

TOWRADGI Public School

NEWSLETTER

Term 3

Week 5

19 August 2016



Ignition for Southern Stars 2016

With just two weeks to go until Southern Stars 2016 **ignite** hits the floor at the WIN Entertainment Centre preparations are in full swing with students taking part in a wide range of dance, drama, vocal and music rehearsals around the state.

To keep up with all the news about **ignite**, including recent media stories and picture galleries, videos from rehearsals, as well as profiles of performers and teachers involved in the show, visit the **Southern Stars – The Arena Spectacular** Facebook site. Make sure you “like us” and share with your friends and family!

ignite, featuring over 3000 public school children, will take place over four performances at the WIN Entertainment Centre in Wollongong on Friday August 26 (10am and 7.30pm) and Saturday August 27 (2pm and 7.30pm).

You don't have to have a child involved in the show to come along. Southern Stars is a two hour arena style variety show with something for everyone, but most of all it is packed full of great entertainment and guaranteed to be the best show you will see all year.

The buzz around the show is growing daily and tickets are selling more quickly this year than ever before so we encourage you to buy your tickets early through Ticketmaster (Adult \$48, Pensioner and student over 12 \$38, Student/Child under 12 \$27).

Last year Southern Stars enjoyed a couple of sell out shows so get your tickets as soon as possible to make sure you don't miss out!



Important Dates To Remember

Wednesday 24 August

Southern Stars Rehearsals
Sporting Schools 3pm-4pm

Thursday 25 August

Southern Stars Rehearsals
Sporting Schools 3pm-4pm

Friday 26 August

Southern Stars Matinee Show
Southern Stars Excursion
Southern Stars Evening Show

Saturday 27 August

No Assembly
Southern Stars Matinee Show
Southern Stars Evening Show

Monday 29 Aug-Friday 2 Sept
SASS Staff Recognition Week

Thursday 1 September

Father's Day Stall 8:30am

Friday 2 September

K-6 Purple and K-6 Amber
Sports Ready Group Day

Wednesday 7 September

NIAECG Meeting 3:45pm
University of Wollongong

Friday 9 September

Assembly - 5/6 Onyx item

Thursday 15 September

County Fair

Assembly Award Congratulations

K/1 Diamond

Charlie A, Lucinda C, Kade C

K/1 Emerald

Toby B, Rand H, Oscar N

1/2 Opal

Talia D, Abdu B, Oliver S

3/4 Sapphire

Eve R, Jake R

4/5 Gold

Angus S, Jamieka S, Eamon W

5/6 Onyx

Kayla P, Jack S, Dylan V

K-6 Pearl

Kai S

K-6 Amber

Alexandra H

Bronze Awards

Alexis T

Silver Awards

Liam V, Rand H, Chloe P, Taylor W,
Oliver S, Katie H, Xavier F, James R,
James C, Lawrence D, Lily R, Pip L

Positive Behaviour For Learning (PBL) Congratulations

Congratulations go to Kurt R and
Lacey S, who were the lucky winners
of the superstar prize draw at our
last assembly.



Aussie of the Month

Angel H

The Great Turnip Debate

The Towradgi Turnips ventured out to Mount Ousley PS for the playoff round of the Premier's Debating Challenge. The nerves were high but a solid plan and the confidence of making it this far spurred them on! It was a tough battle debating that 'The media should not share the private lives of celebrities'. In the end, The Turnips were narrowly defeated. We are very proud of the team's effort and sportsmanship.



A Big Parade Of Book Characters

What a wonderful day was had last Wednesday, celebrating all things books! The day started with our annual Book Parade. The students (and teachers!) looked absolutely fantastic in their costumes, and we were treated to four students reading their submissions for our upcoming book – **'Towradgi, Story School'**. Thank you to everyone for getting involved in the day, and dressing up. A special thank you to Mr Ratcliffe for lending us his skills as DJ and MC!

In the mid session our school was treated to a hilarious and interactive performance by the staff of Corrimal Library. Students watched Readers' Theatre performances from a number of the shortlisted and notable books from this year's Children's Book Council Awards, and then participated in a heated match of students vs students in a number of different games. Everyone had a fabulous time, and we can't wait to have them back next year.



