Dear Parents

Once again we have endured a rain and flooding event. I think this is the third in the last five years. I am happy to say that the school incurred no damage and apart from some flooded roads, I think our community was also spared the worst of it. Last Friday was a strange day at school with about half of our students away. I think that it was quite sensible for parents to keep their children home, particularly if they walked to school. Unfortunately, those away did not see the investiture ceremony of our school captains. We were honoured to have our new State Member of Parliament, Mr Stirling Hinchliffe, as our guest and he presented the badges to our captains in the presence of their parents. The ceremony went off very well and I’m sure those who didn’t see it, will get plenty of opportunities to meet our captains as the year progresses.

Our Academic Agenda for 2015

Last week, I talked about our ‘Givens’ and promised to speak about teaching and learning this week. The basis for our work is the national curriculum. In Queensland, this is called ‘Curriculum into the Classroom’ or C2C for short. The C2C curriculum divides the year into eight blocks of five weeks, each block covering one Unit of work in each subject area that it covers. The C2C subject areas, at present, are literacy, numeracy, science, history and geography. So in each five week block, each class completes one unit of literacy, numeracy and science and one block of either history or geography. These units are intense and require every school day to be completed. On top of that, we have specialist lessons in Health and Physical Education, Music and, for Years 5 and 6, German. This makes for particularly busy days that don’t allow for much extra-curricular activity, though we still manage to fit in interschool sport, assemblies, SUPA Club, school dances and all the other events that highlight the school year. You can see why full attendance is essential and why we talk about every day counting.

The second and very important part of the curriculum is how we teach it. At Taigum State School, we use a method known as the ‘Gradual Release of Responsibility’. This sounds very fancy but can simply be explained as: I do, We do, You do –and that’s the way we talk about it to the students in our classes. Breaking it down, the first part of the lesson is the ‘I do’, the ‘I’ being the teacher. In this phase the teacher does all the work – names the strategy, skill, or task; states the purpose of the strategy, skill or task; explains when the strategy or skill is used; uses analogies to link prior knowledge to new learning; demonstrates how the skill, strategy, or task is completed and alerts learners about errors to avoid. In the ‘We do’ phase, the goal is to guide students toward using different skills, strategies and procedures independently. The students will assume more responsibility with less support from the teacher. Different approaches are used to ensure all students have a pathway to success. The last phase of Gradual Release of Responsibility, the ‘You do’, provides students with the opportunity to employ what they have learned in a new situation. Students are given a variety of independent tasks. While students are working, the teacher’s role is to circulate the room listening and making observations that will help to improve the learning for each student.

There is a lot to teaching. It can often appear that nothing special is taking place. In reality, a skillful teacher brings a number of strategies, techniques and organisational practices to a classroom that get the best out of the students. Our aim at school is to get the best out of our students so an ongoing task for all of us is to continually perfect our classroom teaching to be as good as we can to as many students as possible.
Other Programmes
I need to highlight a few of our other teaching programmes to finish this newsletter. We have about 30% of our students from non-English speaking backgrounds. That means that our EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) programme is quite extensive. Mr Boundy, our EALD teacher, leads a small team that ensures that, over time, many of our students move from having no English to being proficient speakers, thinkers and writers of it. This is a broad role that make take several years to accomplish, but it pays great dividends to the students when their English reaches a level that allows them full access to everything they wish to do. We also have an instrumental music programme for our Year 5s and 6s, run by Mr Ken Lincoln, for students keen to learn brass and woodwind. The early instrumental lesson in these two years, allow our students to develop considerable skills that flourish in their high school years when they join bands and ensembles. Lastly, we have our Active School Travel Programme that we tend to call ‘Walking Wheeling Wednesdays’ and is about getting to school without getting into a car. I will talk about this particular programme in much more detail, next week.

Mark Fisher
Principal

Students of the Week

Prep B - Kara for trying hard to work out the number ‘before’ and the number ‘after’ in a counting sequence
Prep CD - Harman for a detailed explanation about how flags are used at cricket
Year 1F - Arman for working very hard in his first two weeks at Taigum State School. Well done!
Year 1L - Jessie for putting in a great effort at all times
Year 1N - Artin and Sarah for knowing all 100 Magic words. Well done!
Year 2HM - Hannah for a great improvement in on task behaviour
Year 2J - Zachariah for improvement in classroom behaviour
Year 3B - Cameron for careful copying from the board with no mistakes
Year 3JM - Amber for great manners in class and a positive attitude towards learning
Year 3M - Chloe for trying her best and showing persistence in everything she does
Year 4G - Raymond for a fantastic effort during the drafting phase of his new chapter for “The Twits”
Year 4S - Nate for excellent work habits and working to his full potential all this term
Year 5C - Ashmit for active involvement in lessons and taking responsibility for his learning
Year 5WI - Corinthia for being an organised, responsible and helpful class member
Year 5/6P – Paris for always trying to do her best work in everything she does
Year 6S - Hayley for a positive attitude and always listening to instructions

BOOK AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 20th February 2015

• 1F - Mia-Bella
• 1L - Kaylee
• 1N - Jainil
• 2HM - Gianni
• 2J - James
• 3B - Harith
• 3JM - Valcen
• 3M - Chloe
• 4G - Emily
• 4S - Abbie and Kavinila
• 5C - Akhemi
• 5WI - Sebastian
• 5/6P - Tanisha
• 6S - Tracy
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 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.

Lisa Virtue
Tuckshop Convenor

FROM THE P&C

REFRESHMENTS FOR SALE – INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Just a reminder that the P&C will be selling refreshments during Interschool Sport this Friday down at the oval. Remember to bring your money along.

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

Monday to Friday mornings: 8.15am to 9.00am
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

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24th Feb</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th Feb</td>
<td>School Banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th Feb</td>
<td>Walking Wheeling Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th Feb</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Feb</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Mar</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 1 – Lesson 7 (Final Lesson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Mar</td>
<td>After school Swimming Round 2 – Lesson 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Mar</td>
<td>Interschool Sport – Round 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM – 6.30pm Staffroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Dollarmite 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 nights accommodation, transfers and 3 days park entry for up to 2 adults and 2 children as well as AUD$20000 spending money.

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.zumbabrasbanenorth.com.au
Sharyn@zumbabrasbanenorth.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

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

SIGN ON 2015
New Players Wanted
U6-U14
Register Online:
www.northsjuniorrugby.com.au

JOIN US ON
facebook

http://www.facebook.com/taigumss