

TOWRADGI Public School

NEWSLETTER

Term 3

Week 3

5 August 2016



Celebrating Education Week Together

Education Week is a time to celebrate the achievements and successes of our students, teachers and support staff. Driven by our school plan to constantly improve the educational opportunities and outcomes of our students, I am extremely proud of all we have achieved to date this year. Families and friends who visited the school on Wednesday for the open day were able to see first hand some of the wonderful new programs and initiatives that are happening in our school.

Many thanks are extended to everyone who visited the school on Wednesday. Thanks also to our wonderful staff for their highly valued contributions and for continuing to make our public school such an inspiring and positive place for our students to learn and grow.



Important Dates To Remember

Monday 8 August

Surf Educate Australia Visit
Southern Stars Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday 9 August

Southern Stars Dance Rehearsal
P&C Meeting 7pm in the Library

Wednesday 10 August

Literary Lunch
Sporting Schools starts 3pm-4pm
Towradgi PS Hosting NIAECG
Meeting in the library from 3:45pm

Thursday 11 August

Sporting Schools 3pm-4pm

Friday 12 August

Assembly- 4/5 Gold Item, SRC
Induction and visit from RSPCA

Monday 15 August

Southern Stars Dance Rehearsal

Tuesday 16 August

ICAS Mathematics Competition

Wednesday 17 August

Book Week Parade 9:15am
Sporting Schools 3pm-4pm

Thursday 18 August

Repeat 'Focus On Reading'
Information Session from 8:25am
Yrs 3-6 Classrooms reopened
from 9:00-10:00am
Sporting Schools 3pm-4pm



Assembly Award Congratulations

K/1 Diamond

Emma C, Jamison B, Jayden P

K/1 Emerald

Liam V, Stevie S, Riley A, Alex A

1/2 Opal

Kai D, Kelsie G, Isabella S

3/4 Sapphire

Ethan G, Misha S, Jayden A

4/5 Gold

Kayla A, Cameron R, Shyanne P

5/6 Onyx

Geordie M

K-6 Pearl

Jade S

K-6 Amber

Baily S, Jaimon Y

Bronze Awards

Jack C, Scarlett M, Bradly A, Kelsie G,
Tahni L, Diorlouise C, Kayla A

Silver Awards

Isabella P, Katie A, Yasmine P,
Emma P, Lachlan S, Mali F, Aiden C,
Beau S, Kai D, Angus S, Lucinda C,
Lilli Y, Dash M, Marcus S, Bernelle O,
Toby B, Harrison T, Emily H, Nour B,
Maddison S, Lily B, Melak H, Misha S,
Ava S

Positive Behaviour For Learning (PBL) Congratulations

Congratulations go to Matthew N and Jazia Y, who were the lucky winners of the superstar prize draw at our last assembly.

Parents Informed and Teachers Ready To 'Focus On Reading'

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the 'Focus on Reading' information session at our Open Day last Wednesday. Mr Pritchard will be running a repeat session again at 8:25am in the library on Thursday 18 August for anyone who may have been unable to participate.

'Focus on Reading 3-6' is an intensive professional learning program for teachers to support the explicit teaching of the key aspects of reading in the middle and upper primary years, namely comprehension, vocabulary and reading text fluency. The program draws from a sound research base that justifies the need for these key aspects to be at the forefront of literacy teaching and learning in the middle years.

All teachers at Towradgi Public School are participating in this professional learning. You are encouraged to talk to your child's teacher about their progress through the K-10 Literacy continuum and about how 'Focus on Reading' will be used in the classroom. For further support and information please contact Mr Pritchard.

Our ToPs Stars Shine Brightly At Rehearsals

Our dance and choir groups have been rehearsing hard and are completely 'buzzing' with excitement as they eagerly prepare for Southern Stars. If you haven't done so already, don't forget to purchase your tickets through Ticketek. Remember also to check for regular updates and look out for our students in the rehearsal photographs that are displayed on Facebook, Twitter or on the Southern Stars website: <http://www.southernarts.det.nsw.edu.au>.

