Dear Parents

It is now very close to the end of school and we can all see the holidays on our horizon. Don’t get me wrong, holidays are necessary for everyone so we can break from routine and refresh ourselves. For children though, especially young ones, the six weeks away from school represent quite a large chunk of their early lives. As teachers, we know that students ‘forget’ a lot of what they were taught during this time. It’s not surprising this happens because it’s quite natural. We all forget the things we don’t actively engage with. One easy way to keep a connection with school and school work habits, is to read regularly. If every child read at least one book per week while on holidays, I’m sure that their skills would improve and they’d keep in practice so that when the first day of school for 2015 comes along, it won’t be such a shock. At the end of this newsletter is the article ‘Three easy ways to get your kids to read better and enjoy it’, written by a lecturer from the Australian National University in Canberra. It contains some handy reading hints that you may find worthwhile.

Swimming Carnivals
As I write this, the Junior Carnival has been held and the Senior Carnival is just around the corner. The little ones yesterday, had a great time and enjoyed participation and competition in a very friendly environment. This is a great credit to our PE Teacher, Mr Moore, who organised some great activities for the children. I especially liked the paper relay where our competitors had to get an A4 sheet across the pool without getting it wet. Very few were successful! Thanks also need to go to our groundsman Steve, for the clean pool and the neat surrounds.

Parent Volunteer Morning Tea
Once again we are saying thank you to all our parents who have come up to school to help our students. If you are one of these good people, we invite you down to the library on Wednesday morning at 10am for a cup of tea or coffee, a cold drink and some nibbles. This is a small way in which we can thank you for your efforts.

Classes for 2015
Preparations are ongoing, but we are close to finalising our staff and classes for 2015. Although nothing is guaranteed until we see exactly how many students will come through our gates in 2015, we have a good idea of our arrangements. At 2:30pm next Tuesday, our present Prep to Year 5 students will meet their new teachers and see their new classrooms for the next school year.

Mark Fisher
Principal

Three easy ways to get your kids to read better and enjoy it
Picking up a book and reading and encouraging your child to do the same is one of the easiest ways to engage children with reading. Here are my tips.

1. Relax
The simplest way to encourage children to engage in reading is to relax with the process. Parents are often anxious when they feel that reading isn’t going as well for their children as it should be. This then translates to the children that they are reading with. One of the easiest ways to relax with the reading process is to change the location reading takes place at home. If the difficult reading times have always been at the dining table, then encourage a variety of reading locations. Try lying down on the lounge room floor, Mum and Dad’s bed, or outside under a tree. The physical location can make a real difference to how the reading is perceived and enjoyed. Most importantly, as Paul Jennings suggests, don’t listen to reading while you are doing the washing up. Make it a time that is quiet, safe and warm.
2. Don’t be a word pointer or an ‘instant word factory’
The core of the reading process is making meaning. When a child changes a word in the text, they are being a resourceful reader. They are working towards making sure that the text that they are reading makes sense for them. The child who reads the word flu instead of cold is putting the text into their own context. As adults, we frequently miscue when reading, though often we are unaware it has happened. Children need to know that it is okay to not read “word perfect” all of the time. Unfortunately, prior reading experiences for many of us have stressed the importance of reading “word perfect” and have implied that to do otherwise is cheating in some way. When a child changes a word, or looks to a parent for help, the importance of making meaning needs to be shared. Simple prompts for parents, such as “what would make sense here?” or “let’s read on for more information”, give the reader a strategy to figure out what they are reading.

Getting stuck on a word in many cases results in pointing at the unknown word and sounding out, or the parent becomes the “instant word factory” and supplying the word to the child. Both of these strategies are unsustainable. When figuring out unknown words, sounding out is the least effective strategy because the clues aren’t in that word – they are in the rest of the sentence or the pictures.

3. Children always need to choose what they read
Book choice is a vital component of the reading process. As adults, we very rarely read anything that we either don’t love or enjoy. If we read a book and it takes a while to get going or we lose interest, we simply put it down or lend it to a friend. Why then do we insist that children must read cover to cover something that they don’t necessarily enjoy or like? Often these imposed choices on children come from a place of love – we are trying to support the children in accessing a text that is at their reading level. It is often hard to let go and let children choose their own books. This is vital, however, for developing strong, self-sufficient readers.

When a child chooses a book that may be beyond their reading level, we might need to use a supportive book strategy to assist the child to access that text. You might try echoing or sharing the reading of the text, where the parent reads a sentence and the child follows along. It is important that these levels of support are negotiated with the child, so they can access what they need. Every parent does the best job they know how to do when it comes to helping their child to read. Remember to congratulate yourself on making such a great difference to your child’s future. Relax and enjoy the reading journey!

**Students of the Week**

Prep B - Alvie and Alysha for showing great patience waiting for their turn to be Student of the Week. Thanks girls!
Prep CD - Sha-taya for an entertaining production of “Little Red Riding Hood”
Year 1L - Hannah for being organised in reading groups
Year 1N - Harsheen for contributing to class discussions
Year 2F - Rebecca for being a caring and enthusiastic class member
Year 2HS - Cooper for showing good working skills and excellent handwriting
Year 2J - Alex for a great improvement in Reading Groups
Year 3B - Ben for a significant improvement in his reading work
Year 3TM - Abbie for a fantastic effort at our swimming carnival
Year 4G - Quinn for setting high standards for his class work at all times
Year 4MI - Ben for participation in group work
Year5WR- Henry for participating in class discussions and telling the best jokes
Year 6S - Khushi for settling into her new classroom and school so well
Year6/7G- Johnlie for a comprehensive diagram for his Science assessment showing the causes of the seasons
Year 7C - Chern for improvements in writing clear and comprehensive explanations

**BOOK AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 28th November 2014.
FROM THE OFFICE

EFTPOS FACILITIES

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 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.

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 will NOT be open on Friday 12 December, the last day of school.
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**

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<td>2nd Dec</td>
<td>Years 4-7 Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Walking Wheeling Wednesday</td>
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<td>5th Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation</td>
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<td>9th Dec</td>
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<td>10th Dec</td>
<td>Assembly – Final Parade for 2014</td>
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<td>11th Dec</td>
<td>Class Party Day</td>
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<td>Last day of school for 2014</td>
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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**PADUA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Padua College
SCHOLARSHIPS
28 February 2014

At least two Academic scholarships are offered for Years 7, 8 & 9 / 2016-2018. and
At least two Academic scholarships are offered for Years 10, 11 & 12 / 2016-2018.
Registration via our website – **www.padua.qld.edu.au/enrolments/scholarships**
Cost: $120
Closing Date: Monday 9 February 2015
JABIRU HOLIDAY PROGRAM

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 a fabulous breakfast and late afternoon snacks 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.

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

CRAIGSLEA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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

- 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 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.