Dear Parents

It was pleasant having a three day weekend for the G20, particularly as that very warm weather did not occur on a school day. I read some recent research that suggests the best temperature for learning is around 24°C. When it is significantly higher than this, students become restless, more irritable and find concentrating more difficult. Couple that with the end of the year less than four weeks away and it is easy for some students to have less than acceptable behaviour. The last thing I want to see is students in RTC or suspended at this time of year. As I always do, I once again ask parents at this time of term to encourage students to do their best and to finish the year on a positive, rather than negative note. The cyberbullying item in this newsletter, gives parents very practical ideas to encourage good student behaviour.

On the upside, can I say how impressed I am with our Year 5s and their work towards becoming Senior Leaders in 2015. With our 6s and 7s leaving in December, we have a big hole to fill in our leadership ranks and our Year 5s are enthusiastically stepping up to the challenge. From this group of Senior Leaders, our School and House Captains will be chosen in the first term of the new year. I am confident that we will have some excellent students to choose from.

School Musical
Today our students are having their dress rehearsal at Aspley State High School. This is the time when all the work, the practice and the preparation becomes reality. It is also the time that our champion teachers, Ms Maus, Mrs Mackay and Mr Martin will use to get everything as perfect as they can. It will be a hectic week for the cast and crew but Friday night, I’m sure, will be fantastic. Tickets are on sale in the office for both Friday and Saturday. ‘What a Knight’ it should be!

Cyberbullying
In the past few weeks, we have had reports of a spike in cyberbullying incidents occurring in our student population. These incidents are occurring at home and out of school hours but may impact on students whilst at school. Bullying is an ongoing abuse of one’s power to threaten or harm another person. Cyberbullying is when technology (email, mobile phones, chat rooms and social networking sites) is used to accomplish this purpose. The impact of cyberbullying should never be downplayed or taken lightly, even when words typed on a page may seem harmless to an outside observer, they can have a devastating effect on the person reading them. It is without question that the overwhelming number of incidents occurs when students at home are accessing Facebook. For that reason, Facebook itself, requires adult permission if students under 13 are accessing it. They believe that children under this age, on average, do not have the social and emotion maturity to use this social media appropriately and may engage in online conversations that may be harmful to themselves and others. All but about 15 of students at Taigum State School are under 13 years of age. That means that any of the 270 others who have Facebook accounts, must have done so with parental consent. Can I say that with that consent comes some huge responsibilities in the duty of care department. This is made more difficult because, let’s face it, our children are likely to be very technology savvy. With the advent of smart phones they don’t even need to be sitting in front of a desk to go online. This is the reason we ban phones in our classrooms. The simplest way to ensure your child doesn’t become enmeshed in cyber problems is to not allow them access to Facebook and the like. However, if they do have online social networking accounts, the Education Department has come up with a list of protocols that you can enact in your households to minimise the risks.

They are as follows:

- place computers in spaces which are visible and open, like a family room
• monitor or supervise your child on the internet and conduct some “shoulder surfing” or “spontaneous” observing when your child is online. Be aware of what your child is doing on the internet and display an interest in their cyberspace knowledge and experience
• discuss a plan with your child to address cybersafety and cyberbullying. Ensure they know you will be supportive if they report something to you
• reassure your child they will not lose access to their technology if they report anything to you. Many children see this as punishment
• review the age suitability of any social networking sites your child joins
• review your child’s contacts, followers and page content on social networking sites/apps to help you manage their safety and reduce the risk of them associating with inappropriate contacts and content
• educate yourself on the latest threats facing children online
• try to keep communication with your child open and positive so they trust you viewing their profile
• create an account on the social networking site/app your child is using and request to become friends or follow their account. Even if your child resists your request it can still be positive for you to have your own account on the social networking site/app. This can increase your familiarity and understanding of the online environments your child is using
• reinforce the need to keep passwords private and updated regularly, but consider having access to your child’s password yourself
• ensure your child understands the implications of posting images and other content on the internet
• educate your child about appropriate online behaviours. Take time to sit with your child and participate together on the internet. Assist in developing the knowledge they need to communicate responsibly and respectfully with friends, family and other internet users
• set clear rules about your child’s mobile phone and online activities. Talk with your child about which websites and internet activities they are allowed to access
• consider installing appropriate software which has the ability to limit internet usage times and monitor/restrict website activity
• consider installing on your computer the ‘cybersafety help button’, available from the Commonwealth Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy’s website: www.dbcde.gov.au/online_safety_and_security/cybersafetyhelpbutton_download
• ensure you are aware of the software and app features installed on your child’s mobile phone, music or tablet device. Many apps have age suitability recommendations and require age confirmation prior to downloading/use. Additionally, many devices support parental controls which prevent access to specific features or content. These controls can be enabled in the settings menu on your child’s device. Consult the device documentation for further information.

