We have had an excellent start to the year and hope all students have settled in well. A special welcome to the new families that have joined the Tapping community this year. We have 775 students enrolled across 29 classes from years Kindergarten to year - 6.

We look forward to a busy and productive year ahead.
**Virtues**

At the commencement of the year we like to outline our philosophy regarding student behaviour. At Tapping we refer to our policy as “Behaviour Education and Self-Management” rather than “behaviour management”.

There is a significant difference between the two terms. Behaviour management implies that teachers are there to manage student behaviour and therefore will try and bribe students through rewards to behave or impose punishments to ensure students “tow the line”.

At Tapping we do not use any form of rewards or punishments to manipulate student behaviour. Our policy of “Behaviour Education and Self-Management” (BESM) focuses on educating students on how their behaviour affects themselves and others and gives them strategies to self-manage. As educators we are there to help students not hurt them. No school can claim to be a safe environment if students fear adults trusted with their welfare. It must be noted that being “respected” adults does not mean that students should be made to be fearful of them. Furthermore, in safe classrooms the significant relationship between teachers and students creates the best environment in which to offer immediate guidance that helps students manage inappropriate behaviour and return to the task at hand.

At Tapping we categorise behaviour as we would Maths, English or any other area of learning. For example if students are struggling in Maths, does threatening them with a punishment help them solve the problem? Does offering a reward assist them to work it out? What they need is to be shown a better way, to be educated on how to work through the problem. Behaviour is no different.

Our BESM approach has been acknowledged as ‘best practice’ hence we welcome schools from across Australia who visit Tapping PS to learn a more respectful and educative way to assist children to self-manage.

Over the next few newsletters we will outline how we help students who transgress and the many ways we educate them to be responsible members of our school community and therefore creating a safe climate where every student feels confident to achieve their personal best.

**P&C Meeting**

We welcome all parents and citizens to join the P&C. The P&C plays an important role in the running of the school and gives parents a real voice in issues that affect students. Our first meeting will be the AGM.

When: Wednesday February 18 February
Time: 7:30pm
Where: Library

All meetings conclude no later than 9:00pm.

**Parking**

We ask that parents please be respectful of residents that live around the school especially those who live on St Stephens Cres. Please DO NOT park on residents’ verges, driveways, front lawns etc. I have seen first-hand the damage being done to sprinkler systems and verges. Some of the residents have not been able to leave their own homes as cars have blocked their driveways etc. Also parking on the other side of St Stephens Cres where this are no bays poses a significant risk to students and families crossing the road. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Staff Car Park**

We remind all parents to please not enter the staff car park to drop off or pick up students. We understand that it is difficult to find a parking space particularly after school, however, using the staff cark park is not an option.

We urge more parents to use the “second wave” process. This means that straight after school students leave classrooms and come directly to the under covered area. Students will be fully supervised until 2:50pm. This means parents can wait until the first wave of parents collects children and leaves then come down for pick up children when the traffic is less congested. The system has been in place now for 5 years and works really well for students of all ages.
Standards

At Tapping we take great pride in setting high standards across all areas of schooling which is acknowledged not only by our school community but also the Department of Education. So it makes sense then to apply these same high standards to our dress code.

I have outlined below the School Board’s reasons for implementing our current policy which they have asked the teaching staff to support. We ask parents to fully support the policy which we have attached. Your feedback is welcome.

Uniforms

Fostering school loyalty and pride helps students to satisfy a deep seated, if not hard-wired, need to belong. Being a part of something larger than yourself, a part of something that in some significant way defines you, will amplify your sense of ‘self’ and afford you perspective, attachment and acceptance. Children don’t just go to ‘a school’, they go to a particular and specific school. Uniforms have for centuries represented belonging, values, traditions and expected codes of conduct. A uniform is a symbol of something beyond the material, stitch work and colours from which it is assembled.

Coaches will remind players of club values and the meaning behind the guernsey before sending them off to pit both skills and strength of character against the opposition. Can children be proud of going to their particular school? Of course they can. Can children be loyal to the values of their school? Of course they can. If children are proud of their school and loyal to its values, will they in turn want to be identified as belonging to that school? Of course they will. It takes little to see that a uniform gives children the perfect mechanism to display that sense of belonging and to be seen by others and their peers as the embodiment of their school’s values.

For a great number of schools, uniform standards have been so eroded (often through parent/student pressure) that students simply wearing a shirt – no, not even a shirt – a top of any colour, similar to that of the uniform, is all that is required. There aren’t many parts to a school uniform and if maintaining adherence to key elements of the uniform is lost, what remains is a sad, almost insulting misrepresentation of the original.

Uniforms are a great leveller. In being the same for all, they ask a school population to treat all equally – to see past the illusion of fashion and accessories to the substance of character. Uniforms ask students to better themselves by genuine self-improvement and not by attention seeking adjustments of the uniform. They ask students to ‘stand up and be counted’ where street clothes ask the wearer to ‘stand out and be seen’.

Finally, you may not always agree with every element of the school uniform policy at Tapping PS, however, the message we must give our children is that although I do not agree we need to abide by the rules. Otherwise, the counter message is that we only abide by rules we agree with. This philosophy will have repercussions for parents as children get older and do not like some of the rules laid down by parents.

Again, we do not want to give children the message that if they do not agree with the rule they do not have to follow it.

By all means we can challenge rules that we think are unfair or not necessary and we should discuss this with children. However, we must then go about changing the rules/laws through appropriate channels. At Tapping PS, this is done through the School Board. Then, if we are unsuccessful in changing them, we need to model our acceptance that, for the moment, this is just the way it is.

