Dear Parents

This week started with our two new classes getting underway -3JM and 5/6P. That gives us a total of 16 classes, which is a number we haven’t had for four years. If we follow our usual pattern, our present enrolment of 374 students will probably increase over 2015 and we may be looking at 390 to 400 around mid-year. We will deal with that if and when it occurs. Right now our class sizes are mostly between 20 and 25, which allows some leeway for new students, should they arrive.

School Captains
As I mentioned last week, Mrs Boswell, our P&C President, and I, interviewed the six shortlisted candidates for school captain last Wednesday. They all did very well, however, there had to be winners and losers. The results are as follows:
School Captains: Piper and Isabelle
Vice-Captains: Keely and Tiffani
This year all our captains are girls, as sometimes happens. Next year they may all be boys. What we want is capable students, and I think that we certainly have found them in this group. Shortly, we will begin the process of selecting our House Captains, six in total – two for each house.

P&C Meeting
We had our first P&C Meeting for the year on Monday night. It was fantastic to see three new faces. We discussed a range of topics including school uniforms, the swimming pool and installing EFTPOS facilities in the Uniform Shop. The latter will take place as soon as practicable, making uniform shopping much more convenient for many of our parents who prefer not to carry cash. Our next meeting, on Monday 9 March, will be our AGM and all parents are welcome to attend.

Interschool Sport
Touch begins on Friday next week with the boys once again using our oval as their central venue. Girls will be travelling to Bracken Ridge SHS on the bus. There will be 3 double rounds of competition in Term 1 – 20 February, 6 March and 20 March. The other half of the summer season will be completed in Term 4. Notes will be going home shortly.

Play Group
Tuesday morning marked the first day of 2015 for our Play Group to take place. We had six children and seven adults, which was a great turn out for our first time round. The children did craft, puzzles and had a lot of fun. The adults had tea, coffee and biscuits and also had a lot of fun. I went down myself for a very pleasant morning tea. Play Group is on every Tuesday morning from 9am to 11am and all are welcome.

Research
The research article I have this week is aimed at our upper school students and those older, perhaps those you have in high school. The ideas raised in it are useful, though, for all of us.

"Study Less, Study Smart": The Best Ways to Retain More in Less Time
When you're learning new material, it can be overwhelming when you think about how much time you need to truly understand it all. This studying technique can help you stay focussed and take on more information with shorter study sessions. "Study Less, Study Smart" was developed by psychology professor, Dr. Marty Lobdell from Pierce College. Lobdell shares his best tips for studying so you hopefully, don’t have to stay up all night, head in the books.

11 February 2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
• Study in chunked sessions: Your ability to retain information diminishes after about 25-30 minutes, so break it up into multiple, smaller sessions. Reward yourself with fun activities during your breaks.

• Have a dedicated study area: Don't study where you do anything else. Don't study in your bed, where you play games (even if it's your computer), or in front of the TV.

• Know the difference between recognition and recollection: Recognition requires a trigger for you to remember something and you may not get that on a test. Study actively with focus on recollection. Quiz yourself and don't just glance over highlighted notes.

• Take good notes: Find a note-taking method that works for you and expand on them after your class lecture to increase retention and understanding.

• Be ready to teach what you've learned: If you can teach it to someone else, you have a solid grasp on the material.

• Read textbooks effectively: Read first, question, read again, recite, review. This allows you to actively retain information. Just reading once it is not enough.

Lastly, divide everything you learn into two categories: facts and concepts. Facts are things that can fall out of your brain and you may need to come up with a mnemonic device in order to study them. Concepts are the glue that hold the entire big picture together, making them the most important part to study. Concepts are why you're studying something to begin with and, once you learn them, they stick with you. Stop wasting hours studying at only a third of the pace you could be going and study smart.

