

# TOWRADGI Public School

## NEWSLETTER

Term 1

Week 1

2 February, 2018



### Great Start to 2018

Welcome to the 2018 school year! We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some quality time with your families. It was great to see our students and staff return to school happy, healthy and well rested. 2018 promises to be a year packed with engaging and productive learning experiences for us all. The start of this week has welcomed a number of new students to our school. A big warm welcome is also extended to our new teachers for 2018 and we look forward to sharing and learning with you all throughout the year. Best Start Assessments for new Kindergarten students were carried out this week and today we had 29 new Kindergarten students attend their first day at 'big school'. I am sure you will all join me in making our new students and their families feel welcome in our very generous and supportive school community.



### Classes for 2018

Our school numbers have continued to grow this year and as a result we have formed our classes as follows:

<b>K Emerald</b>	Ms Sarah King	<b>4/5 Gold</b>	Mr Luke Fleming
<b>K Diamond</b>	Miss Aimee Monash	<b>5/6 Onyx</b>	Mr Brent Pritchard
<b>1 Ruby</b>	Mrs Pauline Green	<b>K-6 Pearl</b>	Ms Kim Hilton
<b>2 Opal</b>	Mrs Jane Lieschke	<b>K-6 Amber</b>	Miss Alyce Speed
<b>3 Sapphire</b>	Mr John Santos	<b>EIU Topaz</b>	Mrs Nakia Bennett and Mrs Ingrid Gooda

Mrs Kelly Brsakovski will be teaching RFF each Monday and Miss Serap Birgin will be teaching RFF and Library each Monday, Thursday and Friday for weeks 1-3 while Mrs Heino is still teaching each Tuesday and Wednesday. It is anticipated that Miss Birgin will replace Miss Heino during her maternity leave for the duration of the year. Congratulations to Mrs Whitmee who was successful in gaining a promotion as Assistant Principal Support at Waniora P.S starting this year. Until we have a permanent teacher to replace her we are fortunate to have Miss Alyce Speed teaching

### Important Dates To Remember

#### Wednesday 7 February

Swimming Carnival

#### Friday 9 February

Assembly - 2pm

#### Monday 12 February

Meet the Teacher - 2 Opal - 8.25am

#### Tuesday 13 February

Meet the Teacher - 3 Sapphire- 8.25am

#### Wednesday 14 February

Meet the Teacher - 1 Ruby - 8.25am

#### Thursday 15 February

Meet the Teacher - 5-6 Onyx - 8.25am

#### Friday 7 February

Meet the Teacher - 4-5 Gold - 8.25am

#### Monday 19 February

Meet the Teacher - Kindergarten 4pm

Welcome BBQ - 4.30-6pm

# Achieving a quality education for all students in a caring environment

## Organisational Changes

### Assembly Time.

In response to feedback from both staff and families we have changed our Friday assembly start time to be 2pm. This reduces the interruption of core teaching and learning time and increases the opportunity for working parents to attend assembly as it is a little later in the afternoon.

### Sport and Fitness

Sport lessons will be implemented each Friday and fitness will be included on Wednesdays and other days in accordance with DoE policy. This means that students are to wear their sports uniform each Friday.

During the next few weeks all students will be practising for the cross country and so fitness activities will include running in preparation for the cross country.

The physical activities run by UOW will be held later this term each Wednesday afternoon, similar to last year. When these activities are being held students will be expected to wear their sports uniform each Wednesday as well as Friday for regular sport. Further details will follow in the weeks to come.

### Morning Assembly

This is an important time for teachers to communicate daily organisational information to students across the school. It is imperative that all students arrive at school by 8.55am or any time after 8.25am each day. If for any reason your child arrives at school after this time they are required to go to the office for a late note. We thank you for your support in this.

### Allergy Awareness

Due to a number of students in our school having been diagnosed with severe allergic/anaphylactic reactions to nuts we respectfully request that, where possible, sandwich fillings including peanut butter, nutella etc and snack bars containing nuts are not included in school lunch boxes. These students are learning how to manage their allergies in the wider school community with the support of their teachers and peers.

K-6 Amber The class teaching and learning program will continue to be effectively individualised and supported through this transition.

As you are aware, our student numbers dictate the number of staff (teaching and non-teaching) we are allocated as a school from the Department of Education. Our school is also allocated a limited amount of funds to employ teachers and School Learning Support Officers. This is to ensure a high standard of teaching learning opportunities are afforded to meet the needs of all children in our school.

Our school has decided to fund an extra teacher to create smaller class sizes K-2 and to more intensively target the individual learning needs of all children K-6 whilst supporting classroom teachers. This means that each Assistant Principal will be sharing their expertise and working one day each week in other classrooms, supporting teachers and students. Classroom teachers will have more 'real time' opportunities to conference with the Assistant Principal who will mentor and work collaboratively with them to develop teaching and learning programs that best engage and aim to improve the learning outcomes for all students.

As mentioned before we welcome some new staff into our school for 2018. These teachers bring with them a wealth of valuable experiences and expertise in a range of curriculum areas. Together with the skills and deep knowledge of the substantive staff the students at ToPS are in dynamic and exciting hands.