Fun Run

Our annual Fun Run fundraiser is on Tuesday March 10. Kindy students will be involved on the Monday March 9 and Tuesday March 10 depending on the kindy group. A note will be sent home closer to the time.
We are hoping for our most successful Fun Run ever as the P&C are hoping to raise a record $25,000 in order to finalise the payment of the fence currently being erected. We would like each class to aim for $1,000.

Please note these dates in your diaries as we combine the Fun Run with a family picnic on the oval. A sponsor form will be going home today.

**Spelling Levy Charge**

The Spelling Levy Charge that was on the student requirement list needs to be paid to the school office or by direct debit BSB: 066040 Account: 1990 0794 by **Week 5 of Term 1, 2015**.

The Spelling Levy/ e-book relates to a spelling program (Sound Waves) which is used across the school. This **compulsory charge** is to cover the licences for each student so that they can access the program. It would be appreciated if this levy has not been paid yet, that the school receives the money as soon as possible.

**Teacher / Parent information night**

Parents are invited to attend our information evening. Teachers will give parents an overview of the year ahead and outline information relating to classroom expectations and procedures. Parents will also have the opportunity to meet the teacher and ask questions.

We will run two duplicate sessions so parents can attend a sibling’s session. **Session one will commence at 6:00pm and conclude at 6:25pm.** Session two will commence at 6:30pm and conclude at 6:55pm. We encourage all parents to attend.

Please refer to dates below for you sessions.

**Kindy/PP** (except LA 3. Mrs Linsley) - Thursday Feb 12

**Years 1-6**. Thursday Feb 19

**Recycling Campaign: Help please!**

We urgently need families who use the foil yoghurt/fruit containers, to please rinse them out and send them to our office (with the lids). Examples of these easy squeeze containers are: Yoplait Petit Miam Squeezie, Pauls Yoghurt, Vaalia kids yoghurt, SPC Fruit Crush etc.

We **recycle** and use these containers as emergency ice-packs after carefully washing and refilling them with water. They are not only extremely effective but save the school money. Thank You –  Mrs Ogilvie Deputy

**Term Calendars**

This year the whole year calendar will be uploaded on the app and the website. At the beginning of each term we will update the calendar if needed.

**Thank you**

We would like to thank Doyles Fancy Dress for donating costumes to Mr Mac as he continues on his dress up journey keeping our car park safe.

Doyles are working with us to help get Mr. Mac to 200 costume changes and beyond without using the same one twice. How far can Mr. Mac go? Thanks Doyles for your support.

**Bill Boylan**

Principal

**Uniform shop**

**Winter Uniform Sizing Times**

If you do not know what size to buy your child we will be open the following days for sizing.

Friday 13th February 2.00pm-3.30pm

Monday 16th February 7.45am – 9am

Thursday 19th February (Parent Information Night) 5.30pm – 6.45pm

**School Banking**

There has been a change to the School Banking days and will now be available on Wednesdays 8.00am to 8.20am in the undercover area.
Please look for the nomination form going home today. This has to be completed and submitted by 2.30pm on Wednesday 18 February.

To All Parents

NOTICE OF TAPPING PRIMARY SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Here it is – that time of year again where we call for nominations from all parents to be a part of the hard working and dedicated parent body of Tapping Primary School. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 7:30pm in the Library.

ALL positions are declared vacant and everyone is encouraged to nominate for a position on the Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fund Raising or Executive Committee Member).

Attached are the nomination forms for the Office Bearer positions. We need as much support from parents as we can possibly get. The P&C is all about supporting our children and our school community.

Everyone has something to contribute, such as time, ideas, enthusiasm, or just getting in there and getting your hands dirty!

Your presence, opinions, input, and support are very valuable.

Please come along, listen to what the P&C is all about and nominate for a position or register yourself as a general member. Membership is $1 per annum.

Once you have completed the nomination form it can be posted in the Secretary’s drawer at the School front office, scanned and emailed to the P&C address below or handed to any current P&C member.

Please have all nominations completed and submitted by 2:30 on Wednesday 18 February.

If you have any questions regarding the P&C, please feel free to contact me or any P&C member. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind Regards

Marianne Thoroughgood
Secretary
Email: tappingpandc@yahoo.com
Summary of Office Bearer Positions

President
- Chairperson
- Public Face of the P&C
- Link between parents and school administration

Responsibilities include:
- Chair and conduct productive/orderly meetings
- Signatory to accounts
- Ensure other office bearers fulfil their duties
- Observe legal formalities

Vice President
- Understudy for the President

Responsibilities include:
- Chair meetings
- President’s representative on sub-committees
- Signatory on accounts

Secretary
- Maintains the Association’s records (NOT the financial records)

Responsibilities include:
- Post notice of meetings
- Assist chairperson in drawing up agenda
- Record minutes
- Deal with correspondence
- Maintain membership records
- Signatory to accounts

Treasurer
- Maintains the Association’s Financial records using MYOB

Responsibilities include:
- Establish and maintain simple procedures for handling the Association’s money
- Monthly direct payments to all canteen suppliers
- Fortnightly employee wages payments to canteen staff
- Quarterly PAYG submissions to the ATO
- Superannuation payments for canteen staff
- EOF Year processing including Group Certificates
- Prepare and present a written financial report for every General Meeting
- Prepare books for audit
- Signatory to accounts

Fundraising Co-ordinator
- Organises and co-ordinates fundraising events

Responsibilities include:
- Hold regular meetings with Fundraising committee
- Decide on Fundraising targets in conjunction with Committee (eg. School fence)
- Research and promote new fundraising opportunities
- Organise (with support from committee) fundraising events

Executive Committee Member
- Manage the affairs of the association when it is not possible for all members to meet