FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new school year of 2015 for those returning and welcome for the first time to our new parents, many of whom will have their oldest child beginning in Prep this week. It is an exciting and important time for all students, whether they are spending their first days in a class or they have been here for several years. Often, the way we start an activity is the way it continues. We want students working enthusiastically and energetically all year round, so that's what we encourage from Day One. The optimism and high spirits I see this week, I want maintained through each term. Our teachers have been at school all last week and they were ready to teach as soon as students were in their rooms and sitting down at 8:45 on Tuesday morning. We have a lot to do and we want to have success for every student. High expectations from school and from home will help students understand that we are serious in our desire for everyone to reach their potential. The last part of success, is attending. Children learn if they are in class every day. Continuity is essential. In summary, if we have hard working, engaged students, high expectations and full attendance, we will have had a great year.

Taigum SS 2015

As of today, we have approximately 370 students in 14 classes. I say approximately as we will have a few new ones enrol this week and a few leave as well. This is quite an amazing total as it is the same as last year, even though we have lost the Year 7s. By early next week, we should know exactly the numbers of students in each class and I am hoping that the numbers will be high enough for us to receive a fifteenth teacher. If this is the case, in Week 3 we will have to rearrange some classes to cater for the extra teacher.

Over the holidays, we have had a lot of work done. The office and staffroom have been painted, ‘E’ Block is in the process of being painted and the SEP has been reroofed. We have laid turf around the new Prep playground so that area is both more attractive and more usable for our youngest students. A physed storeroom is being built in our oval shed that will aid Mr Moore next term when he is doing land based activities with all our classes.

Research

This year, I am going to include some research from time to time, that parents may find useful. I have an article today that is very pertinent as it talks about how the home can help children to succeed at school. It is short, to the point and practical. I hope you find a few handy hints to try out in your own household

Term Calendar

As always, we include a Term Overview in the first newsletter. It is accurate at the time of printing but items and activities will be added as we go along. Keep reading the weekly newsletters or go onto our Facebook page for updates. Term 1 is ten weeks long but begins and ends with a public holiday, so there are 48 school days all up. I’d expect every student’s goal is to attend for at least 46 of those days.

Mark Fisher
Principal

How Parents Can Help Their Children Succeed, Stay in School

Students are back at school, and now is the time for parents to develop routines to help their children succeed academically. Professor Kimberly Greder, a US researcher, says parental involvement, more than income or social status, is the best predictor of student achievement. Creating a home environment that encourages learning is the first step to guaranteeing success. Greder says parents need to set high, but reasonable, expectations for the children. Those expectations should not only apply to school achievements, but their future jobs. Parents should also be involved in their children’s education at school and in the community.

"Involvement means many things, including asking your children regularly about their school day and homework," Greder said. "Make sure your children have a regular place and time to study. Visit with teachers and principals to understand how your child is doing in school and what you can do at home to help them succeed."
These steps are not only important for overall academic success at primary school, but can also help students who may be at risk for dropping out later in high school. So in summary - Greder suggests parents take these proactive steps to avoid problems in school:

- Regularly talk with your child about his or her school day
- Encourage reading at home and be a role model to read regularly
- Talk to your child's teachers or the guidance officer for updates on grades and behaviour, and identify resources available to help your child at school
- Watch who your child hangs out with and make sure they are doing healthy activities
- Get your child involved in activities or sports to develop leadership skills and positive communication and conflict resolution skills.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY</td>
<td>First Day of School No PE today</td>
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<td>8:45 Assembly -</td>
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<td>26 Jan -30 Jan</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Swimming Program begins 1:45 School Captain Shortlisting (speeches &amp; voting)</td>
<td>Swimming Program begins</td>
<td>Walking, Wheeling Wednesday 1:40 School Captain Interviews</td>
<td>Day 8 Enrolment Return</td>
<td>8:45 Assembly 2:00 Sport Trials</td>
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<td>2 - 6 Feb</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>6:30 February P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Afterschool swimming Round 1 commences</td>
<td>Walking, Wheeling Wednesday</td>
<td>Afterschool swimming Round 1</td>
<td>Bramble Bay Swimming Carnival 8:45 Assembly 10:00 Active School Indigenous Hearing Screenings 2:00 Sport Trials</td>
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<td>9-13 Feb</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>Afterschool swimming Round 1</td>
<td>Walking, Wheeling Wednesday</td>
<td>Afterschool swimming Round 1</td>
<td>8:45 Assembly &amp; School Captain Investiture Interschool Sport Round 1</td>
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<td>16–20 Feb</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>9:30 House Captain voting -</td>
<td>Afterschool swimming Round 1</td>
<td>Walking, Wheeling Wednesday</td>
<td>Afterschool swimming Round 1</td>
<td>8:45 Assembly Clean Up Australia Day</td>
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<td>23 - 27 Feb</td>
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**Week 6**  
2 – 6 Mar  
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Afterschool swimming Round 1 concludes  
Walking, Wheeling Wednesday  
Afterschool swimming Round 2 commences  
8:45 Assembly Interschool Sport Round 2  
Parent/Teacher Interview request forms sent home

**Week 7**  
9-13 Mar  
6:30pm P&C AGM - Staffroom  
Afterschool swimming Round 2  
Walking, Wheeling Wednesday  
Afterschool swimming Round 2  
8:45 Assembly - House Captain Investiture

**Week 8**  
16 – 20 Mar  
Afterschool swimming Round 2  
Walking, Wheeling Wednesday  
Afterschool swimming Round 2  
National Day of Action Against Bullies  
8:45 Assembly Interschool Sport Round 3

**Week 9**  
23 - 27 Mar  
3:00 Parent – Teacher Interview Evening  
Afterschool swimming Round 2  
Walking, Wheeling Wednesday  
Afterschool swimming Round 2 concludes  
8:45 Assembly

**Week 10**  
30 Mar – 3 Apr  
Walking, Wheeling Wednesday  
CBA Start Smart  
8:45 Assembly – Easter Hat Parade  
CBA Start Smart  
Good Friday

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**  
FEBRUARY 2013  
6th Footsteps Dance program begins  
Walking Wheeling Wednesdays  
12th P&C Meeting 6.30pm  
15th BB Swimming Carnival  
29th P&C Meeting 6.30pm  
15th House Captain Investiture  
30th National Day of Action Against Bullies  
8:45 Assembly Interschool Sport Round 3

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