



TOOLANGI PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

“Every Child by Name and Need”

Acting Principal: Mr Andrew Bagnall
Junior School: Mrs Tess Kesting

Principal Report:

Thank-you to all the staff, children and families who came along to celebrate the beginning of the school year at ‘The Night Before’. This is such a unique and special way to start our year together, and a reflection on the community spirit that exists at Toolangi Primary School. I do feel very privileged to step into the huge shoes left by Kay, and I hope to continue the wonderful work that she had led over the past 13 years. I am fortunate to be able to work with Tess, Amanda, Julia, Robyn, Sophie, Andrew, Tracey and Peg who will support me in my role to continue the excellent practice at T.P.S and to ensure we make decisions with children at the centre. Most importantly, I am excited to be in the classroom 4 days a week to work with the Year 3-6 students.

Term 1 Calendar:

Please find attached a calendar for Term 1 with important and helpful dates for you to note. With only 9 weeks in this term, we want our focus to be on the learning that takes place. Where possible, we will make authentic connections with events that align with the school ethos and values, and excursions will be connected to the learning occurring at school. Please note that opportunities sometimes arise with short notice, and when we deem these to be valuable experiences for our students, we will endeavour to provide as much notice and information as possible. Thank-you for your understanding.

Information to be returned to school:

This week we have attached some important information we need returned to school. Please contact the office if you have recently changed any of your contact details (phone, email, postal and residential address etc). We have also attached permission forms for local excursion, and consent forms for use of photos to be published in local press (newsletters, mountain monthly etc). Please return these forms and make sure you circle either the consent, or I do not consent.

Coronavirus and hygiene:

Whilst we are unaware of any family and friends who have travelled to China over the school holidays, we do recognise the significant concern communities have for infection control. We have attached the most recent fact sheet with information for families who might like to know current advice (updated late yesterday afternoon) for infection control at department schools. At Toolangi, we are aware of maintaining good hygiene practices to keep ourselves and others safe and we will continue to promote

healthy hygiene habits without raising unnecessary cause for alarm amongst our students.

Ground works being completed:

Steve Ebbels has been busy over the past few weeks removing rotting hardwood sleepers and replacing them with concrete sleepers along our retaining walls. Steve always does such a neat, professional job and we are fortunate to have someone with his level of expertise and attention to detail working with us. Thanks Steve!

After-school activities:

We would like to gauge the interest from our community in running an after-school sport/activity once a week for this term. This will not replace the After-School program, but will be in addition to it, and run by Andrew. Please complete and return the slip to let us know of your family’s interest/availability. Should we get enough interest, we will run a session each week, starting Week 3.

After-school care:

We currently run a Murrindindi family day care providership after school care program, Monday’s and Tuesdays with Julia to 5.30pm. Students enjoy a healthy afternoon snack and fun games and activities. Fees are subject to Centrelink rebates if your child is fully vaccinated. If you would like your child to attend after school care please contact the office or Julia for an application form and further details.

Reading:

We love seeing our children enjoy reading. We have a fantastic library at school as well as access to both the Murrindindi Library and the MARC library program, so we are usually able to source even the most difficult to find texts through one of these systems. In our senior class, we want to see our children reading each night, and they can take home one (or more) books from these three sources. We will send more information out in the next newsletter about what families can be doing to support reading at home, but please speak with Tess (F-2) or Andrew (3-6) if you would like to know more about what your child is reading or is wanting to read.

Heat (Friday):

Please be aware that Friday is forecast to be a very hot day with temperatures for Toolangi expected to be above 38 degrees. We will manage the heat by ensuring we stay hydrated, and enjoy the shade and cooler conditions under trees and inside during the afternoon.

Fire Safety and BARR School Information:

Toolangi Primary School is on the Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR) which means we are mandated to close the school when the fire danger rating is CODE

RED for our district. When these days are forecast, we will notify families as early as possible so you are aware that students and teachers are not to be at school on that day. Our BARR 'rating' also means that on days of EXTREME fire danger for our fire district, we are required to relocate to a lower risk school. The school for our relocation is Chirnside Park Primary School. Again, we will provide as much notice to families as possible so that you can make a decision about what you would like to do. We understand that many families may prefer to keep children at home when we are required to relocate, and we support you to make the best decision for your family. We would like to find out how many families would plan to relocate (drive children to Chirnside Park Primary School), and how many families would prefer to keep children at home. Given that all our educators live locally, we want to ensure our planning means we are accommodating the safety needs of our students, families and teachers. This information would help us plan for a relocation and manage our staffing appropriately. Please return the form to indicate your preferences for days forecast for EXTREME fire danger.

Swimming Carnival

Our whole school will be attending the local Swimming Carnival on Thursday 27th February, which is held at the Healesville Outdoor Pool. The permission form will be sent with the next newsletter.

Fees and Essential Items

The School Fees and Essential Items charges will be set at the upcoming school council meeting. It is anticipated that charges will remain at \$295 as set last year. These charges help our school to provide a wide range of materials to your child which includes all class stationery, paper, photocopying, text books, reading material, technology equipment, art and craft supplies, maths and science material, cooking requirements and physical education and sporting equipment etc. We also subscribe to several Internet based programs including Mathletics, Literacy Planet and Ziptales which are internet learning and enhancement programs. Our licences also include home use of some of these programs which is a saving of over \$100 if you had chosen to purchase the programs yourself.

CSEF – Camps Sport and Excursion Fund

The CSEF program is a state government initiative to assist eligible families with the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities. To be eligible to apply you must hold a valid means-tested concession card (healthcare card). The allowance of \$125 for primary school students is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities. If you are eligible for this funding or would like further information please see a member of staff for an application form.

Student Absences

Thank you to those parents who have contacted the school to advise of student absences. It is a requirement from the department that all absences be recorded. If your child is not attending school on any particular day due to illness, medical appointment or family time, please notify a member of staff.

Music Lessons

Would your child like to learn Piano or Violin? If so Peg comes to school every Tuesdays and offers private lessons on site. For further information please call Peg on 0414 840 132.

Junior School news

The Junior class have all come back to school with excitement and eager curiosity. Appropriate crayons, pencils, erasers and crayon boxes have been given out to the children as a sign of their stepping into a new class.

Prep children have joined us and will now begin to find their way around the class and the school as they begin life with their "school family".

School is a very big step for these children and their families. Choosing a place for their little one to spend their day is quite a decision these days and I know they too will rejoice in the wonderful community we are.

The following reflection on childhood by Francis Thompson evokes images that inspire me and forever remind me of the privilege I have to be a teacher, and be in the lives of the children I teach.

Know you what it is to be a child?

It is to be something very different from the man of to-day. It is to have a spirit yet streaming from the waters of baptism; it is to believe in love, to believe in loveliness, to believe in belief; it is to be so little that the elves can reach to whisper in your ear; it is to turn pumpkins into coaches, and mice into horses, lowness into loftiness, and nothing into everything, for each child has its fairy godmother in its own soul; it is to live in a nutshell and to count yourself the king of infinite space;

***It is
To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a Heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour;***