

28 January 2016

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Dear Parents

Welcome to the 2016 school year. I trust you had a pleasant break and you are keen for your sons and daughters to be back at school and ready to learn. I extend a special welcome to all our first time parents who are involved in a whole new experience with their children entering formal education in our Prep classes. Our teachers spent the week before school, involved in our Student Free Day Programme and are feeling very optimistic about 2016. We have had some changes to staffing, which in my mind, have strengthened our teaching team and we are all looking forward to a fantastic year with our nearly 400 students.

Our first day has set the scene for what the rest of the year should look like. Every class, apart from the Preps, were into their school work by 9:30am. Our teachers ran full teaching programmes, our specialist lessons took place and our teacher-aides were all in rooms working with students. I was amazed at how well our students settled and how quickly they took to their numeracy or literacy instruction in the morning. The Department of Education has a motto that says, 'Every Day Counts' and we certainly lived up to those words yesterday. I expect that will now for every one of the remaining 199 school days left in this year. On that point, it is important that parents play their part in ensuring no days are wasted by having their children attend 100% of the time. Obviously, if children are sick, they need to be at home, but that is really the only reason they should be absent. It is not OK for them to have days off because they don't feel like coming to school, or it's their birthday, or they're going for a holiday or they slept in. If you aren't at school, you aren't learning school work. I would think that on average, about 4 to 5 days off a year is acceptable. Our school target stands at 95% attendance which is 190 days at school and 10 absent throughout the year. I think that is easily attained if everyone places a priority on the importance of being at school to learn.

It is an appropriate time today to remind everyone of some of our procedures. Six weeks away is a long time and I know I forget how everything works so I can understand lots of students and parents forgetting as well. So a quick summary of the main points. School starts at 8:45 am and we'd like our students here by about 8:15 to 8:30am. At that time, they all sit under the blocks and are supervised until the bell goes. As I said, we have nearly 400 students enrolled, so it can be a little chaotic when they all arrive in the morning. The parent car park can fit about 50 cars but it fills quickly. I encourage parents to allow their children to walk, ride or scoot to school to decrease the traffic congestion. The same applies for the afternoon pick up. I supervise the car park in the afternoon and I recommend picking up students a little after 3pm if you want to avoid the crowd. By 3:15, there is hardly a car there. Please note, there is a 2 minute zone for pick up and drop off and at no time should parents park there or leave their vehicle. This can cause terrible delays. The parent car park runs on your goodwill and common sense.

We have two breaks, morning tea from 11-11:30am and lunch from 1:00 – 1:40 pm. Teachers supervise the students at all times during these breaks to ensure they eat their lunches and they play safely. We have a 'No Hat –No Play' rule to encourage sun safety. Students without hats need to stay under blocks or in the library during the breaks. Our goal is to have a safe and supportive environment for every student, every minute of the day that they are here.

There is much more to talk about on how our school runs, but I will leave that to future newsletters. Inside this one, is the full Term 1 calendar so parents are aware of what will take place over the next eight weeks at Taigum State School. Please take some time to peruse it and maybe pin it up on the fridge so you'll know what's happening at school.

Mark Fisher  
Principal

# TERM 1 CALENDAR

## TAIGUM STATE SCHOOL CALENDAR - TERM ONE, 2016 –PARENTS

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b> 26– 29Jan	<b>STUDENT FREE DAY</b>	<b>AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY</b>			8:45 Assembly
<b>Week 2</b> 1– 5 Feb	1:45 School Captain Shortlisting (speeches & voting)		School Banking		8:45 Assembly  2:00 Sport Trials
<b>Week 3</b> 8 - 12 Feb		Afterschool Touch Football Yr 5 & 6–Mixed gender	School Banking	Afterschool Touch Football Yr 3 & 4–Mixed Gender	8:45 Assembly  2:00 Sport Trials
<b>Week 4</b> 15–19 Feb		Afterschool Touch Football Yr 5 & 6–Mixed gender	School Banking	Afterschool Touch Football Yr 3 & 4–Mixed Gender	<b>8:45 Assembly &amp; School Captain Investiture</b>  <i>Interschool Sport Round 1</i> Boys at Taigum SS Girls at Bracken Ridge SHS
<b>Week 5</b> 22–26 Feb	9:30 House Captain voting	PCYC AFL Clinic – Yr 4 students (1:30 – 2:30pm)  Afterschool Touch Football Yr 5 & 6–Mixed gender	School Banking	Afterschool Touch Football Yr 3 & 4–Mixed Gender	8:45 Assembly Clean Up Australia Day <i>Interschool Sport Round 2</i> Goodstart
<b>Week 6</b> 29 Feb–4 Mar		Afterschool Touch Football Yr 5 & 6–Mixed gender	School Banking	Afterschool Touch Football Yr 3 & 4–Mixed Gender	8:45 Assembly <i>Interschool Sport Round 3</i> Parent/Teacher Interview request forms sent home
<b>Week 7</b> 7–11 Mar		Afterschool Touch Football Yr 5 & 6–Mixed gender  <b>6:15m P&amp;C AGM</b>	School Banking	Afterschool Touch Football Yr 3 & 4–Mixed Gender	<b>8:45 Assembly – House Captain Investiture</b>  <i>Interschool Sport Round 4</i>  Goodstart
<b>Week 8</b> 14–18 Mar	Parent/Teacher Interview Forms sent home for Tuesday 26 April.	Afterschool Touch Football Yr 5 & 6–Mixed gender	School Banking  PCYC Sports Expo Yr 5 & 6 All day event	Afterschool Touch Football Yr 3 & 4–Mixed Gender	National Day of Action Against Bullies 8:45 Assembly <i>Interschool Sport Round 5</i>
<b>Week 9</b> 21–24 Mar			School Banking	Parent/Teacher Interview Forms returned	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>