Mark Fisher
Principal
We are pleased to announce that EFTPOS facilities are now available at the school. We trust this will provide a more convenient alternative for payment, however cash and cheque payment will still be accepted.

**REMINDERS**

Parents/carers, the following forms have recently been sent home with each child and/or family.

- Booklist Orders for 2015
- C2C English Text resource $20 (sent home with students in Years 2-5 as applies for all students in Years 3-6 in 2015)
- Voluntary Family Contribution $50/family (sent home with the youngest family member)

If your children have not brought these forms home, could you please ensure you collect a copy from your child’s class teacher or from the office.

**SCHOOL MUSICAL – TICKETS ON SALE**

**What A Knight!**

With less than a week to go until our big performance, all the musical students and their teachers are extremely excited to show you their hard work. Tickets for the show on November 21 and 22 are on sale now from the school office and will also be available for purchase on the night. Prices are: child/student/pensioner $5, adult $8 and family $20 (2 adults and 2 children OR 1 adult and 3 children). Be quick to have the best seats!

**SCHOOL SWIMMING**

School swimming has commenced. 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.
**PREP ENROLMENTS – 2015**

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

**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**

**Every Day Counts**

School absenteeism can impact significantly on students’ learning and wellbeing.

Research shows that higher student attendance is associated with higher student achievement. Additionally, attending school every day helps children to build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.

Schools monitor attendance of students and follow up with parents and caregivers any unexplained absences.

If your child does not want to go to school, or is missing too much school, please contact the school for assistance and support.

Kind regards,
Bambi, Chloe and Karen
*School Participation Officers*

*Children do better when they go to school all day, every day*
*They learn better*
*They make friends*
*They are happier*
*They have a brighter future*

*Together let's make Everyday Count*
FROM THE LIBRARY

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Change of Venue – Now in the Library

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Library, before and after school and during both lunch breaks from Thursday 20th November until Wednesday 26th November. Hundreds of books available for sale and all purchases benefit our school. So come along and catch the reading bug!

FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Icy cups will be for sale from the hall canteen each Thursday at second lunch break. Still only 50 cents so come on over and enjoy a cool, refreshing treat during our warmer weather while helping to support our Student Council.

FROM THE P&C

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

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

Many thanks and have a great week!

Chloe Boswell
P&C President

FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Tuckshop is open both lunch breaks on Fridays.

HELPERS NEEDED
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
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.

As we move towards the end of the year, we want to ensure our students are keeping up their good savings habits. So we’re rewarding regular savings by sharing the Dollarmites latest find, precious prizes from the ancient Clam of Fortune.

The Dollarmites have uncovered the ancient Clam of Fortune. Inside they found these amazing prizes that you could win a share of:
• 40 x GoPro HERO3 White Edition Cameras
• 150 x Slip ‘N Slide Double Wave Riders

All students need to do for a chance to win is make a deposit of any amount through School Banking between 20th October - 30th November 2014 and they automatically receive one entry into the competition.
So the more they save, the more chances they have to win a prize (up to a maximum of 6 entries).

DATES TO REMEMBER
COMMUNITY NOTICES

JABIRU

Jabiru Kids Holiday Program at Taigum State School!
Jabiru Kids has developed a fabulous Holiday Program for the upcoming December/January holidays! The votes have been counted, our Jabiru Kids have spoken – we’re going to Dreamworld! With additional excursions to see Penguins of Madagascar at the movies, pro-scooter and skateboard instruction with special guests ‘Real Things That Move’ (helmets are a must!), and amazing themed days featuring disco dancing, perfect pets, slip ’n slide water play and of course some Aussie Aussie Aussie fun, you’ll definitely want to secure your spot so you don’t miss out!
Jabiru Kids Taigum is open from 6.30am to 6pm over the holidays. We even serve fabulous breakfast and late afternoon snack for no additional cost!
Try a day for free: if you haven’t tried Jabiru before, join us for a free day of holiday fun. Just mention this article when you book.
The full program is available from Jabiru Taigum or online at http://www.jabiru.org.au/kids
Jabiru vacation care is cheaper than you think, especially for people entitled to Child Care Benefit: call Jabiru for a quote on 3269 0044.

