Dear Parents

We have had our first week of 16 classes and now the school is settled into the pattern that will continue throughout the year. With every student knowing exactly who their teacher is, it is now the time to talk about some of our expectations for 2015.

The Givens
At Taigum State School we have what we call a set of ‘givens’, basic operating principles that every student in every class is expected to follow. They enable us to have a safe, calm and ordered environment in which to operate. Our first given, is to follow the school rules and the instructions of a teacher. This one is an obvious starting point for an effective school. Discipline is essential. Secondly, we require all students to wear their school uniforms. If we look professional we learn professionally, we have pride in ourselves and our school. School uniform includes the wearing of black shoes and no wearing of any jewellery. Thirdly, we expect neat and tidy bookwork. Pencils are to be used at all times, lines ruled, pages dated and no drawing, doodling or damaging pages in any way. Once again, if we take pride in our written work, all our other work benefits as well. Our last given is how we move from place to place during school times. We require students to walk in two straight lines and quietly so as not to disturb others at work. This is very important. If all the givens are followed, we are well on our way to success, without anything else happening, as every student is ready to learn.

Attendance
Another very important expectation is that every child attends school every day. It is a very simple cause and effect relationship that if a student is here, they can be part of a learning programme. The more times they are not here, the more of the programme they miss. Sometimes parents don’t see the bigger picture with attendance. If a child misses a day every week or two, it doesn’t seem much, but if that pattern continues right through primary education, they end up missing a full year of school. Imagine having our Year 5s go straight to high school. We’d never allow it, but students who miss a lot of days are effectively doing this as they exit in Year 6. This scenario is based on 28 days absent per year. Unfortunately, we have quite a few who do this. Of course, students who are sick need to stay at home, but students who are tired or grumpy or lazy at home in the morning should be going to school. I realise that it’s often a battle to get young ones ready and out the door, but the effort pays off in the long run with better attendance, better attitude and often better results.

Behaviour Management
We have a very effective behaviour management system at our school. We have reasonably low levels of classroom interruption, low levels of suspensions and we haven’t had an exclusion here in more than a decade. We teach student how to behave if they don’t know. This is especially true of our Preps, Year Ones and new students to our school in higher grades. Every teacher has a consistent approach to behaviour and all students are aware of it or become aware of it very quickly. There are two important points to note about our approach. Firstly, parents are always notified if their child’s behaviour is consistently below the standard we expect. We have found over many years of experience that working together with parents is the most effective way to change a student’s pattern of behaviour. Secondly, we have a room called the RTC, short for ‘Responsible Thinking Classroom’, that is where students go if they cannot follow the classroom rules or the teacher’s instructions. The RTC is in the Office area and is supervised by our Deputy Principal, Mrs Tunny. A few students seem to be regular attendees at the RTC, but the majority only go perhaps once or twice a year, if at all. The RTC is a place
where students go to reflect on their poor behaviour and think about a better way to act in the future. Most who go, succeed in improving and we don’t see them again. Those who do come more often, have their parents contacted and we work in partnership to solve the problem.

I hope the three paragraphs above give you a clear understanding of what we expect of our students. There do seem to be quite a number of points that students need to be aware of, but most handle them without any trouble at all. The school runs smoothly and calmly 99.9% of the time due to the good work of the students and teachers and the back up from the parents. Next week, the subject of this newsletter will be our educational programmes, which I find enjoyable and interesting to talk about.

