From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Safety of students and staff is always a prime concern and we have an In Case of Emergency plan which covers most possible emergencies. I have in the past had real emergency’s where horses and goats were trespassing on the school grounds. Last week in Haberfield an incident happened and yesterday morning I reminded all students what action to take in case of a stranger being on the premises;

- If you see a stranger go and tell an adult straightaway
- If a stranger approaches you, run and tell an adult
- If a stranger tries to threaten you Scream and run and tell an adult.

We have already had a lock down drill, but in light of the recent incident we will have another one soon to ensure all students know what to do in case of an emergency. So if you hear the school siren going, please do not immediately presume there is a problem. Please call the school and get information on what is happening.

NAPLAN

Last week our Year 3 and Year 5 students completed their NAPLAN test. Thanks to all families who have ensured that their child has been at school on time to start the testing and to all the students in the years not participating, who have moved around the school respectfully whilst testing was happening.

The results will not be out for many months so encourage your children to now focus on their learning at school. The impact for some families who use the results for an unintended purpose, such as comparing their child with any future success and how this can be interpreted can be destructive. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any concerns about their learning. The larger picture does not appear out of a couple of graphs and it is difficult to ascertain how a child is progressing from this one test on one day and not take into account all the other days in a year.

Road Safety

Road safety and schools seem to always be in the news, either speeding or parking offences. All of these make our children vulnerable, this week the Council Officers were in attendance at the school on Ballandella Road. There is a large part of the road
uphill from the school which has parking restrictions. The signs are partially hidden and the Council will be fixing this problem and will then return to monitor traffic and parking. Please take caution when you are parking or driving past the school to obey all road and parking rules.

A reminder that the school car park is for the sole use of staff and ‘Before School Care’ parents up till 8.15am and in the evening when they come to collect their children from After School Care. Taxi’s deliver students with a hearing disability to the car park before school and pick them up after school. The danger in having cars driving through at these times is high, these students may not hear the car and may run out in front of it with little warning.

Parents are not permitted to drive into the car park to drop children off or pick them up because of the dangers involved.

Walk Safely To School Day
This Friday 24th May, we are encouraging all our students and their mums and dads to walk to and from school as part of this initiative. As an important part of the day could I please encourage parents /carers to encourage their children to use the crossing on Ballandella Road. It is disturbing to see parents pull up outside school on the opposite side of the road and encourage their children to run across when there is a crossing which provides a safe crossing point and encourages children to look for a safe option at all times.

Communication
It is important that we are able to make contact with parents for a multitude of reasons. We understand that for just as many reasons you may need to alter your telephone contracts and details. Could you please ensure that if any changes have been made over the past 12 months that we are informed? If you have a number that provides more access to you than others could you let the admin staff know which one that is? If your emergency contacts have changed it is important that we have that information too. If your work information has changed that contact information would be vital for us also.

We do appreciate your privacy but for the welfare of your children it is important that all details are up to date and an effort is made to make sure we are informed when contact details and your address changes.

Attendance
We generally have a very good attendance rate which means that students at school have access to all the skills and resources for achieving. However we do not want to sit back and accept that data as it stands. Please be aware that every year of schooling is critical, however, those first vital years are almost impossible to catch up on later in schooling if there have been significant gaps in learning.

It does not take long to build patterns of alienation from school in the first couple of years if there are patterns of absence. Children build relationships and that bonds them with school and therefore their learning. If those relationships are not maintained and nurtured through attendance then a student can feel that they are not a part of things and therefore their learning suffers.

If there are any issues that we can help with in building stronger attendance patterns please call us at school. We have options that we can discuss with you. Health plans can be established. We can assist with routines. We would like your child to achieve a successful relationship with school and learning and together we can work towards that goal.

Check Our New School Web-site – It’s Better
If you haven’t already had a quick look, check out our new Internet site at: - http://www.toongabwstp.schools.nsw.edu.au One big improvement is the monthly calendar. Hover your mouse over a date, and see details about what’s planned for that day at TWPS.

Resources For Parents
The Board of Studies, which develops and implements the curricula which we teach the students, has published three books which could be of interest to our families. The three titles are: Helping your child learn to do Mathematics; Helping your child learn to write; and Helping your child learn to read. Books are available for $15 each and can be accessed from shop.bos.nsw.edu.au

If you go to the left hand side and select All products and then press “GO”, when the page changes scroll down to the Helping…… item for these products.

Parent / Teacher Interviews
The date for Parent / Teacher interviews has previously been published in the school calendar for Tuesday 25th June 2013. Interviews for all classes with now be held on Wednesday 26th June 2013. Please put this new date in your diary and we will provide more information as it gets closer.