

TOWRADGI Public School

NEWSLETTER

Term 4

Week 5

6 November 2015



No Bones About It - Halloween Disco Was A Huge Success!

It was awesome to see so many members of our school community come along and have a 'spookingly' good time at the Halloween Disco last Thursday. As a result of their efforts, the P&C raised approximately \$1000, which will be donated back to the school. Many thanks go to the P&C and their fantastic team of helpers who all worked together to ensure the night was a 'screaming' success.



Only Smiles For Our New Kinders

It has been wonderful to have 22 very eager and excited children visiting our school for the last two Wednesdays as they took part in the Kindergarten Orientation Program. Their orientation concludes with a final session next Wednesday. Following next week's session, look out for some photos and a video of the orientation program on our school weebly and website. Many thanks go to Ms Hockin and Miss Hodcroft for their coordination of this year's program. Special thanks go to our senior buddies who have helped with the transition program and who will be there waiting to help again when these children start on their first day in 2016. We look forward to all of these children and their families joining our wonderful school community.

A Taste Of Big School

A group of children from Towradgi Preschool also got a 'taste' of what big school is all about. They visited our school last Thursday with their preschool teachers as part of their school readiness program. This excursion and our Kindergarten Orientation

Important Dates To Remember

Monday 9 November
4/5 Mystery Skype

Tuesday 10 November
Grammar of Games

BYOD Parent Information
Session - 5pm in the library

P&C AGM - 6:30pm
in the library

Wednesday 11 November
Kindergarten Orientation
Final Session

Remembrance Day
Ceremony - 10:45am

Friday 13 November
Assembly 12:30pm
2 Red Item

Rewards Day

Assembly Awards

K/1 Pink

Mali F, Lucinda C

K/1 Orange

Alex A, Chloe P

2 Red

Misha S, Robert S

3/4 Green

Ruby S, Bernelle O, Bowen E

4/5 Blue

Kayla A, Madeleine D, Kayla P

5/6 Ruby

Evelyn M, Ella R

K-6 Purple

Matthew N

K-6 Yellow

Alexandra H

PBL Award

Zane L, Matthew J

Principal's Award

Samuel R

Bronze Award

Alec R, Christian C

Silver Award

Leith H, Angel H, Peter K, Thomas G, Cameron R, Ethan L, Jacob B, Grace H, Madeleine D, Nour B, Melak H, Max Y, Lily B, Harrison T, Isabella S, Cater T, Katie A, Lily H

Gold Award

Bernard O, Kayla P, Ella P, Vlad K, Misha S, Jesse B, Greta F, Kai D, Alex A, Matthew H, Beau S, Katie H, Oscar N, Scarlett M, Jazia Y, Zane L, Riley A

program are examples of the many ways we work collaboratively with our wider community in supporting successful student transition to school.

More UOW Support Through Grammar of Games

Many thanks go to Greg Forest and the team of students from the University of Wollongong who worked with our staff and students to examine the influences of Games Centred Approaches on teaching primary school students. The sessions had an AFL focus and were highly engaging for both students and staff. We were very fortunate to have this opportunity and very grateful to be able to access the skills and expertise of our wider school community to benefit our students education.



Towradgi Techsperts - True Global Citizens

Following visits by Mr Kemp and Ms Vernon, we established a team of interested students who will be assisting staff to drive our new technology focussed initiatives. The team, consisting of Gus H, Vlad K, Jacob B, Deklan C, Kayla P, Maddy D, Joel H, Dylan V, Jay S and Xavier F is called the 'Towradgi Techsperts'. Last Friday, our Towradgi Techsperts skyped with Mr Kemp, who has since returned to Singapore, and brainstormed their ideas and plans for creating a 'Minecraft Server'. We look forward to sharing in the developments of this exciting project as it evolves. Well done to the team!

5/6 Ruby's Virtual Excursion

The students from 5/6 Ruby yesterday participated in an excursion with NSW Parliament without even leaving the school! Through our connected classroom video-conference facilities, the students undertook a virtual tour of parliament house and learnt all about early democracy in Australia. This is a wonderful example of how we provide authentic learning experiences for our students by using technology to connect them to the real world beyond the classroom.



ToPS Students Demonstrate Positive Behaviours

Our students certainly demonstrate positive behaviours and engagement in their learning. This was evidenced by the number of students who had earned superstars for the recent Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) prize draw. Congratulations go to Zane L and Matthew J, who were the lucky winners of the superstar prize draw at our last assembly. Qualifying students will also be invited to take part in a special Rewards Day extended play afternoon on Friday 13 November. Once again, I would like to congratulate Zane and Matthew and all students who qualify for this special reward.