Year 3-6 Classrooms Reopen

It was very unfortunate that our Education Week Open Day clashed with the Southern Stars choir rehearsal last Wednesday. We apologise and would like to reopen the 3/4 Sapphire, 4/5 Gold and 5/6 Onyx classrooms on Thursday 18 August from 9:00am-10:00am to provide an opportunity for those parents who were unable to participate in the Education Week Open classrooms the opportunity to do so. The open classrooms will follow Mr Pritchard's repeat information session on 'Focus on Reading'.

ToPS Acknowledges and Celebrates NAIDOC Week

The National NAIDOC Committee encourages all Australians - young and old - to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To celebrate NAIDOC week this year, our students created a collaborative hand art project which was displayed in office in the form of a tree of hands themed: Our History, Our Story, Our Future- this year's theme for Reconciliation Week.



Special Thanks!

Many thanks go to Marcia Harley for kindly donating a beautiful Aboriginal painting to the school. The painting titled, 'Kurrajong Bush Medicine Leaves' was painted by Aboriginal Artist Louise Numina and is now proudly displayed in our office foyer. Pop into the office to find out more!

ToPS Proudly To Host Next NIAECG Meeting

Our local Northern Illawarra Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (NIAECG) invites members of our school community to attend their meetings. Towradgi Public School will be proudly hosting the next meeting on Wednesday 10 August from 3:45pm in the school library. Come along and share in all of the wonderful achievements of our Northern Illawarra AECG!

Brokers Athletics Success

Last Friday was the Brokers District Athletics carnival. We took a team of 44 students who all tried their very best and behaved beautifully. The weather was wonderful and an enjoyable day was had by all. Our school performed very well again and finished 5th in the overall championship, and 3rd in the percentage championship (which takes into account the size of the school). 10 Towradgi PS students finished in the top 4 in their event(s), and congratulations go to Max T, Alec R, Brad N, Toanui T and Joel S who have automatically qualified for the South Coast Regional Athletics carnival to be held in Canberra on 9 September. Deklan C finished 2nd in the 800m and will have to wait to see if his time is good enough to get him through to the regional carnival. Good luck to our students as they compete at the next level.

Towradgi Preschool's 'Taste of Big School'

As part of transition to school activities, the children from Towradgi Preschool and Long Day Care Centre participated in an excursion to our school. During their excursion, they were able to ask questions and experience activities in the classroom and playground and find out for themselves what 'big school' will be like when they start Kindergarten next year.

Enrolling Now For Kindergarten 2017

Following our Big School Information Evening last week, we are currently preparing to form a panel to review out of area Kindergarten placements for next year. If you know of anyone in our local area who will be starting Kindergarten next year, and they have not already contacted the school, please encourage them to do so as a matter of importance.

'Sea of Denim' on Jeans for Genes Day

Today we raised much needed funds and awareness for the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) by participating in Jeans for Genes day. Our SRC students ran lessons in classrooms teaching their peers about genetics and discussing the importance of the work of CMRI, who tirelessly research genetic deficits and childhood diseases. Thank you to all of those who donated. Our school has again made a valuable contribution to this worthy cause, all while looking fabulous in denim!

ToPS develops Strong Leaders of the Future

At Towradgi Public School, we recognise the need to develop confident leaders of the future and respond by providing a diverse leadership program. At the next assembly our newly elected SRC representatives for semester two will complete their induction. These students will undoubtedly fulfil their new SRC roles with great pride. Congratulations to all outgoing and incoming SRC Representatives. Towradgi Public School is very privileged to have such an active and enthusiastic SRC.

County Fair Preparations Begin!

This year's County Fair is scheduled for Thursday 15 September and classes are now starting to get prepared. If anyone has anything to donate to the trash and treasure stall, please send it in any time now. Your support is greatly appreciated!

School Weebly

Check out what's happening in each class.



www.towradgips.weebly.com
and our new SeeSaw app

What's Due and When?

