Welcome 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians

It was terrific to catch up with students and parents after the long break. Teachers actually commenced work last week. We used this time for professional development and to set up classrooms so we were all ready and rearing to go today. I would like to especially welcome new families to Tapping. We look forward to welcoming you into our school community and feel confident that the high standards we set at Tapping will ensure positive outcomes for all our students.

Staff Changes
Unfortunately we have lost a number of staff for 2015. These teachers include Mrs Ibraheem, Mr Stuart, Mr Smith, Mrs Scasserra and Mrs Speranza. We wish them all the best at their new schools and thank them for their work at Tapping PS.

Manners
At the commencement of the school year we always have a strong emphasis on manners. At Tapping we believe that good manners are the “lubricating oil” of our school. They help us interact and connect, creating a positive school culture. Unfortunately good manners have become a casualty of today’s busy lifestyles. Teachers at Tapping are excellent role models of good manners. We are careful to use ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ and ask rather than demand. However, good manners start at home. As parents we must prepare our children for every step of the educational journey by equipping them with good manners. Modelling good manners takes commitment. Good manners don’t just suddenly disappear. They slowly slip away, eroded by the stresses of daily living. The foundation of a good school and a safe society is good manners and all the respect, consideration and caring that it entails.

Tapping Primary School APP
We encourage all parents to download the Tapping App so you can be kept updated on all communications from the school. Please follow the instructions below in order to connect. All newsletters are sent out through the app every second Thursday commencing next week.

1. Go to your App store or Play store
2. Search for “Tapping Primary School”
3. Download it for FREE onto your smart phone

Paper newsletters will not be distributed this year, however, copies will be available from front office.

Fun Run/Family Day
Our annual Fun Run fundraiser is on Tuesday March 10. 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. 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.

Please note these dates in your diaries as we combine the Fun Run with a family picnic on the oval.

Fence
The fence is now close to completion which will make a significant difference towards ensuring both the buildings and school community are well protected. Please note that once the gates are in place we will be locking them at 3:00pm each day.

P&C Meetings
We encourage all parents to attend the P&C meetings which take place twice a term. The P&C is an integral part of school life and a great opportunity to raise and discuss issues that affect your children. The P&C also raises valuable funds used to purchase resources and equipment. The good news also is that we commence meetings at 7:30pm and commit to never go any longer than 9:00pm. Our first P&C meeting is on Wednesday Feb 18 in the school library. We hope to see you there.
Uniforms
Thanks to all parents for being so supportive of our school uniform policy. Students and teachers take great pride in the fact that all our students adhere to the policy. This not only generates school pride and raises standards but hopefully makes life easier for parents who can simply point to the uniform policy when students feel under pressure to wear colourful brand shoes, jewellery etc. We do inform parents through a slip note system if there are any issues with school uniform. Please go to our Tapping PS website at www.tappingps.wa.edu.au to view the full policy.

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 encourage all parents to attend. Please refer to dates below for you sessions.

Thursday 12 Feb - Kindy/PP (except LA 3. Mrs Linsley) — One Session only 6pm – 6.30pm

Thursday 19 Feb - Years 1-6.
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.

Staff Car Park
**PLEASE NOTE** that the staff car park cannot be used by parents either for student drop off/pick up or to visit the office. We compromise the safety of students by utilising this area as evidenced in the issues we had last year. This is a busy car park which students should stay away from. Also we have over 100 employees at Tapping PS which use the allocated bays throughout the day. So please work with us and ensure that no parent utilises the staff car park.

Scooters/Bicycles
A reminder that scooters and bicycles must not be taken through school grounds. They must be walked around the school rather than cutting through. Again this will ensure the safety of our students, especially, our younger students. Skateboards need to be carried.

Before School
We request that all students and parents wait in the open area between the under covered area and the library. Please do not sit around the side of the library or outside classrooms. We will have markers out tomorrow that will define the space. This makes it manageable to supervise before the 8:20am siren. Thank you for your cooperation.

Waste Free School
It is estimated that the average school age child will generate three pieces of litter as part of their lunch wrappers every day. This equates to 30 kg of waste per year. For Tapping PS this is approximately 30 tonnes of waste a year produced from lunches alone. Our long term goal is to reduce our overall landfill waste to zero and to ensure that the only waste generated will be food scraps which can be sent to our worm farms and recycling depot. Other benefits of the waste free challenge include:

- Students eating healthier lunches, as they are being provided with less pre-packaged “gimmicky” snack foods and more fresh food,
- Less waste being sent to landfill,
- Cheaper lunches, as food items bought in bulk are less expensive than pre-packaged products,
- Providing students with a practical example of how simple behaviour change can address a widespread environmental issue,
- Promotion of environmental stewardship and advocacy within the school and
- A cleaner school, making Tapping a nicer place to work and assisting students to take pride in their school.

In the classroom and at home
**Discuss with children:**
- What items can be recycled?
- Looking at food in reusable containers.
- Buying in bulk.
- Reuse, recycle, reduce messages.
- No bins policy-taking any waste home.
- Do not bring any litter/wrappers to school.

We have appreciated the effort families have gone to in support of the policy. Thank you.

*Bil@ Boylan,
Principal*