Swim School Success

During the past two weeks, a number of our students participated in an intensive learn to swim program, which supported the students to develop water confidence. It also provided students with an opportunity to develop basic skills in water safety and survival. This year's program concluded today. Thanks go to Ms Whitmee for coordinating this very worthwhile program for the students and thanks go to Mrs Duncan for assisting with supervision.



BYOD Survey Feedback

Many thanks to those families who kindly provided valuable feedback in relation to our proposed Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy. In response to questions that were asked by the respondents, Mr Pritchard will be holding a parent information session in the library at 5pm next Tuesday 10 November (leading into the P&C AGM). The session will be recorded and uploaded to the school website for those parents who may be unable to attend the meeting. It is hoped that the parent information session will provide research-based information, answer parent questions, address any concerns and allay any fears that parents may have in relation to the BYOD project.

World Education Games (WEG) High Achievers

Congratulations to 4/5 Blue who through their recent participation in the World Education Games raised 23,380 Unicef points. These points will be translated into 'Schools in Box' for disadvantaged students around the world. Special congratulations go to Vlad K who was our overall top scoring WEG student on 2,127 points. Vlad was also our top scoring World Literacy Day student. Congratulations also go to Thomas G who was our top scoring Numeracy Day student. What absolutely outstanding academic achievements!

School Weebly

Check out what's happening in each class.



www.towradgips2015.weebly.com

Students know the password

Reminders

Lost Property

Remember to check the lost property box for lost items. Currently, there is a large amount of unclaimed belongings that will be donated to a local charity should they remain unclaimed.

5 Cent Fridays

Send in your loose change for Year 6 Fundraising

School Banking

Keep depositing money to receive great prizes.

Parent helpers are needed from 9am - 10am. Please let the Office know if you can assist.

Breakfast Club

Every Friday morning
\$1 per family

Joggers Club Term 4

Thursday and Friday mornings
from 8.30am on the oval



K-6 Purple Class News

K-6 Purple have been very busy both in class and outside. We have continued with our cooking program and the students have enjoyed many delicious meals including, pumpkin soup, chicken and meat pies, fried rice, nachos, hamburgers and spaghetti. We always invite a special guest to dine with us. We have commenced our Sports Ready Program again and everyone is having lots of fun learning new game skills and practicing in a supported environment. This term we are learning AFL game skills which ties in perfectly with the Grammar of Games Program we are involved in with the senior classes.

Of course everybody loved visiting Healthy Harold in the Life Education van. We learnt about what we need to do to keep our bodies safe. Our class took part in the CUA fun run and got lots of sponsors and helped to raise money for the new Sensory Room which will be built next year. Jade received a recognition medal for being one of three students who raised the most money for our school. Our class raised the most money and have also won a pizza party. We loved performing our assembly item – 'row your boat' for everybody. It took a lot of practice but I'm sure you'll agree, it was a fantastic item.

ToPS Students Are Tops in ICAS Competition

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. ICAS are developed annually for primary and secondary school students in the subject areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

I am pleased to note that a number of our students challenged their capabilities by involving themselves in this year's ICAS competitions. Whilst I would like to congratulate all students who participated, I would particularly like to acknowledge the following outstanding academic achievements:

- Eloisa T – awarded a high distinction for Digital Technologies
- Jackson G – awarded distinctions in Mathematics and Science
- Vladyslav K – awarded distinctions in Digital Technologies and Science and a merit for Mathematics
- Thomas G – awarded a distinction in Mathematics and a merit in Science
- Lily B – awarded credits for English, Mathematics and Science
- Nina S – awarded a credit for Mathematics
- Alec R - awarded a credit for Mathematics
- Elspeth A – awarded a credit for Digital Technologies
- Kate R - awarded a credit for Digital Technologies



We Will Remember Them

November 11 is a day that has been set aside to commemorate the lives of those lost in armed conflicts. It is also a great opportunity to honour and thank the many men and women who have served and are still serving on behalf of our country in times of conflict and war. We will be holding our special Remembrance Day ceremony from 10:45am on 11 November and all members of our school community are invited to attend.

Mystery Skype To Challenge Critical Thinking Skills

The students of 4/5 Blue will once again be participating in a Mystery Skype on Monday 9 November. A Mystery Skype is a critical thinking challenge that students engage in while skyping with another class somewhere else in the world. The goal is to guess the other school's location before they guess ours. The students do this while only asking yes or no questions. This Mystery Skype is certain to be a valuable learning experience for the students of 4/5 Blue and will build upon their skills of collaboration, as they work together to maximise their abilities. Good luck 4/5 Blue!

