Welcome everyone to the beginning of a new school year, especially all the new families that have joined our school community. We look forward to working with you all over the course of the year to ensure that 2017 is a productive and positive year for all our students.

We welcome our new teaching staff this year including Mr Robinson and Ms Collins and welcome back to Mr Rose. New to Tapping in teaching roles are Ms Duncan and Mr Richards. We also welcome new teacher assistants Mrs Scheepers, Mrs Logan & Mrs Ver Burg for term 1.

Virtues

In my 33 years in education I have continued to see a decline in students’ social, emotional and academic functioning. Many of today’s students come to school emotionally unavailable for learning and there are many factors in our modern lifestyle that contribute to this.

Over the next few newsletters I will highlight the research around why this is happening. Today I will focus on the use of technology.
Technology

As we know the brain is malleable. Through environmental factors we can make the brain stronger or weaker. Unfortunately the latter is happening and technology is partly to blame. Using technology as a “Free babysitting service” is in fact, not “free” at all. The payment is waiting for you just around the corner. We pay with our kids’ nervous systems, with their attention, and with their ability for delayed gratification.

Compared to virtual reality, everyday life is boring. When kids come to the classroom, they are exposed to human voices and adequate visual stimulation as opposed to being bombarded with the graphic explosions and special effects that they are used to seeing on the screens. After hours of virtual reality, processing information in a classroom becomes increasingly challenging for our kids because their brains are getting used to the high levels of stimulation that video games provide. The inability to process lower levels of stimulation leaves kids vulnerable to academic challenges.

Technology also disconnects us emotionally from our children and our families. Parental emotional availability is the main nutrient for child’s brain. Unfortunately, we are gradually depriving our children of that nutrient. Luckily the answer is simple. Limit technology and re-connect with your children. Have meals together, play board games, go for walks, play in the park, exercise together, work together on a project or hobby. These simple things make a massive difference in the long run.

Fun Run/ Family Picnic

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year so we hope all families get behind it. We are hoping to raise over $25 000. Every cent raised will be ploughed back into resources for all the students from K-6.

So keep the date free on your calendar and look for a number of changes this year that will make the day bigger and better than ever.

Years PP - 6— When: Wednesday 8 March

Kindy— When: Monday/Thursday Group -
Thursday 9 March

Tuesday/Friday Group—
Wednesday 8 March

P&C Meeting

The first meeting is on Tuesday 21 February at 7:30 pm in week 4. This will double as the AGM. We welcome all parents especially those that are new to our school this year.

A nomination form for P & C office bearers will be coming home today. Please return this to the office if you wish to nominate.

Parent Information Meetings

Parents of students are invited to the school to meet with the teachers of their children and find out more about the operation of the class.

The pre-primary teachers and Mrs Seaman (Year 1/2) had their meetings this week after school.

All other classes will have their meetings next week on Wednesday 15 February.

Kindergarten meetings 6:00-6:25pm.
(One session only)
Year 1 (Ms Birkelbach, Mrs Luca, Mrs Hall and Mrs Hateley) will meet straight after school 2:45-3:15.
All classes from Years 2- 6 offer two sessions for you to choose from, either 6:00-6:25pm or 6:30-6:55pm.

Nature Play Space

We have a fabulous Nature Play Space which was installed towards the end of last year. It is an ideal place in which children can play and explore and provides the school with a dynamic and stimulating educational environment where teachers can undertake learning programs.

We ask that children do not play on any equipment in the early childhood area before or after school.
Anaphylaxis

Tapping Primary School is concerned about the safety and well-being of all our students. Many of you know someone who is affected by anaphylaxis, a life threatening allergic reaction. Whilst Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia does not promote nut/food bans (Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia, www.allergyfacts.org.au, 2012) they encourage an educative approach to minimise the risk.

Our school does its best to be an allergy aware school. Staff have had training in severe allergy management and we have implemented management strategies regarding food preparation activities and areas, including the school canteen.

We encourage you to not bring these products into the school and to educate your child on the importance of not sharing food, to wash their hands after eating and to seek out an adult if they think their friend with allergies is sick.

We currently have students allergic to: Nuts, tree nuts, dairy, egg, kiwifruit and seafood

If you have any queries, please contact the office.

Scooters and Bikes

It is important that all scooters and bikes are chained/locked in the bike racks as we had a number of scooters stolen last year.

As discussed at the P&C meeting simply locking the gate has not prevented scooters being stolen as thieves simply climb the fence, throw scooters over then retrieve them.

Please remember that scooters and bikes are not allowed to be ridden or brought through the school at any time in order to avoid any safety issues.

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 10 of Term 1, 2017

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.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

As you would be aware, government schools do not have school fees. What we have instead is a system called voluntary school contributions.

At Tapping, this is set at $60.00 a year for each student.

We use these funds to supplement a range of resources for students such as: art and craft materials, resource books, reference materials and teaching aids.

We understand the financial pressures on families particularly this time of the year. We have some families that make a payment of $15.00 for each child at the beginning of each term.

To pay your contribution, you can either pay online via direct debit to BSB : 066 040 Account Number: 19900794 or come to the front office to pay either cash or cheque.

All cheques need to be made out to the school.

We are hoping to increase our collection rate from last year which was 50% of families that paid.

Thank you for your support.

Tapping School App

You are now able to access the newsletter, term calendar, send SMS absence messages and more. To do this follow the steps below on your mobile phone.

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

Hi everyone. Marianne here. I am going to be helping with the distribution of the Scholastic Book Club orders for 2017.

Hopefully you have all received a copy of the 1st Issue Catalogue for 2017. If you have not received a copy you can access it online at [https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au](https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au) where you can log on or register and place an order.

Please ensure you update your child/ren's Year and Class details to ensure all orders are correctly processed. All orders are placed online via Book Club LOOP (there are no paper orders) and must be received by 15 February 2017 for the first issue.

If you have any queries please contact me on: 0405 741505 or email: mazthoroughgood@bigpond.com

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**Canteen News**

Welcome back to all of our students in 2017!

Our first Canteen special for this year will be a **“Super Sausage Sizzle Day”** on Wednesday 8 March in support of our biggest annual fundraising event, the **FUN RUN!!**

The order form will be sent home today and **MUST** be returned to the Canteen Staff by Friday 3 March to receive your Special $4.50 deal on the day.

If you would like a Vegetarian Sausage, please write it on the order form.

Please note: Our normal Canteen menu **WILL NOT** be available on FUN RUN day however; we will be open for students to purchase Drinks & Ice creams etc during lunchtime.

Sausage sizzles will also be available for Parents & Siblings to purchase on the day from the BBQ which will be set up just outside the canteen area.

Thank you to all of our Parents & Students for their wonderful support this Term so far.
Class Parent Representative

A lot of you will now be familiar with Class Parent Representatives. We ran this for the first time last year for kindy to year 1, and we have received great feedback from the reps themselves, as well as parents and teachers. So once again:

We are seeking Class Parent Representatives for 2017
for all Kindy to Year 2 classes.

What is a Class Parent Representative?

- Class Parent Representatives, or Class Reps, are a point of contact for parents and carers of a classroom to communicate with each other
- They distribute information from the P&C and the teachers to the parents/carers
- The class reps have assistance from a co-ordinator and from the other reps

Role of the Class Rep

- The Class Rep will need to set up and administer a Facebook group for the class
- They will make posts to their page as necessary regarding events of the classroom, such as reminders for any money due or free dress days, and establish contact by email or sms with those parents/carers who aren’t members of Facebook
- The Class Reps will forward on information received from the P&C and Class Rep co-ordinator
- Class Reps are required to be members of the P&C. Attending P&C meetings is not compulsory but can be helpful for collecting and communicating information

Why be a Class Rep?

- This is a great way to meet new parents, strengthen existing relationships and to have more involvement in your child’s schooling.

If you would like more information please email tappingpandc@yahoo.com.au or contact:

Pippa Gale: 0409 291 122
Sarah Harris: 0498 244 455

Please join the Tapping Primary School P&C Facebook group for information about upcoming events and information about the school if you are not already a member:

Tapping P&C Communication