From the Principal’s Desk

DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Schools are a great place to be and the impacts and future building of students hopes and aspirations can be built high. This year we had an amazing number of wonderful students involved in our “Whatwatat” performance, representing our school as leaders and in sporting events as well as creative arts performances. The efforts by all stake holders does make a difference and our school has shown that our students can and do go on to great things. Toongabbie West has shown it is becoming a sought after school with our Kindergarten enrolments increasing. The school has increased in numbers over the last 5 years. We get enquiries from all over Australia and overseas seeking to enrol children at our school. This year we are beginning to see the efforts by all our school community, the students and all our great staff demonstrating how wonderful we are and the number of out of area enrolments is a good sign of success.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

We are receiving lots of great donations from businesses and individuals alike and are most appreciative of all your efforts. However we now have less than 3 weeks till the event, we still need donations for our stalls and also your help in distributing flyers around our local streets and help on the day setting up and running class stalls. We are still collecting Lolly bags, Tombola bottles and items, White Elephant style items and anyone who would like a stall or knows someone who would like to have a stall on the day please contact the school or P&C for details. Plant and Pot items should be sent in on the week of the carnival as will cake donations. Details will come out shortly about these.

Please keep sending your donations in to the office. It all really does make a difference.

The flyer which came home yesterday really bought home to me that the Carnival is very close. Get the children doing extra jobs for money to spend on the day, remember to have that spring clean of unwanted items and send them in for the White Elephant stall and start planning those cakes to bake for the cake stall which is always so popular at the Carnival. For those people who want to pre-order rides bands, now is the time to send them in.

DONATIONS

All donations are to be taken and left at the school office. If you need any more details please see the appropriate teacher.

CALENDAR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting@7pm</td>
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<td>17 Oct</td>
<td>Book club order due</td>
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<td>16—17 Oct</td>
<td>Stage 2 camp to</td>
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<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>Whole school assembly: 1/2M</td>
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<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Science Day</td>
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<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>ICT Parent Evening @7pm in Library</td>
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<td>23 Oct</td>
<td>KS&amp;K/1B Pirate Day</td>
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<td>29 Oct</td>
<td>Evening Meeting for Parents of students in Kindy 2015</td>
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<td>30 Oct</td>
<td>Loud Shirt Day Mufti &amp; gold coin donation</td>
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<td>1 Nov</td>
<td>Halloween Carnival</td>
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<td>3 Nov</td>
<td>2015 Captains Campaign week</td>
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<td>5,12,19,26 Nov</td>
<td>Kindy 2015 Transition</td>
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<td>6 Nov</td>
<td>Scripture Teachers Meeting @ 11am</td>
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<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Remembrance Day 11th Hour; 11th Day 11th Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Captains Speeches @ 11.45</td>
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<td>20 Nov</td>
<td>Gurang Parade</td>
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<td>25 Nov</td>
<td>Yr 6 Gala Day</td>
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<td>26 Nov</td>
<td>Healthy Lunch Day</td>
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<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>Meeting for Parents of students in Kindy 2015</td>
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<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>Secondary School Year 6 orientation day</td>
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<td>4 Dec</td>
<td>Combined Scripture service</td>
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<td>4 Dec</td>
<td>Volunteer Helpers Afternoon Tea</td>
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<td>11 Dec</td>
<td>Presentation Day</td>
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<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>Luna Park Yrs 4,5&amp;6</td>
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<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>Fun Day @ school</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Dec</td>
<td>Final day Term 4</td>
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<td>18&amp;19 Dec</td>
<td>Staff Planning Days No Students</td>
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We would like to show respect and acknowledge the Darug People, the Traditional Custodians of the Land.

14 Oct 2014
Week 2
Packaged Lollies (must be in a sealed bag) - See Mrs Sanders; Trash & Treasure items- See Mrs Marks or Mrs Zabolotny; Bottles, Soft drink, milo, sauces, tin food, or any types of bottles or jars for the Tombola - See Mrs Brackenbury or Mr Keenan; Pots - see Mr Gentles

NAPLAN RESULTS

Our students in Year Three and Year Five have received their results letters from the national testing program, and they have done well in most subject areas, such as Reading, Grammar, Writing, and the various strands of Mathematics. Individual results varied, and teachers are very happy to discuss your child’s results with you if you have a concern or need further explanation.

We are at the present time looking at our results and I will add in next week’s newsletter some detailed information about these.

SCHOOL PLANNING FOR 2015 TO 2017

A reminder that this term also provides an opportunity to have your say into the school’s future as we consult with our community about strategic directions. Your views are welcome at any time, by email, in writing, or just for a chat. To make it a little more formal, we will be organising some survey groups this term, to get a feeling for parents’ expectations and ambitions for the school over the next three-year planning cycle, and for our future generally. Please give some thought, have a family chat, about what improvements you think could be beneficial for the school, and where you would like to see the school heading in future years.

FACEBOOK

Schools are fertile fields for rumours! Many particular “furphy’s” start on that most disreputable of sources, Facebook. There is usually little truth to the postings. However the damage they can do is often quite extensive to many innocent people and often to their own children. The suggestion from the Police when they visit the school to talk to staff, parents or students is to switch it off and ignore the material posted because it is often posted by people who have their facts wrong or are making up stories to sensationalise their life.

Children often get access to these remarks and it does make a difference to their school work or their relationship with learning in the school community, often leading to poor results and lowered expectations or goals. For your child’s sake be very careful with information you are putting up and do not accept the truth of the other posts. Certainly do not trust any of the posts for information about or regarding school procedures or practices.

KEEP YOUR HAT ON!