Important Date For The Calendar - P&C AGM

Next Tuesday 10 November at 7:00pm, the P&C will hold its AGM, which will be followed by their regular monthly meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage as many parents as possible to come along and take part in the meeting. These meetings are great social get-togethers and are great opportunities for parents to gain a better understanding of what is happening at our school. They also provide opportunities for parents to have input into the future directions of the school and/or become involved in the activities of the P&C.

We are especially hoping that some new parents will come along and possibly become involved in executive positions on the school's P&C. It is also important that we support those parents who have worked so hard for the school over a long period of time. Hope to see you there!

Dress Like A Tradie - Help Fundraise For Our New Lego Wall

The Towradgi PS SRC have decided that they would like to create a 'Makerspace' in our computer lab. The first task they wish to undertake is to build a huge lego wall – which will consist of a large amount of building pads glued to the wall to design 3D art - and to just be creative! In keeping with the construction theme, the SRC will be holding a 'Dress Like a Tradie' mufti day on 19 November. Participants are asked to donate funds and/or lego to help the SRC bring their 'Makerspace' project to fruition. All donations will be gratefully received.

Planning For Classes In 2016

We are beginning to organise classes for next year and it would be appreciated if any families, new or leaving, could let us know as soon as possible so that we can accurately set up for the 2016 school year. At this stage, in order to meet the individual needs of the students, we are considering the following class organisation: Two K/1 classes, a 1/2, 3/4, 4/5 and a 5/6 class. This is of course, subject to student enrolment numbers at the beginning of the 2016 school year.

Term 4 - Flying By!

It's hard to believe we have almost reached the half way mark of term 4 already. We have so much to look forward to over the remaining weeks and I look forward to celebrating and sharing many more good news stories with our school community along the way!

Cathy Broadbridge
Principal



“Live To Learn”

Towradgi Public School PARENTS & CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AGM and General Monthly Meeting

The P&C AGM will be held next Tuesday 10th November in the library at 6.30pm, followed by the general monthly meeting at 7pm. At the AGM all official positions will be vacated and representatives elected for the 2015/2016 year. These positions include President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and Uniform Coordinator. Please join us and see how the P&C support the school, and have a say on how funds are spent. If you are interested in getting involved - details of positions, agenda items or ideas can be forwarded to Melanie melaniepender@hotmail.com

Fundraising Toy Catalogues

Order ASAP to ensure delivery by Christmas! Don't forget to specify Towradgi Public School as your nominated centre.

Artwork Fundraiser

Thanks to all the families who purchased personalised artwork products. The P&C have raised over \$300.

Halloween Disco

A great "spooktacular" night was enjoyed by over 150 kids from more than 80 school families. It was great to see so many parents stay and socialise as well. A special thanks to all those who helped organize and assist on the night, including Mo'Java Coffee and Kens Cones. And a special thanks to Claude from Pro Sound and Lighting for generously donating music and lighting equipment. The evening was a great success and raised around \$1000 for the P&C.

Kinder Orientation

Thanks to those parents who joined us for the 2016 Kinder Parent Information Session last Wednesday. A special thanks to Renee Stewart for recently taking on the Uniform shop and for presenting at the information session. A reminder that sports uniforms have a long delivery timeframe – so now is a good time to get orders in for next year! Price List/Order forms are in the office foyer.

Christmas Raffle

Wednesday 9 December (Drawn at the Annual K-2 play).

Calling out to all families to help source gifts or vouchers as prizes. Please consider donating a prize from your business, or ask for a donation from a local business of which you are a regular customer. We are also seeking donations for hampers. Donations can be left in the box in the school office. Make sure your donation is clearly labelled with your child's name and class and they will receive a ticket in a bonus prize draw.

Bunnings BBQ

Saturday 5 December Towradgi PS P&C has been given this great pre-Christmas slot. Previously we have raised over \$1500 at each BBQ. We have sent out a separate letter asking for volunteers to take a shift and help make this another successful fundraiser. If you are interested in helping with the pre- organisation and/or set-up on the day please contact Mark McCarthy ASAP.



Next Meeting

Next meeting November 10, 6.30pm in the Library.

Please contact Melanie Pender, if you have any ideas or agenda items. Remember the P&C is your forum within the School, its success depends on your input!
melaniepender@hotmail.com