Helping Your Child To Focus On Reading At Home

Mr Pritchard held a repeat information session yesterday for parents around the new 'Focus on Reading' program that we are introducing as part of our school plan to improve our students' learning. A copy of the handout that was distributed to those in attendance has been sent home with students today. The handout has information about the program but more importantly, has some great ideas for parents to help their children with comprehension when reading texts at home. We trust that parents will find the bank of questions very helpful.

Reporting On Student And School Achievement

NAPLAN results were sent home today. If parents need any help reading or understanding these results, please contact your child's teacher. The NAPLAN results provide our school with valuable information that helps with future school planning. Staff are in the process of doing a deep analysis of the NAPLAN results and are discussing ways we can use the results to improve outcomes for individual students and the school as a whole.

The Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

We are delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the **Tell Them From Me** student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

You may remember that our students also participated in a **Tell Them From Me** student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 26 August. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

The Partners in Learning Parent Feedback Survey

This Term, our school will be participating in the **Partners in Learning** parent survey, another part of the **Tell Them From Me** suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Your Trash Could Be County Fair Treasure

Remember to send in items for the 'Trash and Treasure' stall which will be held at the upcoming County Fair. We are also calling for donations of books for the book stall and will be asking closer to the date for donations of cakes/slices for the cake stall. All donations will be 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
Yr 5/6 Bathurst Camp	5th Instalment \$50	9 Sept
Sports Ready Grp Day	\$10	overdue

Teachers Dress Up For Book Week Too



Yummy Fun At The Literary Lunch

On the 10th of August, Jameika, Tia, Chelsea, Ariana, Charlotte, Max, Tom, Angus H and Mrs Heino all went for a walk to the Fraternity Cub for a Literary Lunch.

When we got there, there were fifteen illustrators and authors and students from fifteen schools. Each table had an illustrator or an author for the students to sit with. Towradgi PS sat with an illustrator named Tony Flowers. He drew us each a picture on a balloon for us to take home, and showed us his drawings from before they went into his books.

We all had an opportunity to get autographs from famous authors and illustrators. After getting the autographs, we all sat down and heard from each author and illustrator about themselves and their books. We learnt some interesting things. Then we got to have some delicious lunch! For lunch we had spring rolls, sandwiches, meatpies, sausage rolls and fruit. It was yum.

Once we had finished lunch, we got to speak to more of the special guests. Then, our personal favourite illustrator, Tony Flowers, taught us how to draw different things and change them into spectacular drawings! Ariana even got to help out. He also read some of his awesome book. This went for about forty minutes.

It was a great day and we all had so much fun. We are so happy that we got invited and really hope to go again next year. Thanks Mrs Heino.

By Jameika, Charlotte and Chelsea.

Softfall for Safety Project Comes To Fruition

During the last school holidays, synthetic rubber was laid under the trees in the back playground. This was part of the 'Softfall for Safety' project that was a joint initiative of the P&C and the school. The project was also supported by the award of a School Community Partnerships Grant provided by Noreen Hay, our independent representative of the NSW State Government. It was awesome to see this project finally come to fruition and we thank everyone who contributed to this great project, of which our students are greatly benefiting!



P&C Meeting

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 September at 7pm in the school library. All school community members are welcome to attend.

Cathy Broadbridge
Principal



Towradgi Public School PARENTS & CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Farewell to Our Fantastic Fundraising Coordinator

We bid farewell to Ali and her family. She has been an unstoppable force within the P & C as fundraising coordinator, but has done so much more. She was always willing to put up her hand (or Dan's) for anything that was needed, doing it with a smile and the only reward was knowing she was making a difference for the children. We wish you much happiness in your new adventures!

Father's Day Stall Update

We are looking forward to Father's Day and the P&C will again be running a Father's Day stall at school, on Thursday, 1 September from 8:30am. There will be a great variety of gifts for your child(ren) to choose for their special father/grandfather/carer.

This year we are collecting money prior to the stall so the correct amount of gifts can be ordered. All gifts will be \$5.00 each. Remember to return your gift order slips and money as soon as possible and if anyone can help serving at the stall, please let us know.

P&C's New Secretary

The P&C now has a new Secretary, Brendan (and Sarah) who were elected at our last meeting. We sincerely thank them for taking on the role.

Next Meeting

We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the school library. The P&C works to provide assistance to the school, be it financial contributions or through resourcing the teachers and students. Parents and members of the school community are welcome to attend the meetings to offer ideas, support and to discuss issues relating to the education of our children. We hope you can come along to the next meeting which will be held on Tuesday 13 September.

