In Education today one of the really big issues is one of finance and funding for schools. In one public school a contribution of over $80 per child for 2013 is being sought to help with running the school. The anguish this presents to families trying to manage their family needs is almost too much for many. At Toongabbie West we ask our parents to purchase textbooks (well under cost price and normally under $15), these are an important part of a student's learning and this learning is directed at curriculum areas which have been identified as in need of improvement. We are also using duplicated copyright-free material, stencils, interactive whiteboard lessons and overheads prepared by the teachers. This, of course, takes far more time and preparation, but also increases the amount of paper usage. We use more than 50,000 copies per month and we also provide the children with a complete set of exercise books and book covers at no cost. Whilst we are always careful with the amount of paper used, we do not limit the amount requested by each teacher, as is often the case in some schools. Added to the expense of the paper usage we must also carefully maintain the machines we use.

Putting Your Money to Work

It is important that the parent community does fully understand how the school manages its finances and what a difference the support of the School in fundraising can make.

Each year the School receives a Grant from the State Government. The amount is decided by the number of students enrolled at the school. Out of this grant such things as teaching resources for the key learning areas, relief staff salaries, electricity, gas and the basics such as toilet paper are purchased.

If every family supported school fundraising throughout the year, we can make a great school even better by providing additional resources and facilities for our children. If each family helped us raise $50 we would have an additional $10,000 to support learning. The annual Halloween Carnival also raises a substantial amount and we are truly grateful for this support from the School P&C. Some additional fundraisers also occur and we will shortly be holding our Active-A-Thon sponsorship day, hopefully this will raise funds to help our school provide additional support for our students. When
the Sponsors cards come home think about how you can help. For a number of years now students have done really well in getting support for the day and hopefully 2013 will be another great day.

Your child’s primary school education is forming the basis of their life’s learning. With a solid educational foundation, helped by the “extras” we can provide together, they will do well in life.

What If I Don’t help the School Fundraising

The school will still operate if you do not provide support. However, this support enables the school to do more for your child. Imagine your household income. You may (or may not) manage to live on your income but what if you were to be given an increase in that income. Think of all the extra things you could do with that money. The school is much the same.

National Curriculum implementation

Over the next year or so we will see and hear more about the New National Curriculum, it is interesting to speak to other Principal’s and get some feedback on how different schools are approaching the changes in their school. Some are really being proactive and yet others are sitting back and doing just what they have to. At Toongabbie West we are developing staff skills and knowledge in order to ensure we can implement parts of the new Curriculum in 2014. These changes will impact very little on how people perceive our school, rather the staff will, with the NSW Board of Studies Curriculum components, work to ensure our students are being taught what they need, in the most appropriate way and the outcomes will ensure they meet all targets set by Government targets.

Student Attendance

NSW School staff are responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students’ sense of Wellbeing,
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance,
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance,
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise
- providing clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.

School Uniform

It is great to see students in full winter uniform at the beginning of Term 2. As the weather is now starting to cool down please ensure students are bringing jumpers to school and that these jumpers have the students’ names on them. It would be great to see all students in the lovely school jackets & jumpers that are for sale through the uniform shop. Also, beanies are not part of the school uniform, so please do not send your children to school with beanies on. There are two different school hats available for sale through the uniform shop or front office for $8 or $9. Please do not send your children to school in canvas shoes and joggers, black shoes or black joggers are more suitable for school. It would be nice to see all students in full school uniform as the term progresses.

News from the Hearing Team

The season for colds/flu is about to start and this is when children’s sniffles turn into an ear infection. The most common Ear Infection is Glue Ear. It doesn’t have tell-tale signs like: sore ears, fevers, runny ears. Glue Ear only has symptoms of not hearing well, change in behaviour and going into your own ‘little world’.

Have you had your child’s hearing tested lately? Did you know that it is best practice for children 8 yrs and under to have their hearing tested EVERY school holidays ( or at least once a year to avoid any possible learning issues ).

Always share the results of your hearing test with your child’s teacher.

