

# 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: 28 August 2018 Term 3 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

28 Aug	SRC Disco POSTPONED
30 Aug	Father's Day stall
30 Aug	SRC Disco, NEW DATE
6 Sept	Zone Athletics
11 Sept	P&C Meeting
14 Sept	No PSSA
14 Sept	Open day/ Character Parade
18 Sept	K-2 Athletics Carnival
19 Sept	Regional Athletics
21 Sept	Summer PSSA begins
28 Sept	Last day of Term 3
15 Oct	Staff and Students return

### From the Principal's Desk

#### DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

As a Principal I feel I try very hard, I am enthusiastic and supportive, I would love to have lots of creative talent but unfortunately I don't, I have no real skills in dancing, singing or acting...

But I do have a great deal of energy and a desire for the children under my care to do well. I want them to succeed to the best of their ability. Last week showed that my enthusiasm is not misplaced in both the students and staff at our school when we performed at Wakakirri at the Riverside Theatre. Our wonderful performers and back stage crew were a dedicated enthusiastic energetic group who made me so proud to think that I also am a part of our school. Their performance, their smiles and their story was enough to bring a lot of the audience to tears. A great evening, a successful opening night performance and a story told which they can be very proud of.

Some students put their thoughts and feelings into writing;  
**Wakakirri**

On Wednesday 22 August, we had our Wakakirri performance at Riverside Theatre. It was amazing! I loved seeing all of the other schools in their bright costumes.

Miss Stanford and Mrs Kazanas applied our makeup and Miss Lohan did our hair (she did it so quickly!). Mr Lavercombe, our wonderful choreographer, organised the props and accessories.

Only minutes were left until it was our time to go on stage. My teeth were chattering, my knees were shaking and I felt as cold as snow. I heard the audience clapping and shouting to cheer for the school who performed before us. Then it was our turn.

I slowly started walking onto the dark stage. My heart was pounding so hard I was sure it had popped out! I was shaking and scared. I let out a deep breath because finally, there I was, standing nervously on the stage, ready to perform.

Suddenly, the letter 'A' fell from one of the props. Mr Lavercombe ran onto the stage and desperately tried to stick it back on. There were only ten seconds left until the red curtain would be raised and the rhythm of the music would start. He quickly ran off...but the letter fell again! As I was about to run and press it back into place, the curtain started to lift. I had to forget about it and hope that no one noticed.

I became more confident as the show went on and I danced my heart out. I saw the bright lights shining on me but I didn't freeze, I kept the smile on my face and I remembered all my moves.

We took a bow and moved quickly off the stage. Elyse, Thomas and Genevieve confidently explained the message of our performance to the audience.



We waited and waited to hear the results... and then suddenly, we heard "We got the Spirit of Wakakirri award!"

We were partying for about ten minutes because we were all so happy! It was a really spectacular night!

By Elise

On the day of the performance, the Wakakirri dancers and backstage crew attended a rehearsal at Riverside Theatre. Although it was just a rehearsal, I still had butterflies in my stomach. However, once the practice was over I was super pumped! On the way back to school I felt excited, but nervous about the real performance.

When we arrived at the theatre that night, we watched other students perform, on the television backstage. My heart, for a moment, stopped. Their costumes were beautiful, their props were extraordinary, their choreography was extravagant... I didn't want to believe it, but compared to us, I was sure they were better.

Suddenly, it was our turn. As we took our positions on the stage and our props were being set up, something terrible happened. The letter 'A' fell off one of the giant boxes! It was only a matter of time before the red curtains were going to be raised. Mr Lavercombe rushed onto the stage and attempted to stick the letter back on, but it refused to obey, and he dashed back into the wings just in time!

My heart pounded as Sarah, Stephanie and I (the 'bullies'), 'pushed' Chelise onstage. Our performance had begun! As the dance continued, my confidence grew. When the music stopped and the curtain had fallen, I ran off the stage with the cheesiest smile ever!

