

# Toongabbie West Public School

## Building Educational Success Together

Ballandella Road Toongabbie; Phone: 02 9631 3610

We would like to show respect and acknowledge the Darug People, the Traditional Custodians of the Land.

### Newsletter: 20 November 2018 Term 4 Week 6

For further information, visit our web page at: <http://www.toongabwst-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

If you would like to receive a newsletter electronically,  
please email [toongabwst-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:toongabwst-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) and include your child's name and class.

## CALENDAR

21 Nov	Kindergarten Orientation
23 Nov	Last day PSSA
27 Nov	P&C BBQ P&C Meeting
28 Nov	Kindergarten Orientation
28 Nov	Yr 6 Gala day
4 Dec	Yr 6 High school orientation
5 Dec	2019 Kindergarten information night
7 Dec	Presentation day
11 Dec	Showcase
12 Dec	Fun day
17 Dec	Yr 6 Farewell
19 Dec	Last day of term
20-21 Dec	Staff development days
24 Jan	<b>Special opening time for 2019</b> Uniform shop open 9-11am

## From the Principal's Desk

### DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

I truly thought we could not do better than Wakakirri this year, and yet the performance on Wednesday night was so much more. To see over 100 students, dancing, singing and keeping to a rhythm and moving was truly amazing. I know from personal experience it takes a lot to make a teacher cry, yet there they were up on stage to see and showing how very proud the teachers were of your wonderfully gifted children. Every member of staff was supportive of all the children, small drum mishaps and microphone issues, yet not one thing was allowed to dampen the performance on the night. In the concluding part of the evening to see so many children glowing with smiles said a lot about how they felt, how proud they were for their parents, who had watched them and how great it felt to be a part of the night. Congratulations to everyone who took part, helped, sold tickets, dressed children, applied makeup, put chairs out during the day or was just there to assist on the night. Without your help nights like this do not happen, certainly they do not exceed the level I saw on Wednesday night. A member of the audience asked could she speak, and boy could she speak...

Her comments added to the wonder the students and organising staff felt, I have also added her later comments which were provided to enhance a great night.

### A CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN'S CREATIVE EXPRESSION

What an absolute pleasure and joy it was to witness the outstanding talents of all the children and teachers at their Performing Arts evening on Wednesday 14 November 2018. It truly touched the hearts of all the parents, grandparents and family members to see the sheer joy of creative expression that shone through the children and was so visible and palpable as they sang and danced their hearts away. I don't think there was a dry eye in the hall! We were all so touched by the children's performances.

Thank you to Mr Firth and all the wonderful teachers who are fostering & cultivating the importance of creative arts into the children's education. Thank you to everyone behind the scenes (namely the Yr 6 tech boys) for bringing it all together. Wakakirri, each song and movement had a story to tell, inspired self-esteem and were positively meaningful. It was evident by the awards won with Wakakirri, and how the teacher's passions for their art overflowed into the

performances of the children, you could feel the connections between them, and the children had so much fun together.

The Creative Arts gives a space for children to feely express and be who they are, and this expression allows their soul and the essence of who they are to shine.

It truly was a celebration of each child! Keep shining!!

## Kids who participate in the **ARTS** develop:

Passion  
Communication  
Proficiency  
Pride  
Tolerance  
Physical Health  
Dexterity  
Spatial  
Acuity  
Finesse  
Confidence  
Problem-Solving  
Abilities  
Inspiration  
Memory  
Improved  
Focus  
Healthy  
Risk-Taking  
Collaborative  
Skills  
Commitment

What more could you ask for?



Thank you

Joanne F.

Autumn's Grandmother

### CAR PARK CHANGES

To improve safety in the staff car park a new boom gate is being installed to prevent unauthorised cars accessing the car park, putting staff and children at risk. Further information will be sent home very shortly.

### TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

When children have a smooth transition to school, they are more likely to experience success in their future schooling. At Toongabbie West we are fortunate to have wonderful transition programs in place to make the move from the Pre-school to big school as smooth as possible. We also foster relationships between the pre-school children and the senior students with the establishment of a 'buddy' program which commences in Term 1 each year.

During the next few months there are a number of things families can also be doing to prepare their child for school. Starting school should be as relaxed and enjoyable as possible. Try to answer your child's questions accurately and be positive about school. Don't make a big issue out

of starting school. Most children do not learn to read, write and add-up in the first week. However, they do meet new people, they learn to put their hands up, they learn about school bells and standing in line and they discover interesting things to do. They learn to feel comfortable and secure.

The following are some pointers that may help parents and children prepare for this transition:

Preparing a child for school also includes preparing the whole family.

Helping children to practise independent and self-help skills provides them with the skills and confidence they will need to manage at school.

Talking about school in a relaxed and calm manner and not over-dramatising or over-exciting children about the prospect of starting school, helps them approach the new experiences calmly, without too much anxiety.

An important part of preparation for the whole family is to participate in the transition programs, social events and information evenings that the school provides.

On the first day of school, trust and be guided by the expertise of the teacher as when and how to say goodbye to your child.

Establishing and maintaining predictable routines (particularly at bedtime) helps a child to feel secure and be well rested.

Please be assured that our Kindergarten teachers are continually encouraging each child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development, which in turn prepares them for positive experiences at school. If you have any queries about school transition, please feel free to speak with Mrs Sant (Assistant Principal) at any time.