SING & GROW

Free Sing and Grow program commencing in Term 4 for children starting Prep in 2015 and their parents/guardians. Siblings of 2015 Prep children welcome also. If interested please call Marvin at Jabiru on 0438 542 746 or 3862 8152 to register interest or ask questions

GREAT ADVENTURES – FIRST STEPS HIMALAYA

Come on a Great Family Adventure in Nepal
Easter School Holidays: 2nd April – 18th April 2015
☐ Trek in stunning mountain scenery
☐ Enjoy as a family the simplicity of life in the Himalayas
☐ Experience our education projects first hand
☐ Have fun in the beautiful lakeside town of Pokhara
☐ Join the amazing activities on offer at an adventure resort close to the Tibetan border
☐ Relax in luxury hotels mixed with the authentic experience of off the beaten track Nepali villages

Join this incredible 15 day tour co-ordinated by the directors of the charity First Steps Himalaya
www.greatadventures-nepal.com
Email: greatadventures@firststepshimalaya.org or Ph: (03) 5451903

SANDGATE DISTRICT STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Sandgate District State High School would like to invite families who are yet to enrol their child in 2015, to please collect an enrolment pack, which is available from your Primary School office. Upon completion of all relevant paperwork please contact the office on 3869 9888 to arrange an interview time, as places are filling fast.
CRAIGSLEA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Three Important Dates for our Year 7 and 8 Families Commencing in 2015

- **Parent Information Evening for Parents and Carers of our Year 7 and 8 Students commencing in 2015.**
  
  Thursday, 27 November at 5.30pm in the Auditorium on Hamilton Road – “Starting Secondary School” is an evening presented to assist parents and carers in supporting their child in the smooth transition from primary school to secondary school. You will hear from and meet a number of the Craigslea State High School staff who will be involved in the wellbeing and teaching of your child.

- **Year 7 2015 Orientation Day**
  
  Tuesday, 2 December – commencing at 9.00am in the Craigslea State High School Hall. This is a full day program where students will meet their Buddy Leaders, teachers, support staff and be able to become familiar with secondary school before they commence their 2015 school year.

- **Year 8 2015 Orientation Day**
  
  Wednesday, 3 December – commencing at 9.00am in the Craigslea State High School Hall. This is a full day program where students will meet their Buddy Leaders, teachers, support staff and be able to become familiar with secondary school before they commence their 2015 school year.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Craigslea State High School community at these occasions.

**2015 Year 7 and 8 Enrolments**

Year Seven and Eight Enrolment Interviews are now being finalised for 2015. Enrolment packs may be collected from the Craigslea State High School Administration Office. To book interviews please contact our Administration staff on ph: 3326 5222.

Mark Farwell
Principal
SCHOOL HOLIDAY INTENSIVE LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM - BRACKEN RIDGE SWIMMING CLUB

* Learn To Swim and Squads will operate our normal program through the Christmas School Holiday period. We will be closed only 21 December 2014 - 4 January 2015.
* Intensive Learn To Swim for weeks 1, 4, 5 & 6 are open now and taking bookings. $65 per swimmer per week for 5 weekday morning lessons.
* Skills based Learn To Swim & Squad programs with "Quality tuition with care and attention" Philosophy. *All new clients receive a fee free assessment, for entry to the correct level of the swim program. * Competition, Triathlete, Surf and Adult Fitness also catered for.
admin@brswim.org.au or phone 38690005 (please leave a message)

WAVELL STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Orientation Day for students in Years 7 and 8, 2015
Monday 8 December 2014
Assembly Hall
Telopia Avenue, Wavell Heights
8:30am for an 8:45am start
3:00pm finish
(Morning Tea provided for parents at 10:00am)

Students to bring/wear:
Primary School Uniform
Notepad & pens
Morning Tea & Lunch

Combined Shop Hours – Monday 8 December
Stationery & Clothing open 1:00pm – 5:30pm
Pre-purchase your requirements prior to Orientation Day.
Shop Open Monday – Thursday 8:15am – 11:15am

Enrolment applications still welcome.
For enquiries please contact Sandra Lock, Enrolment Officer on 3350 0328
KOOBARA PLAYGROUP

Would like to invite you to join us!
Monday@ Bracken Ridge Baptist Church, 47 Norris Road - 10am to 12pm
Wednesday@ Zillmere State School, 70 Murphy Road, 10am to 12pm
Friday@ Mitchelton Presbyterian Church, 40 Ruby Road, 10am to 12pm

We enjoy Art & Craft, cooking, and playing with our friends.
A light lunch is provided, yet parents are encouraged to contribute.
For more information call Koobara Communities for Children Program
Office Hours 8am to 4pm – Phone (07) 3865 4044
Playgroup Worker – 0403 110 673

WATER POLO QUEENSLAND

Looking for a way to keep cool during the Summer Holidays? Water Polo QLD has the perfect solution! Come down to Somerville House Aquatics Centre on the 15th and 16th of December and join in on two days of jam packed fun, skills, drills and competition. Lots of prizes and giveaways to be won and each participant will receive a showbag. For more details and to register go to www.waterpoloqld.com.au or call the office 3367 1661.