



# TORONTO PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*"Quality and Excellence.....Learning Together"*

10-11-2015



Welcome to Week 6.

Swim school kicked off yesterday with 46 children heading to Toronto pool to participate in lessons over the next two weeks. Thanks to Miss Booth, Mrs Doyle and Mr Steve for accompanying our kids during this time.

Thanks to all parents and caregivers who have been responding via SMS to the messages regarding student absence. This procedure is helping us to monitor attendance and helps to ensure that absences are explained within the expected time frame.

Our updated School Attendance procedures have been uploaded onto our school website for your viewing.

Please see the attachments regarding changes to the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) and the introduction of the School Opal Card beginning Term 1 2016.

## EXCITING NEWS

A huge congratulations to Mrs Carter and Mr Carter on the arrival of their beautiful baby girl Rosalee Jane Carter yesterday. We hope to have a photo soon.

A reminder to please keep abreast of important dates coming up this term – see the calendar.

Have a safe and happy week everyone and remember – *"Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great."*  
Kenny Rogers

Mrs Van Egmond ☺

**Student Absences** – We are using the SMS option on our school based system to communicate with parents regarding student absence from school. