Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the 2016 school year at Tannum Sands State School! The beginning of the new year is always such an exciting time, and the start to 2017 at our school has been no exception. I trust the holidays provided everyone with special times with friends and family, and the opportunity to recharge and refresh for the year of learning ahead.

I look forward to working with you all as we continue to build on our previous progress and successes and work towards achieving our “2015 – 2019 Vision” – our four year strategic. We are now half way through our four year strategic plan and I am very proud of our progress in meeting the goals and targets we have set and in implementing our key strategies over the past two years. Our staff have engaged in a range of professional learning and development activities over the Student Free Days last week and I commend and acknowledge them for their positive and professional attitude. Our staff continue to be one of our school’s great strengths.

Staffing Update
Welcome back to all returning staff and welcome to new staff members who were not part of the Tannum Sands State School team in 2017. It is interesting to note that the majority of “new” staff members for 2017 have had some association or connection with our school previously! We welcome Mrs Nicole McKenna to Year 1, Mrs Amanda Swan to Year 4, Mrs Megan Russell and Ms Alison White to Year 5 and Miss Brooke McLeod to Year 6.

The end of 2016 also saw some changes with late moves for Mrs Karyn Baxter, our School Guidance Officer. We also farewell Mr Phil Porteous, Facilities Officer Grounds who takes up a teaching position at the Gladstone Trade Centre and welcome Mrs Fran Rose as our acting Facilities Officer working with Mrs Niki Hellyer.

Tannum Sands State School continues to grow
We have had a number of new students from Years 1 to 6 join our school this year – a warm welcome to all those families new to our school. Tannum Sands State School continues to see enrolment growth and maintenance and in 2017 our school has commenced the year with 29 classes:

4x Prep Year classes,
4x Year 1 classes,
4x Year 2 classes,
4x Year 3 classes,
4x Year 4 classes,
4x Year 5 classes,
5x Year 6 classes.

Principal – Mrs Leanne Ibell
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As mentioned in newsletters last year, Education Queensland staffs schools based on the “Day 8” student enrolment count (e.g. eight days into the new school year – this year this day is Friday 3 February) and if our current enrolment levels are maintained then it is anticipated that our class structure is unlikely to change this year drastically but with some minor adjustments to ensure that where possible classes meet class size expectations. This may result in some restructuring of classes in the school to create some multi age classrooms.

**Our Explicit Improvement Agenda**

In 2017 we will continue our improvement focus in the foundation learning area of Reading particularly focusing on vocabulary development during Term 1. Our school believes that through high expectations, deep knowledge, targeted teaching and continuous monitoring, ALL students at our school can experience high levels of success in this most important foundational skill and building block for learning.

“Tea and Tissues” Wednesday morning, next week, February 1, we are providing an opportunity for parents and carers to share in a tea or coffee and a chat in our Senior Covered Play Area Centre (CPA). This is a time where parents and some of our staff can take some time to chat and connect after what can be a “difficult” (perhaps more for parents than students!) first week of school to come together and share in the sense of community that is one of our school’s growing strengths. Thank you also to members of our school’s P&C Association, Chappy Sandy and our Prep Transition Teacher, Mrs Kelly Lamont-Devlin who will be hosting this event to meet and provide information regarding the important role our P&C, School Chaplain and Transition Teacher undertakes at our school.

**Information and Communication Technologies Update**

Accompanying today’s newsletter, each child will receive a letter outlining information about 3rd party websites and requires this form to be returned by this Friday, 27 January, if you wish your child to be able to access learning programs. Education Queensland is at the forefront of this changing and dynamic field and as such with new information, we are now requesting that all students have a signed permission form from parents to allow our students access to certain programs that we utilise as part of our learning program here at Tannum Sands State School. A significant goal for our school over the last few years has been to improve our use of technology as learning and technology for learning. Of greatest priority was the establishment of a complete “wireless” network across the school campus to promote and ensure the provision of “anywhere, anytime” learning access for our students and staff.

Over the holidays, and aided by the lack of wet weather, contractors have undertaken the refurbishment of three of our teaching blocks. These classrooms look amazing and classes enjoyed the ‘quiet’ of having walls between classes.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all the staff, students, parents and community members who have ensured such a smooth start to the new school year. It has been wonderful to see routines remembered quickly and learning already taking place. We are fortunate to have such a well-deserved and great reputation in and around the community with a very knowledgeable, professional and approachable staff, supportive parents and carers and awesome students. With high standards and high expectations, I am sure 2017 will continue to see our school grow in reputation, achievement and improvement as we all work together towards our school motto: “Sail to Success”. As a high performing school, we always keep our vision, beliefs, and core values at the very heart of our daily work.

I look forward once again to working in partnership with our school community in 2017. Your children are our passion and your genuine involvement in your child’s education can never be understated. With this in mind, we hope to see you either at our Meet the Teacher Afternoons in Week 3, at our P & C meetings or volunteering around our school.

Yours in Education
Mrs Leanne Ibell
Principal
Positive Behaviour for Learning
Tannum Sands State School is a Positive Behaviour for Learning (abbreviated to PB4L) school. Positive Behaviour for Learning is the new name for School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (abbreviated to SWPBS). Each Friday on parade, we focus on a school/class goal for the week as research shows that we need to teach children about behaviour. Better behaviour directly translates to better learning. This is certainly something we are very proud of here at Tannum, both our students’ behaviour and our students’ learning achievement and improvement. Our goal at Tannum Sands State School is to create and maintain a positive and productive learning and teaching environment, where ALL school community members have clear and consistent expectations and understandings of their role in the educational process.

Tannum Sands State School Dress Code
As the new school year commences, I encourage all parents and carers (and students as appropriate) to revisit the Dress Code to confirm what the uniform expectations are at our school. If you are unsure of these expectations, a copy is accessible via our website or available from our office. It is very important that everyone at our school has a shared knowledge and understanding of our policies and procedures. Of particular focus is the wearing of correct coloured shoes – black or white – with the school uniform and school performing arts uniform. I thank our students, parents and carers for ensuring that Tannum Sands State School presents as well as we do – clearly one of the reasons for our continued great reputation in our community (and beyond).

Parking, drop off and pick up around our school
Tannum Sands State School is a big school. With over 700 students enrolled this year, mornings and afternoons are a time of significant congestion on the streets around our school. I ask all parents and carers, and students, to ensure they continue to observe appropriate safe behaviours at drop off and pick up times. When parents and carers are parking and entering our school to drop off and/or pick up students, please note the following:
• There is no parking on school grounds available for parents. When entering our grounds, please ensure you walk out of and into our school, using the paths provided and not walking through either the car park and or “Stop, Drop and Go” zone.
• Consider parking a few streets away and walking a little further.
When parents and carers are using the “Stop, Drop and Go” facilities on Waratah Crescent, please note the following:
• The “Stop, Drop and Go” zone is for dropping off and picking up students - parents should remain in their vehicles and allow students to exit or enter the car from the kerbside. Please do not use the “Stop, Drop and Go” zone as a car park, particularly in the mornings.
• Please pull as far forward as possible in the zone. If you are unable to pull into the zone (e.g. the zone is full), or if you have been waiting longer than two minutes in the zone, you must leave the zone before returning to the zone.
• Students are dismissed at 3pm, so the zone becomes very busy around five past three. It is not nearly as busy five or ten minutes later. Please do not arrive at 2:50pm (or earlier) and “park” in the zone.

The safety and wellbeing of our students are our primary concerns and I again thank all parents and carers for your co-operation and attention to these matters.

Parent Information Evenings
Please note that the dates for our Parent Information Evening for different year levels below. These evenings are conducted on different days to accommodate our families who have children in more than one year level and to also enable, our staff who are also parents, to attend these information sessions.

2017 Parent Information Sessions

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School Photo Day
Thursday March 9
New Parade Times
Friday Parades – Senior Parade – Friday 8.50 am; Junior Parade – 10.00 am trial for Term 1

New Bell Times
8am to 8.30am – If students arrive prior to 8.30am they must report to the Senior Covered Games Area to be supervised until the 8.30am bell. From there they can move to their classrooms. Classrooms will not be open until 8.30am
8.50am – School starts
10.50am to 11.30am – First Break
1.30pm to 2.10pm – Second Break
2.55pm – Bus Bell
3pm – School finishes

Chappy Chat
Welcome to 2017 and back to school! It's wonderful to be back in the swing of things and to see everyone again. For our Preps and newcomers - hopefully there aren't too many tears (including the grown-ups!) Here at Tannum, we look forward to getting to know you and your family.

I'm Chappy Sandy and I thought I'd share with you a little about the chaplaincy role and what I do. As part of our school’s support network, chaplaincy is about making life better in some way for students, staff and families. Chappies provide social, emotional and spiritual support to school communities, helping people to find a better way to deal with life’s issues. Sometimes it’s just being a listening ear and a caring presence, or it may be running life skills programs, brekky club, mentoring leaders, classroom help, lunchtime club or other activities. Mostly, it's about acknowledging that each person is a valued individual and bring hope.

One of my programs is Brekky Club. This happens each Wednesday of the term from 8.00- 8.40am in the hall foyer area. Toast is free, juice is 50c and milo & milk is $2. All welcome. If you feel so inclined, donations of either money or food items are always appreciated. Please contact me if you'd like more information. I'm here at Tannum Sands SS each Wednesday and Thursday. I can be contacted either through the school office, mobile 0404 937 250 or email - sandyb@chappy.org.au

So if you see me around, please make sure you stop and say hi!

Thanks!

Sandy Beak | Chaplain
Gladstone South State School, Tannum Sands State School

"Strive for progress....not perfection."

Tannum Sands Tennis Association
Sign on day for Tannum Tennis for all 2017 tennis is on Sunday the 29th of January from 4pm. Junior coaching will start the following week and Adult fixtures are taking names now. Contact Steven on 0402865487 for more information.