The Early Intervention program has begun with enrolment of 16 students attending session throughout the week. We warmly welcome them and their families.

## Term Calendar

As there are still a few more dates to confirm, the term calendar will be sent out next week. Please take some time to have a look at the planned activities for this term. Remember to continue to check the fortnightly newsletters for updates, additions and changes that inevitably occur. We trust that you continue to find this calendar a useful source of information about our school activities and planning.

In addition we encourage each family to add the Skoolbag app to your phone so that you can be immediately made aware of any changes or reminders that may be coming up at school through a notification that you can be alerted to.

## Parent Information Sessions

Whilst parents/carers are encouraged to contact their child's class teacher and make appointments to address individual needs at any time throughout the year, class teachers will be conducting special parent sessions to provide information about their class routines and planned activities for 2018. Parent/carer attendance is strongly encouraged as these sessions are informative and are a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher. Times and dates for each class are detailed below:

8.25am - 12 February	2 Opal	2 Opal Classroom
8.25am - 13 February	3 Sapphire	3 Sapphire Classroom
8.25am - 14 February	1 Ruby	1 Ruby Classroom
8.25am - 15 February	5/6 Onyx	5/6 Onyx Classroom
8.25am - 16 February	4/5 Gold	4/5 Gold Classroom
4.00pm - 19 February	K Diamond/Emerald	K Diamond Classroom

Please note: K-6 Amber and K-6 Pearl class teachers will meet individually with the parents/carers of their students.

Opportunities will once again be provided for parents/carers to attend parent teacher meetings to discuss their child's individual progress at the end of the term one. These parent teacher meetings have been scheduled for Tuesday week 9, with more information to follow at a later date.

## Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 7 February, 2018 at Corrimal Pool from 12pm until 3pm. The carnival is for competitors only and is open to all students who turn 8yrs or older in 2018. Further details have been provided in a separate note. Thanks go to Mr Fleming and Mr Santos who are coordinating the carnival this year.

## Welcome BBQ

A special welcome BBQ for all students and their families has been planned for Monday 19 February from 4.30pm- 6:00pm. Please feel free to join us for a sausage sandwich, a chat and some games. There is no cost involved but we ask that parents return the note that will be sent out next week, to assist with catering (sausage sandwiches and drinks). Towradgi Public School is a wonderful place to be and has such a warm and dynamic mix of staff and families of which I am very proud to be a part. We look forward to meeting many new families together with our not so new families and enjoying an informal afternoon together.

## Scripture

Scripture will commence Thursday in week 3. It is important to note that the scripture class your child attends is based on the denomination that you indicated on their enrolment form, unless otherwise specified. If you wish to change your child's scripture class, please provide your request in writing to the school.

Volunteers are needed to teach Stage 2 Ethics at our school. At this stage we do not have an Ethics teacher for Stage 2. If you are interested, please contact the Primary Ethics Regional Manager, Anne Davies at wollongong-region@primaryethics.com.au

## Coming Soon! Parent Online Payments

From Monday 12th February it will be possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card, and can be made via computer, tablet or mobile phone. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting \$ Make a payment. More information will be sent home next week, for any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

## P&C

A reminder that our P&C meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Everyone is welcome, especially our new parents. The first meeting for this year will be on Tuesday 13 February. P&C meetings are a wonderful way for parents to become involved in what happens at our school. We really encourage as many people as possible to come and take part in P&C meetings where you will always find a friendly, supportive and informative environment.

## Teachers Are Learners Too

At the School Development Day on Monday, our teachers were involved in a day of valuable training and professional development. After some administrative and organisational activities, the staff spent nearly 3 hours updating their training in basic CPR and anaphylaxis. The staff at ToPS are constantly learning and updating their skills which is a highly valued and essential part of our school's ongoing development. The DoE have recently shared the **2018- 2022 Strategic plan** to teachers across the state that outlines its purpose **"To prepare our young people for rewarding lives as engaged citizens in a complex and dynamic society."**

Towradgi Public School is actively committed to this purpose and look forward to working collectively as professionals and in partnership with the school community to achieve these goals for all of our students.

Kind Regards,  
Anissa Rajendra  
(Relieving Principal)

## Keep up to Date

Download the Towradgi P.S Skoolbag app to get alerts, newsletters, reminders, calendar events, etc.



## What's Due & When

Activity Payment	Amount	Due Date
P&C Resource Fees	\$30 per child \$50 per family	ASAP
K-6 A & K-6P Swimming Lessons	\$100 for Term 1	7 Feb
Year 6 Polo Shirts	\$40 per Shirt	14 Feb
K-6 A & K-6P Sports Ready	\$10 per term	ASAP

## Canteen Closure

The company 'Made Fresh' who were providing our school with the opportunity for lunch orders will be not be operating from Corrimal East P.S or Towradgi P.S. Unfortunately they have also ceased providing this service to either school due to low numbers of orders. This means that at this stage there will be no lunch orders available in 2018. We apologise for any disappointment this may cause.