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10 November 2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

As I've said a few times recently, Term 4 is a time to finish off one year and plan for the next. With half the term gone and only five weeks left, both those tasks are coming to a head. To finish 2015, teachers are strenuously teaching the final units of the year, assessing students on the work that they've been doing and getting ready for that huge job of report card writing to finalise Semester Two. We also have Year 6 graduation in the planning stages, the Senior Leader trip, Swimming Carnivals, Carols Night and our final assembly to happen still. In the future planning role, Mrs Tunny, Mrs Innes and I are presently mapping out our enrolments for 2016 and formulating how many classes we will have, which students will be in them and who their teachers will be. It's a busy time and every one of these jobs is important and needs to be completed for the school year to end successfully and the new one to start smoothly on January 27. They all will get done.

More importantly, we are also planning for our curriculum focus for 2016. What are the things that we can concentrate on, that will bring the biggest benefits to our students? This question will be asked by every school in the state and often the answers will differ, depending on the needs of the children in each case. Next year at Taigum State School, we will have two priorities – reading, as we always do, and writing. Why writing? It's a good question which has a very important answer. If you think back through all the years that people have been living on Earth, what is the greatest invention that we have come up with? You could say the wheel, the spear, the canoe, the plough, the steam engine, the telephone, antibiotics, the light bulb or dozens of other very noteworthy things that have greatly improved people's lives. Some of these were invented by one person, with a flash of inspiration, but most of our inventions come about through the efforts of many people, working from the discoveries of those who gave gone before them. Those earlier discoveries were documented in writing, put into books so others could read about them and study them. If no writing existed, people could only pass on information by word of mouth and it only lasted as long as those who heard it could remember it. The invention of writing allowed communication across the years and across the world. The knowledge that has brought us from the Stone Age to the Space Age has almost all been in writing. It allowed us to collect the information and group it in libraries so others could benefit from it. If there was no writing, there could be no reading and we would all live in an infinitely less interesting world. Writing, in my opinion, is the most amazing and useful thing that humans have ever come up with.

So when we concentrate on writing at school, we are introducing a new generation of students to the knowledge of the ages. We are giving them access to all the information that has ever been collected. Couple writing with its partner reading and we are furnishing our students with tools that have an endless potential for learning, for enjoyment and for success. If we get just these two areas right, our children will have a great head start in life. Even with the huge impact technology is having and how it is changing our everyday lives, reading and writing are still indispensable and will remain so for many, many years to come. It is little wonder that we will be concentrating upon them in 2016 and for some time after that as well.

Later in the year, we will again publish our 'Explicit Improvement Agenda' as a colour brochure. In that publication, we will outline in more detail, what strategies we will use to meet our learning goals for the next two years. Keep a look out for that shortly.

Mark Fisher
Principal

Students of the Week

- Prep B** – **The Whole Class** for being friendly and welcoming the Koobara Kindy kids to our class during their visit
- Prep CD** – **The Whole Class** for welcoming Koobara Kindergarten students into our classroom and working co-operatively with them
- Year 1F** – **Brock** for being an enthusiastic learner in mathematics lessons
- Year 1L** – **Tyron** for having a go at writing a procedure
- Year 1N** – **Olivia** for being honest and handing in money found during classroom clean-up time
- Year 2HM** – **Rune** for a great improvement in reading
- Year 2J** – **Chelsea** for great work in 'Daily 5'
- Year 3B** – **John** for always being attentive and on task in class
- Year 3JM** – **Jessica** for creating an original and detailed art assessment
- Year 3M** – **Alex** for a fantastic effort shown on his weekly spelling test
- Year 4G** – **Raymond** for trying extra hard during operations of the day
- Year 4S** – **Saiful** for excellent work habits and a positive attitude
- Year 5C** – **Sharn** for active involvement in English
- Year 5WI** – **Corinthia** for writing an organised novel and film comparison that conveyed the similarities and differences between the two texts
- Year 5/6P** – **Tanisha** for always having a positive attitude when solving challenging math sums
- Year 6S** – **Hayley** for working exceedingly hard to create a good persuasive argument. Keep up the great work!

BOOK AWARDS



Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 6th November 2015

- 1F – Kayla
- 1L – Indiana
- 1N – Nate
- 2HM – Gree Na
- 2J – Poe Ku
- 3B – Leinad
- 3JM – Amber
- 3M – Perez
- 4G – Tnarlii
- 4S – Cade
- 5C – Madison
- 5WI – Quinn
- 5/6P – Paris
- 6S – Keely

FROM THE OFFICE

CHICKENPOX

We are notifying parents/carers that we have been advised of a confirmed case of Chickenpox within our student population. If you have any concerns regarding your own child/children please seek medical advice.

2016 CLASS PLACEMENTS

Class Placement requests for 2016 have been sent home with each child. If you wish to have your feedback considered, please ensure you return the completed form to school by Thursday 12 November.

2016 BOOKLISTS

2016 Booklists have been sent home with each student. If you wish to order your pack for collection from the school, please return your order with payment to the office by Friday 27 November 2015.

Packs will be available for collection from the school between Wednesday 20th and Friday 22nd January 2016.

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.

PREP – YEAR 6 ENROLMENTS – 2016

Children born between 1st July 2010 and 30th June 2011 are eligible for enrolment in Prep in 2016

If you have a child, or know a family living in our catchment area that have a child eligible for enrolment in Prep - Year 6 in 2016, could you please ensure that an enrolment form is completed and submitted to the school's administration office as early as possible.