Mark Fisher
Principal

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### Students of the Week

- **Prep B** - Meisha for a detailed scientific drawing of a lizard
- **Prep CD** - Koko for being kind and helping others
- **Year 1F** - Summer-Rose for being an enthusiastic learner
- **Year 1L** - Kaylee for working well during literacy rotations
- **Year 1N** - Ruta for working hard in reading groups, well done!
- **Year 2HM** - Adam for being a great friend
- **Year 2J** - Christian for great manners and always following instructions
- **Year 3B** - Ashlee for being the first ‘Shining Star’ student
- **Year 3JM** - Azariah for demonstrating wonderful behaviour
- **Year 3M** - Talib for being very responsible in completing homework
- **Year 4G** - Johnathan for consistently doing his best work every day
- **Year 4S** - Salesi for always making positive contributions to our classroom
- **Year 5C** - Daniel for being a focused learner who takes pride in his work
- **Year 5WI** - Lipikha for writing excellent character sentences about Endon from ‘The Forests of Silence’
- **Year 5/6P** - Caleb for always participating in classroom discussions
- **Year 6S** - Amanda for being ready and prepared for every lesson

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### FROM THE OFFICE

**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 SWIMMING

School swimming has commenced for students in Years 1-6. Please remember 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.

Class swimming lessons for your child are held on either Monday or Tuesday. Please ensure they have packed all their swimming items as the office will no longer be making phone calls home for these items.

PERSONAL DETAILS UPDATE

If you have recently changed your address, contact phone number or emergency contacts, please complete a form at the office to update your details.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION OFFICERS

Our school attendance target for 2015 is **95%**

*On Friday 13th February we will be holding a free breakfast at the school to launch our campaign.*

Regular attendance at school is a significant indicator of student success. It is simple really - the more a student attends the better their chance of achieving success during schooling. We regularly review the attendance of students and make contact with parents to discuss concerns. Our aim is to work with you to maximise the opportunities for success for all students.

For students to have every chance of being successful at school they need to attend every day.

Incentives

At the end of Semester 1, only those students with an attendance rate of 95% or greater will be invited to attend a free pizza party.

Each student who achieves 100% attendance will also receive a certificate and special reward.

**Student Absences - How You Can Help**

Bed at a reasonable hour, a good night’s sleep and breakfast are great ways to set students up for success during the day at school. We value the support you provide in ensuring students are at school on time and ready to learn each day.

Each week School Participation Officers will review student absences and contact will be made with parents where it appears that there are unexplained or lengthy absences that will impact on student achievement. Success in 2015 will be built upon sustained, regular attendance at school. We thank you in anticipation of your strong support of this goal.

Chloe, Bambi & Karen

*School Participation Officers*
FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Welcome back. Tuckshop will be open on Fridays and our tuckshop menu can be found on the Taigum SS website or you collect a copy from the office.
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

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

If you’re new to the school I’d like to introduce myself. My name is Steve Unicomb and I’m the school chaplain. I’m employed here 2 days a week but I split that over 4 days, Tuesday - Friday. I also have a second job as a youth & children’s worker at the Salvation Army, North Brisbane (about 1km north, up the road from school). I have a son who is in Grade 1 and a daughter who is almost 3.

My main role at School is to look out for the emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing of all the students, staff and even parents at Taigum State School. I do that in a number of ways. First of all, I aim to be a friend of all the students. I meet with some students one-to-one and talk about the life issues that they are facing. I help out at Sport, PE, in the tuck shop, excursions, camps and wherever else I can.

If you would like to talk to me you can either; catch me at school when you’re dropping or picking up your kids, ring the school office and ask for me or email me at steveu@chappy.org.au

I'm also going on a camp in the Easter school holidays called GENTS IGNITION. It's for boys in Yr 5-7. It's almost sold out, so if your son wants to go you'll have to sign them up ASAP. Go to http://www.sucamps.org.au/ for all the details. There are also other camps on this website for girls and boys in years 5-6.

Have a good one!
Steve Unicomb

SCHOOL BANKING

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 Dolarrmites 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.