Activity Payment	Amount	Due Date
Weekly Swimming Lessons	\$9 for weekly payments	Weekly each Wed
S Stars Excursion	\$30	10 August
S Stars Dance Group	Overall Total Cost \$100	19 August
S Stars Choir Group	Overall Total Cost \$45	overdue
Yr 5/6 Bathurst Camp	4th Instalment \$50	5 August
Sports Ready Grp Day	\$10	16 August

P&C News

This Sunday the P&C are coordinating a Bunnings BBQ and they still need your help! Come along if you can spare some time to help or to buy a sausage sizzle. All contributions will be greatly appreciated!

The P&C will be meeting again in the library at 7pm next Tuesday 9 August. We hope to see some new and some 'old' faces come along!

Engaging 21st Century Learners



Sporting Champion

Back in May, Alec R travelled to Goulburn to compete in the Regional Rugby Union trials. Alec performed very well and was selected in the South Coast Regional team. On 23-25 August, Alec will join the team in Dubbo to compete at the NSW State Championships.

Good luck Alec and congratulations on this wonderful achievement!



Sporting Champion

Special congratulations to Max T who was crowned the 11 years boys champion at the Brokers District Athletics Carnival. Max broke the district record for the 800m.

What an awesome achievement!

Consultation Around Ethics Classes

Ethics classes are available in NSW public primary schools as an option for children who don't attend Special Religious Educations (SRE/scripture). We are currently investigating the possibility of running Ethics classes at Towradgi PS. We are seeking feedback in the form of expressions of interest from parents who may like to complete training in order to deliver the Ethics classes, as well as determining the number of children who may possibly take part. More information has been sent home today with students who are currently participating in our non-scripture class.

SEA Delivering Vital Surf Safety Messages

On the back of the success of last year's program, representatives from Surf Educate Australia (SEA) will be visiting the school next Monday 8 August to deliver important Surf Education and Water Safety messages to our students at no cost to families. Later in the year, our primary students will be invited to take part in an excursion to the beach where they will participate in vital surf survival activities.

Good Sports To Kick Off Sporting Schools Program

The Sporting Schools program will commence next week and the program has already proven to be extremely popular amongst the students. If your child is unable to keep their commitment to the term three program, please contact the school as soon as possible so that a place can be offered to those students in waiting. Many thanks go to Mrs Warner for her coordination and supervision of this fantastic after school program.

Students Take Part in Literary Lunch

The Primary School Literary Lunch gives students the opportunity to have lunch with authors, illustrators and storytellers from across NSW. Eight students will represent our school at this year's Literary Lunch which will be held at The Fraternity Club on Wednesday 10 August.

Book Fair Thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many children enthusiastic about reading! The fair hasn't been finalised yet, but so far we have raised more than \$1000, which means that 30% of our sales comes back to our school as new books and resources for our library!

Book Characters On Parade

This year our Book Week Parade will be held on the morning of Wednesday 17 August and it is time to start thinking about your costume! This year's Book Week theme is Australia – Story Country, so this might be a great opportunity to dress as your favourite character from a book by an Australian author, for example; Aaron Blabey, Andy Griffiths, Libby Hathorn, Sonya Hartnett, Alison Lester or Sally Rippin. However, this is optional. Students can dress as any character from a children's book. They could even bring the book along to carry in the parade.

During the middle session, students will be treated to a performance from the staff of Corrimall Library based on this year's shortlisted books. It will be a fun session full of stories and activities that we are sure the students will enjoy.

We can't wait to see everyone dressed in their costumes, ready for an enjoyable day celebrating the wonder of books and storytelling.

P&C Meeting

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 August at 7pm in the school library. All school community members are welcome to attend.

Short Term Staffing Change

Mrs Green will be taking leave from 8 August and will be returning on Friday 26 August. Ms Kokoska will relieve as Class Teacher of K/1 Diamond during that time.

Cathy Broadbridge
Principal