Sadly, our nation has the world's highest incidence of skin cancer, and our life-style leaves us exposed to the sun more hours daily than almost any other country, a two year old was diagnosed this week with a melanoma. This term we are marking the start of warmer weather, with a “hat blitz”. Please ensure that: -

Your child comes to school with a school hat
That hat has a name in it!

No hat, no play will be enforced at our school.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION DATES

We have a record number of Kindergarten students enrolled for next year. Parents whose applications have been successful should have received a letter from me, detailing the Orientation dates and times. The Orientation runs over five weeks, beginning with a Wednesday 29th October Information Evening for Parents, to be held in the Hall. All dates are shown on the planner on the front of this Newsletter.

The aim of Orientation is to make new students and new parents feel comfortable and confident in the school environment. If you have a child beginning Kindergarten in 2015, and you do not receive my letter by this week, please contact the school now.

ENTRY TO GOVERNMENT SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS FOR YEAR 7 ENTRY IN 2016

Applications for placement in Year 7 at a selective high school in 2016 will be open to parents of students in Year 5 from 14 October to 17 November 2014. Copies of an application information booklet will be sent to public schools around 14 October 2014 for distribution to parents along with a letter asking parents to express their interest in applying for selective high school placement for their child. The application information booklet will also be available on the High Performing Students Unit’s website at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. Parents without internet access can use the computers at the public library to apply online. Parents with disabilities that preclude the use of a computer are asked to contact the High Performing Students Unit for assistance.

It is very important to note that late applications will not be accepted.

Principals will be updated regularly about applications from students at their schools as they are received by the High Performing Students Unit so they can prepare their school assessment scores. Principals will enter school assessment scores for the students from their school from 24 November 2014 to 9 December 2014.

All students wanting to go to a selective high school
for Year 7 in 2016 will have to take the Selective High School Placement Test on the morning of Thursday 12 March 2015.

There are 17 fully selective high schools, 25 partially selective high schools, 4 selective agricultural high schools and one virtual selective high school offering selective placement in Year 7 in NSW. Boarding places are available at Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School (boys only), Hurlstone Agricultural High School (co-educational) and Yanco Agricultural High School (co-educational). Parents can apply for up to three selective high schools. Placement in the virtual selective high school is restricted to students intending to enrol in a government high school in a country area far from a city. A map showing the location of selective high schools is available on the Unit's website and a complete list of selective high schools is available at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolfind/types/shs_ahs_details.php.

Parents are asked to email the High Performing Students Unit: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au or telephone: 1300 880 367 if they have enquiries not covered in the application information booklet.

GETTING ORGANISED FOR TERM 4
Welcome back to school! Keep track of the week numbers of each Term and help your family stay on top of the million and one things happening this time of year with School A to Z’s monthly planners. They’re easy to print out and pop up on the fridge for all to see. You might even want to print a spare for each child’s bedroom so there are no excuses for them to forget homework, chores and other weekly activities. http://bit.ly/UbmQz8

PUBLIC SPEAKING MADE EASIER
Many people rate speaking in public as one of their worst fears. This is an important skill for kids to master, which is part of the reason why we start them off with News in Kindergarten and progress to other presentation skills from an early age. Helping your child prepare their speeches and presentations at home will really boost their confidence. Here are practical tips any parent can use: http://bit.ly/Kr3ukB

MOTIVATING “LAID-BACK” CHILDREN
Why do some children prefer to lead a lazybones life, while others love to tear around the sports field? Is it a hereditary trait? And what can parents do to encourage those children to get up off the sofa, or switch off the computer, and get a little physical?

Find out more: http://bit.ly/1s5TN5Z

LUNCH BOX IDEAS
Kids tired of the same old sandwiches for lunch each day? School A to Z's Lunchbox section has some fresh ideas to help busy parents add some healthy, fresh variety to school lunches. http://bit.ly/qsfDOE

MEETING NEXT TUESDAY @ 7.00PM
It is important to note that 21st century learning is not solely about redesigning classrooms, furniture, technologies and e-learning. As a school and dedicated staff we will look at how we define and redefine, challenge and change our practices ensuring that our educational practice remains relevant and at the cutting edge.

As a school we have started talking about the three strategic directions for our school, we will begin this process by looking at 21st Century learning and the impact technology has to play looking at what we do well, what we could do better, and ideas for the future.

Issues for the 21st century learning environment
- New exciting furniture designs to consider the difference they might make
- E-learning devices - embedded into practice in all classrooms.
- and the list goes on.

Come and make a difference next Tuesday at 7pm in the Library when we begin to look at some of the issues facing us and our children’s future

CAMP
This week sees our stage 2 campers off to Narrabeen, an exciting time for many students off without Mum or Dad for the first time. The students will have a great time getting involved in all the activities, physical challenges and getting to
know people in an environment away from school. This is often a real start for a number of children who might otherwise just sit back at school doing the same things and not be challenged by life and experiences. I am looking forward to seeing the children's faces as they progress through the two days. Hopefully the weather will look after us and the rain will stay away. If the weather forecast is not looking good, please add a couple of extra bits (jumper or jacket, spare pair of joggers for muddy activities and an extra set of underwear) just in case.

P.S.S.A RESULTS FOR WEEK 1 TERM 4

Boys Tee-Ball: Lost 16-8 Vs Girraween
Girls Tee-Ball: Lost 22-3 Vs Girraween
Boys Softball: Won 7-6 Vs Girraween
Girls Softball: Won 5-2 Vs Girraween
Junior A.F.L: Bye

This week’s games
Tee-Ball: No game due to stage two camp.
Softball: Vs Beresford Rd at Darling St.
A.F.L: No game due to stage two camp.