Sickness

A timely reminder that if your child is sick then the best place to be is home, getting well and not at school possibly spreading the germs to other students or staff. It is always difficult when a teacher is off sick, but it does happen and we attempt to ensure appropriate learning continues for the class concerned.

Monday and Wednesday Assemblies

As the morning sessions of each day have proven to be the best time for students to learn, it has been decided to change the Wednesday assembly to after recess. This will allow all classes to enjoy a full session to optimise our learning.

We will continue to ensure that any important news that parents need will be placed in our weekly newsletter. I encourage you to read this document
so you are up to date with the many activities occurring in our school.

**Zoo Mobile**

We are looking forward to having the zoo mobile visit us on Tuesday, 21st May 2013. However, there are a number of students who are still to return their permission notes and payments. If you haven't yet sent in to the office, the permission note and $4.00 payment for your child, please do so as soon as possible. It would be a shame for students to miss out on this exciting activity.

**Uniform Shop**

Please note: the uniform shop is open each Tuesday from 8:30. If you are unable to go at this time, an order may be left with the office.

**WE'RE TAKING IT IN OUR STRIDE ON FRIDAY, 24 MAY 2013**

Well it's that time of year again when our school seriously starts talking about walking!

Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. And although walking all the way to school isn't realistic for many of us, it's quite easy to figure out how you can build a walk into your family's daily routine.

You can teach your child the healthy habit of walking more by:

Walking with them the whole way to school
If they get the bus or train, walk past your usual stop and get on at the next stop
If you have to drive, park the car a few blocks away from the school and walk the rest of the way.

Regular exercise like walking with your child not only helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes. It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic.

Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 24 May 2013!

**P&C News**

Congratulations to those who won the mother’s Day Raffle.

A big thank you to the parents who helped set up and run the Mother’s Day stall.

A combined total of $2460.00 was raised for Mother’s Day—what a fantastic effort!

Thank you to the school community for your continued support.

**P&C Committee**

**Guildford Library**

Guildford Library will be hosting a presentation to years 5 & 6 students and parents on how to answer an Assessment Task question. Presenter, Cathy Hill, School Librarian St Paul’s Grammar School will teach students how to hand in an A+ Assessment Task.

The course will cover the steps of the Information Search process - and provide guidelines to cover each step. For example, Define topic, Locate resources, Selection of information, Organising of information, Presentation of findings, Assessment/ Evaluation of task completed , Course notes, This presentation is for Years 5 & 6 students and we encourage parents to attend so they can help their child/ren in completing their tasks. Free. Guildford Library on Tuesday, 14th May - 3.45pm to 5.15pm.

Bookings essential on 9632 6744
Approaching Your School
A parent and community guide for seeking information and expressing concerns

All contact is initially made through the Admin Office

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school in order to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of your own child
- Express concern about actions of other students
- Enquire about school policy or practice

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

These guidelines aim to:

- provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner
- ensure that the rights of students, teachers and parents are respected and upheld
- support sensitivity and confidentiality
- help reach an agreed solution.

On occasion, concerns may cause frustration and anxiety. At such times it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere.

- Trying to talk to teachers when they are trying to teach, manage children or engaged in another conversation is inappropriate.

Teachers, parents and community working together for successful schooling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCERN</th>
<th>APPROPRIATE ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The academic progress of your own child</td>
<td>* Directly contact the child’s teacher either by note, by phone or in person via the office, to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The welfare of your own child</td>
<td>* For minor issues directly contact your child’s teacher, via the office, to clarify information. * For more serious concerns, contact office. State nature of concern and arrange a suitable time to talk with class teacher or appropriate staff member. * To convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact, custody details, health issues etc. Please contact the office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions of other students</td>
<td>* Contact the class teacher for a classroom problem.  • Contact the stage supervisor or principal for playground problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School policy or practice</td>
<td>* Contact office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see the principal and/or appropriate member of staff.</td>
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PLEASE NOTE

AT NO TIME SHOULD A PARENT APPROACH ANOTHER CHILD OTHER THAN THEIR CHILD TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE AT SCHOOL.