As we move to almost the half way period in term 4 it just seems to get busier and busier, there are so many events and happenings going on. Toongabbie West through Mrs Skelton has just been invited to participate in the "Gurung March" in Sydney on the 20th November. A wonderful opportunity for all our senior students to participate in, and represent our wonderful school under the eye of the whole city of Sydney. More details will be sent home shortly.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL SATURDAY 3—8 PM

The time has come, there are no more weeks to go, the Halloween carnival is upon us. Saturday will be a very big day with rides, stalls and activities happening at school. Many families have contributed towards our lolly stall, the tombola stall, after today plants and flowers can be brought in for the plant stall, cake boxes will be coming home for families to send in cakes for the cake stall (always a very popular stall and Mrs Scott-Stevenson a popular teacher from whom everyone wants to buy . Keep sending in your pre orders for the fair and students will, I hope, continue to do extra jobs around the house to earn extra pocket money for the day.

However we still need donations to really help make the day a great day.

I am looking forward to Saturday, the smiles on children's faces and the sheer joy of the excitement it gives everyone who comes here makes the whole day worthwhile.

WHITE ELEPHANT STALL

Please bring in any items for the stall & these can be left at the office (all items must be in good order).

TOMBOLA STALL

Just use your imagination! So make up a jar & drop it into the Office in readiness for the fete.

As usual the success of our fair is dependent upon the generous donations and support from local businesses and we are most appreciative for the amazing variety and sheer volume of goods and services donated and the parents and staff who have been in contact with them and arranging to pick up donations. A very large thank you to these wonderfully amazing people.

CANTEEN

Staffing Crisis

We urgently need volunteers to help keep our canteen open, so if you can assist please contact the office and your details will be passed on to the canteen administrator who will return your call.
NAPLAN IN 2014
Schools are measured on many things, often the things we see at a school are the image we take and judge a school by. The grounds and state of the buildings and the cleanliness demonstrate that someone cares or the school is bright and new. Sometimes we need to look beyond this and consider a lot of other things which allow us to get a better picture. Some notable areas for comment are the extracurricular activities of the school, the participation in sport, drama, dance and choir as well as debating and so the list goes on. All of these we have to advertise our successes in. There is one other factor which is made available to everyone and that is NAPLAN. We have been looking at the results for 2014 and I have included some highlights here;

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3
Reading: 73% of our students were placed in the top 3 of 6 bands.
Spelling: 64% were placed in the top 3 of 6 bands.
Grammar and Punctuation: 68% were placed in the top 3 of 6 bands.
Writing: 44% were placed in the top 3 of 6 bands.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5
Reading: 60% of our students were placed in the top 3 of 6 bands.
Spelling: 68% were placed in the top 3 of 6 bands.
Grammar and Punctuation: 68% were placed in the top 3 of 6 bands.
Writing: 60% were placed in the top 3 of 6 bands (compared to 45% across the state).

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3
60% of our students were placed in the top 3 of 6 proficiency bands.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5
60% of our students were placed in the top 3 of 6 proficiency bands.

Academic Growth of our students
Of greatest note was our growth in results between year 3 and year 5. In all areas we were significantly above the state average.
Reading: 16% above Writing: 37% above
Spelling 20% above.
Grammar and Punctuation: 40% above
Numeracy: 22% above.

Toongabbie West has a great reputation for academic success as demonstrated by our students growth across the years 3 to 5.
A more detailed report of our NAPLAN results will be published in our Annual School Report which will be available early next year.

"So it is with children who learn to read fluently and well: They begin to take flight into whole new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky." — William James (& Kakadu)

**WHEN IS IT "DOBBING"?**

Dobbing is a wonderful thing, some students are good at it and some are not. No one likes "dobbing" for dobbing sake, but sometimes you might need to ask a teacher for assistance to help you solve a problem that you have with another person.

- Another person's problem is not yours and so tell an adult who can deal with it, do not try to solve it yourself.
- Feel free to ask for help if you've tried to solve the problem with no success.
- Let a teacher know pretty quickly if it is a serious problem; i.e. if there is real danger to person or property.
- "Include us out" if you just want to get someone into trouble, or if you just want us to notice you, or if you're being "helpless".

This is Dobbing, not asking for help

- When you come to us, here is what we'll say:
  - "Is this a serious problem?"
  - "Is this your problem?"
  - "What have you tried already to solve it?"
  - "Do you want a solution, revenge or attention?"
- If we think you've tried to solve the problem and if your motives are good or it's a dangerous situation, we'll help you find a solution.

