Toongabbie West is a great school, an easy statement to make; but how do we know? Are we so sure that the school where students, parents and teachers all bring together an environment where students learn and grow as people with mentors to direct, learning challenges to stimulate and teachers who care. In the three years I have been at the school I have seen many changes going on, uniforms being worn with pride, students trying hard to achieve their best to impress themselves and their family. The school has a buzz of excitement and students thrill me with their effort and will to succeed. The school is growing and students look forward to coming to school. There are sometimes a challenge too big, or a hurdle too high and we have to provide a little extra support or help to get over these.

One of these hurdles is communication between students out of school on mobile phones or facebook. It is easy for them to say something thinking it is just between two people and suddenly everyone knows. It is also sometimes difficult to say who is sending the messages if the number is not public. These can all lead to problems and my advice is to keep them to a minimum or have good parental overview of all the communications your child is sending.

What is the direction we will be taking over the next five to ten years at Toongabbie West?

In 2017 we will be celebrating the schools 50th Anniversary, for many this will be a time when grandparents, parents and students will remember their time at the school. If you were at school in 1967, what a different place it would have been. Very structured and with a lot of learning by rote to ensure the “three R’s”. Sport would have been segregated and boys and girls pursuing different topics and activities. Teachers would have been very strict and had the Department Rule Book to support them in everything. Today we seek to gain engagement to ensure learning, interest to motivate and relevance to ensure students are prepared for the future.

Funding is an issue today as never before, to provide additional resources and teaching and learning equipment. This week we have our Active-A-Thon to raise additional funds for the extra things which make our school that little bit better than other schools. Please ensure you have your Sponsorship Forms in by Wednesday for stamping. Afterwards you can collect...
the promised sponsor money and bring it into school. Some students will do so well they will win prizes as a reward.

If every student raises $20 then we will have $4400. If every student could raise $40 then we would have $8,800 to make our school better. My main aim this year with this funding is to look at areas we can improve the environment at school for our students.

Enrolment for 2014 – Act Now

Are you seeking a school which will provide a learning stimulus, appropriate curriculum with excellent teaching and learning opportunities: A school which provides a Gymnastics component at no cost to parents: A school which delivers the Science Curriculum through a dedicated Science teacher with an opportunity to perform real experiments and gain knowledge of their technological world: A school where our Pastoral Care is highlighted through our involvement in Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), where respect, responsibility and safety are our priorities: A school where only Positive Attitudes are encouraged and where Effort and not Excuses are rewarded?

Parents seeking Kindergarten placement for next year are advised to contact the school now, to complete the necessary application forms. There may be consideration of non-local applicants, should space be available. Parents living outside our zone need to complete an additional Application for Non-local Enrolment Form, available from our school office. Decisions on these applications are made during September/October each year.

Debating

The students in the debating team have been working hard to develop their skills. Each week, they discuss the positive and negative aspects of a range of topics and learn how to present their opinions in a persuasive manner. During a debate, they must not only defend their side of an argument, they must also listen carefully to the opposing team’s arguments and quickly organise their points of rebuttal.

The members of this year’s team are: Zoe E., Kaye M., Kayla W., Julianna J., Lucy D., Kevin P., Jake V. and Ewan H.

Last Thursday, Kaye, Kayla, Zoe and Julianna competed against Dundas Primary School in the first round of the Premier’s Debating Challenge. Although they were narrowly defeated, it was an outstanding effort from four students who were competing in their first inter-school debate. Well done girls!

Mrs Scott-Stevenson

On Friday, 31st May, 24 children went to the Wentworthville/Seven Hills Zone Cross-Country in Glenwood. All of them did a wonderful job running the course and their behaviour was spectacular. Even teachers from other schools commented on how good they were. Well done kids! Thank you to Mrs Beasley who acted as ‘team manager’. She is especially proud as Jarrod came 2nd in his age group and is off to regionals. A great effort. Mrs Zabolotny

Photo Update

Specialty group photos were taken on our photo day. These photos are on display on the foyer display opposite the library. This could serve as a valued memento for your child in these groups for 2013. If you wish to purchase these group photos please make your payment in an envelope by the 7th June 2013 to the school office. Please make your payment by cash, cheque or credit. Cheque payable to MSP Photography - Sydney, please include a contact phone number on the reverse of the cheque.

Mrs Marks

"Toonie West Angels Choir" News

Our first choir rehearsal went well at Westmead PS. We are looking forward to performing for you in one of our school assemblies!

Peer support

We are commencing our Peer Support lessons this week. The whole school participates in Peer Support for 30 minutes each week. Two Peer leaders facilitate a small group of 8-10 students from kindergarten to year 5. They work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2 groups in their classroom. We are working on a module called Promoting Harmony helping us define individual and community values, build relationships and improve decision making skills. The module runs for 8 sessions. Our first session enables the children to get to know everyone in their group, and to agree on how they will work together to interact cooperatively with others. They will also begin to think about what are values and about something they value in themselves. We recommend you talk to your children about Peer Support every week, as it will help to reinforce the concepts learnt in each session.