To best support our staffing allocation for next year it is important that we have the correct number of students intending to attend Taigum State School enrolled.

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.

FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL



Icy cups will be on sale from the Tuckshop 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 LIBRARY



"A book is a gift you can open again and again." **Garrison Keillor**

Book Fair

Start preparing now, Book Fair will return to Taigum on Thursday 19th November.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION OFFICERS



Every day counts at school.

School absenteeism and truancy can impact significantly on students' learning and wellbeing.

Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance is associated, on average, with higher student achievement. Additionally, attending school every day helps children to build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience. Children do better when they go to school all day, every day.

Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and attends school on all school days unless there is a reasonable excuse. Schools must monitor attendance of students and follow up with parents and caregivers any unexplained absences.

School Participation Officers will:

- monitor student attendance
- let you know if your child is not at school
- follow-up any unexplained absences
- help with strategies to encourage your child to go to school

Is your child at school today?

Many thanks
Bambi & Karen
School Participation Officers

FROM THE P&C

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

Monday to Friday mornings: 8.15am to 9.00am

The uniform shop now has EFTPOS.

The uniform shop will cease trading for 2015 on Friday 4 December (week 9), and reopen in 2016 on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st January between 9:00am - 11:30am.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER



Our P&C are now preparing to organise this year's Christmas Hamper. If you or your family would like to make a contribution towards the hamper, please drop your donation/goods to either the Uniform Shop or Administration Office. Raffle tickets will go on sale later in the term.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Scripture Union Qld run some great camps in the school holidays. If your kids are looking for a fantastic week of amazing fun, here are some camps they might like to go on during the Christmas holidays. All these camps are Christian camps and will have discussion about God, Jesus and the Bible.

SchoolzOut Camp: Grade 6 only (in 2015): 14th - 18th December: \$280

Camp Capers: Grade 5-7 (in 2016): 4th - 8th January: \$305

Father/Son Gents Camp: Grade 5-8 (in 2015. boys only) and their dad: 7th - 11 January: \$280 each

Ubertweak (Computer Camp): Grade 5-12 (in 2015): 10th - 15th January: \$250

I'll be going on a camp in the Easter holidays called **Gents Ignition**. It's for boys in Grade 5-6. 4th - 8th April: \$225. This camp fills up quick and a lot of kids miss out, so register early!

To register for any of these camps go to www.suqld.org.au/camps. You can also talk or email me for more info steveu@chappy.org.au.

For the kids in Grade 6, I'd like to mention that The Salvation Army at Taigum has a youth group called Salvage on Friday nights for high school kids. We invite the grade 6's to come along in Term 4. At Salvage they play crazy games, make great friends, discuss relevant topics and learn about the Bible. It's on 7pm - 9pm each Friday night during the school term and it's usually free. More info and the term calendar can be found here www.salvos.org.au/nbc/youth

At the Salvos at Taigum, we also have EPIC for kids in Grade 3-6. It's on this Friday night from 5:30pm - 7pm. It's cost \$4 which includes dinner & games.

Have a good one!
Steve Unicomb

SCHOOL BANKING

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.

Don't forget, students who consistently display stellar savings behaviour by making 25 or more School Banking deposits in 2015 will automatically go into the draw to win a family trip to California's Disneyland. This astronomical prize includes return flights, 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

 NOVEMBER 2015	
10 th	School Banking
10 th	Walking Wheeling Wednesday
10 th	Afterschool Swimming – Lesson 5
12 th	Afterschool Swimming – Lesson 6
13 th	Interschool Sport
17 th	Afterschool Swimming – Lesson 7
17 th	Prep Parents Numeracy Information Session 2:15pm in the Library
18 th	Year 1 Parents Numeracy Information Session 2:15pm in the Library
19 th	Afterschool Swimming – Lesson 8
24 th	Afterschool Swimming – Lesson 9
26 th	Afterschool Swimming – Lesson 10 Final Lesson

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.

When and Where:

Taigum Tiny Tigers meets on Fridays from 9am – 11am

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!

GOJU KAI KARATE



Karate & Self Defence classes can enhance calmness, focus and fitness. They provide positive life skills and assist with the goal setting for everything students do. They lay the foundations of self-discipline, providing a positive outlook for home and school.

Over 35 Years Experience

All Ages Welcome

To enquire about beginning or enhancing your Karate journey please contact Bernie Sensei on 0409 474 494 or visit www.agkk.com.au

SENSORY MOVIE DAY

Sensory Movie Days are inclusive events for families/carers with special needs.

- Lighting is on dim, sound lowered, volunteers monitoring fire exit doors
- Sensory Movie Days run once a month on a Sunday at 11am
- Tickets are \$8 each Children 2yrs and under are free
- Companion I.D. Cards are accepted

Sensory Movie Day is run at Morayfield Birch Carroll & Coyle cinema

Upcoming screenings include:

- **Blinky Bill** – Sunday 15 November
- **Hotel Transylvania 2** – Sunday 6 December

For any further information please contact Chanelle on 0422416509 or sensorymovieday@hotmail.com

PADUA SCHOLARSHIPS

At least two Academic scholarships are offered for Years 7, 8 & 9 for 2017-2019, and at least two Academic scholarships are offered for Years 10, 11 & 12 for 2017 – 2019.

Registration via our website: -

www.padua.qld.edu.au/enrolments/scholarships

Cost: \$125

Closing Date: Monday 8 February 2016

