Toongabbie West Public School not only serves to improve student learning outcomes and academic success, which is a given and evident through all external assessment results, but our beautiful school is also about providing for the well-being of the whole child. We, as a staff and a community, are committed to ensuring that each child’s emotional intelligence and resilience are also catered for. What this means for our students is that when things don’t always go according to plan or when they feel down, they can bounce back and continue to be the happy, altruistic individuals that they are. It means that our children will be able to face life’s challenges with strength of character and a positive outlook. We are committed to ensuring that our students enjoy coming to school and that they enjoy learning.

Sometimes life can have setbacks. How we deal with them is a measure of ourselves as people. There is no justification for presenting, in public or in a public forum, negative remarks on how we feel. When children have access, these remarks do make a difference to their school work or their relationship with learning and with the school community. This can often lead to poor results. Our children are too precious and too important to us and every care should be made to be positive in all aspects regarding their school life.

I have said before that Facebook and similar on-line forums are a very poor venue for discussion and that, for your child’s sake, be very careful with information you are using. Do not accept the truth of the other posts listed as they are often untrue or impractical, and some even illegal. Certainly do not trust any of the posts for information about, or regarding, school procedures or practices.

I am very impressed that the vast majority of parents are presenting their children with encouragement and support. This does make a difference to the results they ultimately achieve in school.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY TERM 4, 2014 — THURSDAY 18 AND FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

These are staff development days. Toongabbie West staff will be involved in professional learning activities on these days. The last day for students is Wednesday 17 December. Please make alternative arrangements for your child(ren) for the Thursday and Friday.

From the Principal’s Desk

DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Race to the Top Since the introduction of the Race to the Top program, our school has made significant improvements in student achievement and performance. This program has provided us with the resources and support we needed to enhance our educational programs and improve the overall learning experience for our students. We are proud of the progress we have made so far and look forward to continued success in the future.

We would like to show respect and acknowledge the Darug People, the Traditional Custodians of the Land.

CALENDAR

19 Nov Kinder 2015 Transition
20 Nov Gurang Parade
25 Nov Yr 6 Gala Day
26 Nov Healthy Lunch Day
26 Nov Kinder 2015 Transition
27 Nov P&C Mufti Day. Wear Mufti and bring an item for Xmas Hampers.
27 Nov Whole school Assembly @ 2.15—Hearing Unit
2 Dec Principal’s Morning Tea
3 Dec Secondary School Year 6 orientation day
3 Dec Hearing Unit Christmas Party
3 Dec Parent Meeting for Kinder 2015 Orientation—6.30 in the hall
4 Dec Combined Scripture service
4 Dec Volunteer Helpers Afternoon Tea
5 Dec SRC After School Disco
10 Dec Yr 6 Farewell Dinner
11 Dec Presentation Day
15 Dec Luna Park Yrs 4,5&6
15 Dec Fun Day @ school K–3
17 Dec Showcase
17 Dec Final day for students Term 4
18&19 Dec Staff Planning Days No Students
PRESENTATION DAY 2014

This year’s school presentation day will be held on Thursday 11th December. Together our school community will celebrate the many successes and achievements of not only those students who will receive awards, but the achievements of all students who have worked so wonderfully, ensuring that 2014 was not just an outstanding year, but a magnificent one for Toongabbie West Public school and our students. It was a year filled with exciting achievements in the academic area, in the sporting arena, in the area of the performing arts and in leadership. I would encourage all Mums and Dads to join us on the day and help to acknowledge and celebrate what was truly an educationally rich year.

PARENT HELPER AFTERNOON TEA 2014

Our annual parent and volunteer helper afternoon tea will be held on 4th December. On this day the staff at Toongabbie West PS will host a special afternoon tea to thank all those parents, grandparents and carers who so freely give up their time to assist with the many programs and activities happening across the school. I look forward to sharing a cuppa with all of our wonderful parent helpers and personally saying thank you for supporting us in the provision of the quality education that our children receive.

HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES

This is a presentation by The Cancer Council NSW’s Eat It To Beat It Team and is open to parents wanting information on providing healthy school lunchboxes for their child/ren; Date: Wednesday 26 November 2014, Time: 9:30am to 10:00am, Place: School Library.

STUDENT REPORTS

Student reports will be sent home shortly. Semester 2 reports are an indication of your child’s achievements during the past 6 months and our teachers have been assessing students according to the Board of Studies outcomes which generally allow 2 years for students to progress through each stage. Learning is continuous and children learn at different rates. We have included an explanation at the beginning of the report. We do not arrange a formal interview at this time of the year. However, you are most welcome to make an appointment with your child’s class teacher if you wish to discuss your child’s report.

All children need encouragement and praise to be confident, happy learners. Some children try very hard and find learning difficult. They deserve your praise and encouragement. Some children find learning easy and often don’t try as hard as they could. Your encouragement here is critical as well. For those students who have no difficulty learning and put a lot of effort into their work, they need continued acknowledgement and praise to keep this level of enthusiasm and commitment. For those students whose effort is minimal, closer home/school partnerships are the key to improvement.

END OF YEAR

There’s lots of exciting and interesting events coming up as we approach the end of the year, so please keep sending your kids to school in full school uniform so that they are able to participate in these events. Please remind them that school rules need to be followed right up until the end of the year and that if they’re not adhered to, then they place their participation in such events in jeopardy.

ENROL NOW FOR 2015 DON’T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ENROL IN OUR GREAT SCHOOL. PLACES ARE FILLING FAST.

Toongabbie West Public School prides itself in delivering quality programs to students in a warm, caring learning environment. Our teachers are professional, caring and committed to teaching students a broad and balanced curriculum across the key learning areas (KLAs). We pride ourselves on catering for the individual learning needs of all children.

If your child is turning 5 before 31 July 2015 and live within our designated enrolment area they can enrol at Toongabbie West Public School for 2015. Please collect an enrolment package from the office and return it as soon as possible. Proof of age and residency status will be required.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following students on receiving their award.
Principal’s Award: Brooke, Daniel, Dhruvin, Lawson, D’Lynda, Ruth, Mayher.
Honour Badge: Dhruvin, Lawson.

COMBINED CHRISTMAS SERVICE

As in previous years, children from the non-scripture classes are invited to attend the combined Scripture service held each year to celebrate Christmas. This year’s combined service will be held on 4th December 2014 in the school hall. If you do not wish your child to attend this combined service, please write Mrs Marks a note and leave it at the office.

ACTIVITY CENTRE SURVEY

With this newsletter is a short survey from The Before & After School Activity Centre which operates on our school premises. They have requested for families to complete the survey and return it to them or to the school office. They are interested in the opinions of all families whether they currently use the Centre or not. The information is used to assist with their planning.
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS

Re: Whooping Cough - Public Health alert

There has been an increase of whooping cough (Pertussis) notifications in the Western Sydney area since June 2014, particularly in the 2155 postcode area.

In order to prevent further cases of whooping cough Western Sydney Public Health Unit advises the following:

If your child (or any member of your family) has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a dry or persistent cough, which may be especially bad at night, please see your doctor and take this notice with you. A nose and throat swab test can be performed to confirm the diagnosis.

If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until s/he has taken 5 days of antibiotics.

A whooping cough fact sheet is enclosed. More information on whooping cough is available on the NSW Health website at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx or please call Western Sydney Public health unit on 9840 3603 if you have any queries.

Thank you for your attention.

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YR 6 GALA DAY
TOONGABBIE WEST P.S.

25 NOVEMBER 2014
11:45AM – 1:45PM

Jumping Castle
Obstacle Courses
Aqua Games
NSW Fire & Rescue
Monster Raffle
Face Painting
Family & Friends Are Welcome
You are invited to a special presentation.

Healthy Lunchboxes

Presented by
The Cancer Council NSW’s Eat It To Beat It Team

Date: Wednesday 26 November 2014
Time: 9:30am to 10:00am
Place: School library