**LOUD SHIRT DAY**

Loud Shirt Day is on Thursday the 30th October 2014. On this day, dress up in your brightest shirt or dress. Bring in a gold coin donation to raise money to help give the gift of sound and speech to deaf children. This money will help 'First Voice' centres give deaf children sound and speech, open doors to better education and social integration with the hearing world.

Whether you fancy stripes, floral, polka dots or paisley, as long as your clothes have colour and pizzazz, it will be perfect for Loud Shirt Day!

Niamh and Ethan

SRC 2014

For more information, go to: http://www.loudshirtday.com.au

**P.S.S.A RESULTS FOR WEEK 3, TERM 4**

Boys Tee-Ball: 7-20 loss against Toongabbie P.S.
Girls Tee-Ball: 9-8 win against Toongabbie P.S.
Boys Softball: 7-1 win against Toongabbie P.S.
Girls Softball: 0-4 loss against Toongabbie P.S.
Junior A.F.L: 72-7 win against Toongabbie P.S.

This week's games

Tee-Ball: Vs Metella Rd P.S. at Parramatta Park
Softball: Vs Metella Rd P.S. at Parramatta Park
A.F.L: Vs Pendle Hill P.S. at Binalong Oval

**SCIENCE DAY**

On Science Day, we learned about how plants change their colours with Mr Keenan. The water changed colours when we added different ingredients. Then we learned about vegetables and fruit with Mrs Brackenbury. Sarah tried a bean. She didn't like it. Last we ate dirt with Mrs Sanders — but it wasn't really dirt! It was ice cream and chocolate layers. It was so delicious. We learned about the layers of soil and what they do. Science Day was so, so, so much fun! We can't wait til next year.

Written by Sarah (KS) and Sacha (KS)
SCIENCE WEEK FUN DAY
By 4/5S
As we walked into our classroom excitement rose as we saw eight mysterious boxes at the front of the room. Our teacher told us we would have a building challenge. Then we got into groups of about four to design and make a tall tower. We had to cooperate and try lots of different things to make the tallest and strongest tower we could. Each box had its own materials, like straw or paddle pop sticks, strings and tape.

After we finished the building challenge we packed up and our science fun continued. The middle session was awesome. First we went with Mr Warren and had a musical water activity which was very cool. Then we went to Ms Katz’s classroom for animal encounters with a carpet python and some lizards. Next we planted seeds in cotton wool with Mrs K.

At the end of the day we all went to the hall to watch a science game show. There were three teams: The Bolts, Team ACE and the Teachers. Throughout the game they had to answer questions, guess the animals and complete physical challenges. As we left the fun day there were mixed emotions of excitement and sadness as the day had ended.

N.B. Certificates will be presented at assembly this week.

2014 Science Week – Mystery Box Building Challenge Results
Tallest Free-standing Tower
1st Amit, Daniel, Patrick & Tyron
2nd Arsh, Connor, Ethan & Jordan
3rd Arjin, Caleb, Ryan & Sunny

Strongest Tower
1st Chloe, Emilie, Hayley & Zoe
2nd Almaz, Anastasia, Claire & Teagrah
3rd Cody, Kurt, Lakshaya & Jeet

Tallest Boxed Tower
1st Ben, Bill, Darren & Owen
2nd Arman, Jarrod, Jeremy & Ryan
3rd Jasmine M, Jasmine W, Karissa & Maraya

Most Creative Tower
1st Esperance, Lisa, Maryam & Natalie
2nd Elena, Erin, Meena & Renee
3rd Eli, Jake, Levi & Paiaka

2014 Science Week – Game Show Results
1st Team ACE: Amy, Cassandra & Esperance (Captain) 45 points
2nd The Bolts: Amnol, Daniel (Captain) & Paiaka 40 points
3rd The Teachers: Ms Hood (Captain), Ms Skelton & Mr Warren 37 points

COMING TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
Toongabbie West Public School

- Wednesday 5 November 2014
- Wednesday 12 November 2014
- Wednesday 19 November 2014
- Wednesday 26 November 2014

Time: 9:15am to 10:45am
Parent Meetings: Wednesday 29 October & Wednesday 3 December, 6:30pm
Contact number: 9631 3610