.

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

If your child is enrolling in either Year 7 or Year 8 in 2015, a limited supply of enrolment packs for Sandgate State High School and Aspley State High School are available for collection from the school’s administration office.

STUDENT COUNCIL

CRAZY HAIR DAY

Crazy Hair Day is on Friday 13th June so get creative and wear your hair with something crazy which could include colour or style. Please remember to bring a gold coin donation as all funds raised will be donated to the Leukaemia Foundation.

SCHOOL DANCE

Our school dance will be held on Thursday 19th June at the Salvation Army Church Hall. The theme is “Monsters and Aliens” and entry is still $5 per family. Food order forms will be sent home next week.

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
“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”
-Stephen King

FROM THE P&C

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

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

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

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

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 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.

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
DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Active After School Rugby League Program Lesson 6 (Boys)</td>
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<td>11th</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>Walking Wheeling Wednesday Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Active After School Rugby League Program Lesson 6 (Girls)</td>
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<td>13th</td>
<td>Crazy Hair Day – Gold Coin Donation</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>Active After School Rugby League Program Lesson 7 (Boys)</td>
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<td>19th</td>
<td>School Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>Active After School Rugby League Program Lesson 7 (Girls)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Interschool Sport – Round 3</td>
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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

Give your child the tools to build resilience and thrive!

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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