Mark Fisher
Principal

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**Students of the Week**

Prep B - Mason for being an enthusiastic counter
Prep CD - Jessica for working hard all day
Year 1F - Japvir for being a very hard worker in grade 1
Year 1L - Mason for being a great active listener
Year 1N - Aarnab for working conscientiously in class
Year 2HM - Alex for settling in well and making great choices
Year 2J - Cathy for always following instructions and fantastic bookwork
Year 3B - Zaki for an excellent job completing his homework
Year 3JM - Konnor for greatly improved classroom behaviour
Year 3M - Anushka for always doing her very best and showing excellent behaviour
Year 4G - Tnarlii for completing all work promptly and efficiently
Year 4S - PJ for his excellent work ethic and positive attitude in class
Year 5C - Olivia for active involvement in Mathematics
Year 5WI - Olivia for an excellent narrative story using lots of description and precise vocabulary
Year 5/6P – Ketarna for working well in reading groups
Year 6S - Samem for an excellent effort in both homework and spelling

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**BOOK AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 13th February 2015

- 1F - Jada-Lee
- 1L - Ysabella
- 1N - Canryn
- 2HM - Alex
- 2J - Christian
- 3B - Ashlee
- 3JM - Rhiana
- 3M - Eh Koh Ree
- 4G - Shee Shee
- 4S - Salesi
- 5C - Tyler
- 5WI - Olivia
- 5/6P - Maya
- 6S - Tiffani
FROM THE OFFICE

SCHOOL SWIMMING

School swimming has commenced. 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 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.

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 CHAPLAIN

At assembly last Friday I started up ‘Chappy Chat.’ It’s a brief talk I have with all the kids about a topic that I think will be beneficial for them to hear. My talk on Friday was a simple one. I talked about being NICE. Being nice to your friends. Being nice to people who aren't your friends. Being nice to your teachers and being nice to your parents. I guess in this parent newsletter I'll add: Be nice to your children :-)

Here's a message from ISEE Church (next to Taigum Shops on Beams rd).

iSEE CARE is a non-profit organisation which operates locally within your school community. Each week iSEE CARE helps to support school communities by providing food assistance hampers to families. Several grocery bags of non-perishable food items and toiletries are delivered and distributed every week to your school during the term helping to supplement a family’s weekly groceries. iSEE CARE understands that sometimes we find ourselves in tough situations and we all from time to time need a helping hand.

If you require one of these hampers please don't hesitate to contact the Chaplain, Steve Unicomb here at Taigum SS or email him, steveu@chappy.org.au.

For more information on iSEE CARE and the services we provide please email us at info@iseecare.com.au

Have a good one!

Steve Unicomb
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.

FROM THE P&C

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

Monday to Friday mornings: 8.15am to 9.00am

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 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.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 3</td>
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<td>18th</td>
<td>School Banking</td>
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<td>18th</td>
<td>Walking Wheeling Wednesday</td>
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<td>19th</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 4</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Assembly – School Captain Investiture</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Interschool Sport – Round 1</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
<td>House Captain Voting</td>
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<td>13th</td>
<td>Interschool Sport Trials</td>
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<td>24th</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 5</td>
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<td>26th</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 6</td>
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<td>27th</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</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

RANGATAHI KOHANGA

Rangatahi Kohanga is for any young person aged from 11 to 17 years old who wants to learn Maori culture, language, dance and song as well as learn about mental health, healthy & active lifestyles, sexual health, positive relationships, drugs and alcohol, spirituality, leadership and loads of other topics. in a maori environment.

Rangatahi Kohanga meets every Friday evening from 6pm to 8.30pm at Te Kohanga ote whenua hou Community where: 60 - 62 Delaware St, Geebung

Dinner is served at 5.15pm
Cost is $3 per young person & Healthy kai supplied
Call 0431 171 041 for more info
RESILIENCE SKILLS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Book now for Term 1 groups

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

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.
ZILLMERE PCYC SWIM SCHOOL

Swim Stroke Correction Classes (Ages 6-12yrs)
$25 for 7 lessons
Time: 4:45 – 5:15pm (Tues and Thurs)
Date: 5th March – 26th March
Venue: Taigum State School Pool

If you are interested please collect an enrolment form from the office or download from our website. Please return the completed form and $25 payment to the school by Friday 3rd March.

NORTHS JUNIOR RUGBY UNION