What a fantastic competition the Commonwealth Bank has on offer this year to reward our most consistent School Bankers. Who wouldn’t want to win a trip to California’s Disneyland? School Bankers need to make at least 25 deposits into their School Banking account within the competition dates. (27/01/15-18/12/15). The prize includes return airfares, five night’s accommodation, transfers and 3 days park entry for up to 2 adults and 2 children as well as AUD$20000 spending money.
BOOK CLUB NEWS

New look Scholastic Book Club orders for Issue 1 have been sent home with students. Should your child wish to purchase any items, please ensure their order form and correct money are returned to the school on or before Friday 13 February 2015. A collection box has been placed on the front counter at the Administration Office.

FROM THE P&C

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

Monday to Friday mornings: 8.15am to 9.00am

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 6.30pm</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 1</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>School Banking</td>
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<td>11**</td>
<td>Walking Wheeling Wednesday</td>
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<td>12**</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 2</td>
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<td>13**</td>
<td>Assembly – Senior Leader Investiture</td>
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<td>Bramble Bay Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>13in</td>
<td>Interschool Sport Trials</td>
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<td>17**</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>19**</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Assembly – School Captain Investiture</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Interschool Sport – Round 1</td>
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COMMUNITY NOTICES

TAIGUM TINY TIGERS PLAYGROUP

What We Do:

At Taigum Tiny Tigers Playgroup we cater for children from birth to 5yrs old, and offer a safe and fun environment for little ones and their parents / carers to come and spend a couple hours each week. We organise a range of fun activities for the children that include: Story Time, Arts & Crafts as well as Imaginative Play!

Coffee and tea is provided for the adults and we encourage everyone to bring something to share for Morning Tea.

For the grown-ups Playgroup is a great way to meet fellow parents / carers. It’s a chance to enjoy a cup of tea and have a chat, whilst at the same time participating in the activities with the children!

When and Where:

Taigum Tiny Tigers meets on Tuesdays from 9am – 11am
Commencing on Tuesday 10th February 2015.
We are located at Taigum State School (Room 9 – next to the Tuckshop)
266 Handford Road, Taigum 4018

For any further information please contact Chloe Boswell on: 3632 9888.
We Look Forward To Seeing You There!!
ZUMBA FOR KIDS

When: Saturday afternoon

Where: BRIGHTON STATE SCHOOL, 2 North Rd, Brighton

No need to book

No joining fees

“Littlies” (approx. 4—7 years) 3:00pm to 3:30pm $6/session

“Biggies” (approx. 8—12 years) 3:45pm to 4:30pm $8/session

Enquiries: Sharyn on 0414990185

www.zumbabrisbanenorth.com.au

Sharyn@zumbabrisbanenorth.com.au

SANDGATE HAWKS AUSKICK

NAB AFL Auskick is running now!

Where: Sandgate Hawks JAFC (Lemke Road Taigum)

When: First session is on Saturday 28th February 2015 Time: 8:00 – 9:00am

Length of program: 8 Weeks* Cost: $70

Register & Pay online by Sunday 22nd February, to receive 4 complimentary tickets* (2 adults & 2 children) for a selected match to see the mighty Brisbane Lions in action at The Gabba. *Selected matches only, subject to availability. For more information visit aflauskick.com.au or call 3865 8700. *Weather permitting

TAIGUM CHILD CARE

NOW OPEN

Taigum Childcare Centre is a not for profit childcare centre catering for children aged 6 weeks to school age. A few of the things that make our centre so special are a prep readiness program, large natural outdoor play areas, Computer literacy programs and an onsite chef. Call in and see us today at 241 Church Road Taigum or call on 38654000.
RESILIENCE SKILLS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Confident Kids and teens is an innovative coaching program for kids 5-14 years that aims to boost confidence, emotional resilience, social skills and brain power. Students discover their strengths, and develop resilient thinking skills to reduce stress, anxiety, worry, or negative thinking. Essential tools to navigate the teen years!

Our team of experienced Psychologists will coach, encourage and support your child to be all they be.

Medicare and Private health fund rebates apply.

Register and Book online at confidentkidsandteens.com.au or contact us at info@positivefamilies.com.au for more details.

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