We waited nervously backstage with our teachers as the awards were announced. Hopefully they would call out our name! All of a sudden, Miss Stanford began screaming, saying we had won the "Spirit of Wakakirri" award! I was ecstatic! We were all overjoyed!

Mr Lavercombe, Miss Lohan, Miss Stanford, Mrs Kazanas, Mr Thomas and Mr Tasker all did an amazing job preparing us for this wonderful event and we know they are extremely proud of what we achieved.  
By Viktoria

We have some amazing teachers at our school who organised our Wakakirri team. Mr Lavercombe was our choreographer and he mixed all of the music. Miss Lohan and Miss Stanford who designed the sets, props and did all of the administration. Mrs Kazanas and Mr Tasker who helped with painting sets and Mr Thomas who organised the lighting. Our principal, Mr Firth, supported us every step of the way.

The students were amazing and danced their hearts out on stage and gave so much passion to the performance. Our story was so raw and real and touched so many of the people watching in the audience. Finally, Toongabbie West ended up taking out the biggest award of the night, the Spirit of Wakakirri. Good job to all who was involved, it was such a fantastic experience.

Thank you!

**Congratulations, Toongabbie West has made it through to the next round on September 18 2018. More details will be sent home soon.**

## CANBERRA CAMP 2018

From Wednesday 15 August through to Friday 17 August I had the very great pleasure of accompanying 39 of our wonderful Stage 3 students on our biannual trip to Canberra. After a very early start we reached Canberra around 11:30 to take a quick trip up to the lookout at Mount Ainslie. We then moved on to the Australian War Memorial where we learnt much about the efforts of our soldiers in a number of engagements. Then, it was off to Parliament House to role play the tabling of a bill in the House of Representatives. Savannah made a very fine Prime Minister and Elyse kept us all in line as per usual. A tour of Parliament House then followed where we were lucky enough to actually see both houses in action. It was a great opportunity for our students to witness what they had been studying in class over recent weeks. Their knowledge of the processes was very impressive.

On Day 2, after a very early breakfast, we were off to Tidbinbilla to visit the fascinating Canberra Deep Space Centre. Our trip there and back was highlighted by the abundance of wildlife out during daylight hours due to the drought. From here we were off to research the history of Australian democracy at Old Parliament House. Then we experienced the distributions involved in the election process at the Australian Electoral Education Centre. Next came the Australian Mint to find out how our currency has developed and witness some of the machines in action. One even danced for us! From here we moved on to our final activity for the day, the much anticipated Australian Institute of Sport, to witness some current and future stars in training and take on the many challenges of the student room.

Day 3 gave us another very early start to allow us to pack our belongings onto the coach then off to Government House, the home of the Governor General. We actually got to stand in his private study where new prime ministers are sworn in, and view the formal reception and dining rooms: a rare treat only available to very lucky schools. Lastly, off to QUESTACON which was thoroughly appreciated by all.

All in all, an epic three days much enjoyed by both staff and students. Outstanding behaviour and many laughs and memories to treasure always.

This trip was made a little less expensive by the generosity of the Federal Government's PACER program which subsidised our costing by \$20 per student. Please view the following:

**Students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.**

**The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.**









You are invited to:  
**Toongabbie West Public School's  
Open Day**

**Friday 14 September 2018**

**Events:**

<b>8am-8:55am</b>	<b>Book Fair in the library</b> All welcome to purchase books
<b>12:00-1:20pm</b>	<b>Open Classrooms</b> You are welcome to visit any of our classrooms.
<b>1:20-1:50pm</b>	<b>Book Fair in the library</b>
	<b>Recess (2<sup>nd</sup> break)</b> Join our students in the playground for afternoon tea. Visit Tassie's Retreat. The canteen will be open for sales to students and visitors. Our P&C are providing, in the hall, free tea & coffee for adults.
<b>1:20-1:50pm</b>	
<b>2pm-3pm</b>	<b>Character Parade in the hall.</b>
<b>3pm-4pm</b>	<b>Book Fair in the library</b>