### WHAT'S BULLYING?

One of our jobs is to help children and young people to interpret events in a way they can understand. However, in recent times, I have seen a shift involving the wrong application of a word like *bullying*. What might be the 'unkind' behaviour of another may, in fact, not be 'bullying'. In discussing the differences between unkindness and bullying - and how defining the two correctly can teach kids resilience and how they can learn to cope with conflict.

Anyone who spends a great deal of time with children or simply remembers their own childhood, would know that children can sometimes be downright mean. Depending on their level of maturity and understanding.

Conflict is unfortunately a part of life that we all deal with, no matter what age.

Bullying is, however, way more than that and can have serious and sometimes tragic consequences. Yet the term 'bullying' seems to be readily bandied around these days for all forms of 'mean behaviour'.

According to 'Bullying No Way', the National Australian definition of bullying is:

*"an ongoing long-term misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual*

or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert)... Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying".

The key terms in the definition of bullying is 'misuse of power' and 'repeated'. The key terms in the definition of what is not bullying is 'between equals' and while conflicts or mean and hurtful behaviour may upset a child tremendously, by labelling the mean behaviour 'bullying' we may be removing the ability to deal with conflict.

It is important for children to understand the difference between someone being insensitive or mean and what constitutes bullying behaviour because being able to successfully resolve and navigate these situations is a huge step in their emotional growth and maturity. If the situation is deemed to be simply mean or hurtful behaviour it is important not to over-play this through misleading terminology (ie bullying) and offer ways for the child to address and resolve this themselves.

A way parents can assist with this is by first acknowledging the mean behaviour, e.g., 'that was mean/rude/unkind of her/him' and then prompting the child to seek some form of resolution or solution by asking "What are your choices?" And, as a follow-up, "What are the likely outcomes of those choices?". This may not be easy because of heightened emotions and the initial responses may not be great.

Parents who react too defensively for their child at every negative encounter with their child's peers may be doing more harm than good. In later years the child may not have the necessary tools to independently handle conflict and may feel 'victimised' in situations that don't go their way, potentially causing social engagement and relationship difficulties in later life.

Eileen Kennedy-Moore, wrote: *As these children grow older, they demonstrate less resilience, sometimes publicly. The kids get more easily and deeply upset about perceived offenses, including situations that were unpleasant, but weren't really bullying. Beyond stunting their emotional maturity, their heightened reactions had negative social consequences, as peers responded by disengaging from them.*

By defining the behaviour correctly, we are encouraging our kids to assess and respond in a way that with long term practice, creates resiliency and emotional maturity.

**... calling every act of meanness bullying sends an unhealthy message: It says to kids, 'You're fragile. You can't handle it if anyone is even slightly unkind to you.'**

Eileen Kennedy-Moore

### **POLICE PRESENCE**

It was really good to see the Police monitoring Ballandella Road before school last week to

ensure our children are safe. I have requested a number of repeat visits to try and keep all the roads around school as safe as possible for our children and parents.

### **STUDENT WELFARE - SUN SENSE POLICY**

The school has a simple Sun Sense Policy -NO HAT - PLAY in the SHADE. The school hat is a slouch style that provides protection for the back of the neck as well as the head. It is expected that it will be worn at all times and worn in the correct matter. This message will be policed by teachers on playground duty. In the interests of your child's/ children's future health, please promote and support this policy. Ask them where their hat is, there are a number of students who have misplaced their hat or lost it and they need help to find it or to buy a new one.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the following students on receiving their award.

**Principal's Award:** Isabel, Leya, Logan and Vivan KL. Blake, Jeremiah, Yashica and Sohil KB. Johanna, Ethan, Cameron, Hari, Kaylee and Akshayan K-1E. Alexander, Aarya and Emilia 1/2H. Zayn, Venessa and Adam 1/2K. Genevieve 2S. Rihanna, Sean, Cooper, Sutharsanan, Olivia, Mona, Diana, Kori, Dallas and Danny 3/4S. Stephanie, Alfiya, Melissa, Alex, Connor and Elise 5/6S. Manav and Isabella 5/6T.

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

Borrowing has now finished for the year. All books need to be returned to the library by Friday 30 November 2018. Please check at home for library books. All of our library books have a barcode, on the front cover, with our school's name on it as illustrated by the image below.

Thank you for your assistance.

Mrs Sant





# Toongabbie West Public School P&C

Term 4, Week 6, 2018

## UNIFORM SHOP

*Open Thursday's 8.45am – 9.15am* We accept Cash, Eftpos, Visa, Mastercard

### New Kindergarten Students 2019

We have a special offer for all new kindergarten students.

Uniform shop is open before Kindergarten Transition to School Days

**8.30am – 9.15am**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November**

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ('17) Tea Towels

We still have school 50<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary tea towels

REDUCED PRICE

\$5 each, were \$10

Tea Towels can be purchased from  
uniform shop

*Opening before New School Year*

*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019*

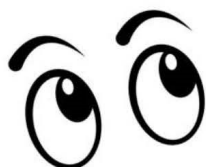
*9am – 11am*

## CANTEEN

**Term 4 Opening Times:**

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**1<sup>st</sup> Break – Lunch & 2<sup>nd</sup> Break - Recess**



LOOK OUT for a note coming home shortly for our  
next special canteen day **FUN FRIDAY**

Ordering online via [www.quickcliq.com.au](http://www.quickcliq.com.au) Cut off time is NO LATER than 8.45am

OR Order via a CLEARLY LABELLED brown bag with cash to the office NO LATER than 9am

## P&C Meeting

**FINAL MEETING, THANK YOU DINNER & HALLOWEEN DEBRIEF**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Library, 7pm

Check with Alison Wall regarding food assignments.



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