WOW” – what a day, all the hard work and all the fun visitors had at the carnival.

I would like to give each and every student, parent and staff member a very big thank you for the help and support which you gave to the Halloween Carnival on Saturday. Your wonderful supportive attitude shows our community with its rich culture and our great partnership. It allows our students to receive an educational foundation based on excellence and innovation, ensuring that provision is made for the future success of each and every student.

I would like to give a special mention to a few parents; Natalie Gilchrist, for organising a great day, many grandparents and friends, for their efforts in getting the grounds and equipment set up, Todd Douglas, Cathy Allotta and Terese Holst, as well as many others, for their help in the carnival’s success. If I have missed anyone please forgive me. There were so many other volunteers to help and assist on the day, including many ex-students who came and helped with the setting up and also with the clean-up at the end of the day. Without your efforts the day would not happen and the students would not benefit from the funds raised. It is through your continued assistance, your dedication and your commitment that our school has such a wonderful name in the local and wider community.

On Saturday many parents and visitors to our school approached me to congratulate us on the wonderful day and also to say how good the school atmosphere and environment was as well. This is a thank you to everyone at the school for their efforts, parents, students, staff and volunteers.

We are approached by people who are moving into Toongabbie and wanting to enrol at our school. This demonstrates that news of our good reputation is spreading. Our enrolments are growing and the reasons were easy to see on Saturday with so many people involved as well as the wonderful growth figures achieved in NAPLAN in 2013 which underline our academic success.

To those parents who took time to talk to me, and many did, I thank you for your support and the students thank you for your help in fundraising and supporting the school. Your help does make a big difference to our school in providing teaching resources and subsequently the enriched learning experiences of the students at our school.
To any parents who for one reason or another found any difficulties with anything on Saturday please call the school and make an appointment to discuss the issues with me.

**Starting Big School**

The number of children about to experience big school in time for Kindergarten in 2014 is growing. They will be joining us for a short time again this Wednesday morning. I look forward to seeing the faces of the students and the parents as their children begin the journey of education at Toongabbie West Public School, where all children get the very best educational and extra curricula activities, delivered by exceptional teachers in a school built on a reputation of excellence. Welcome to each and every one of our new students for 2014.

Below are some helpful hints to make the transition to Kindergarten easier. Starting big school can be a little scary for little ones so please make sure that you continually talk about starting Kindergarten and all the wonderful things they will be exposed to.

- Have a variety of crayons, pencils and colouring pens available to encourage pencil grip and colouring skills.
- Help your child hold and use scissors correctly and encourage them to cut along the lines.
- Promote drawing people and objects.
- Practice copying simple shapes such as squares, circles, crosses and diagonal lines in preparation for forming letters at school.
- Develop fine motor skills by using tweezers to put pegs and buttons into containers.
- Help your child learn to write their name using a capital letter at the beginning.
- Begin teaching your child to write numbers and letters from the alphabet.
- Begin to use descriptive terms: such as many, a lot, less and so on.

**Awareness**

From time to time parents or students report incidents to me, and I try to deal with those immediately. In most cases, but not all, we are able to stop the behaviours. It is important that any reported behaviour is reported to either the class teacher or myself as it happens. Attempting to solve a problem which occurred several months ago is almost impossible - children’s memories become hazy, witnesses forget details and the order of events, etc...

**SRC Fundraising**

TWPS has made a great contribution to both the Bush Fire Appeal—$200.00 and to The Shepherd Centre for Hearing Impaired Children—$130.00. It is great to know that this school community is thoughtful of those who have encountered difficulties in their lives and are willing to give them support when they need it most.

**The Race that Stops a Nation**

One night in the stables was the horse named Midnight Blue. The white pony gleams through the darkness ready for the cup tomorrow. The next morning she felt as nervous as the jockey who came to get her out of the stables. They got to the start and were next to Flit. The man rang the horn to start. Flit and Lightning were in the lead, when Midnight Blue came in between and got knocked off. She got back up and went into the lead. Next to her was Flit who started slowing down. Midnight Blue won the race and got the Cup. The horse got to eat her favourite food in her stables. By Emma

I am a race horse. I will run as fast as I can. I will hear a stampede of hooves racing on grass and dirt. I can feel grass under my hooves. I can also smell ladies perfume. It smells like flowers and strawberries. It smells nice. I have almost finished the race. I won the race. I did a big leap at the end and it felt like I was flying. It felt fresh. I got a flower and grass thing around my neck. I was very proud of myself. By Jessica

Today is the one and only Melbourne Cup day and Thunder Jack (that’s me) was ready. We’re ready to start. The gun went off. I felt my jockey hitting me with the whip. The dirt was flicking into my eyes and I slowed down because of the dirt and grass in my eyes. I’m coming last. I can see all of the horses in front of me, but when I was going past the corner I went past every horse except Black Jack. When he went around the next corner, I was coming first. My jockey was whipping me faster and faster. I came first. I won the Melbourne Cup. By Daniel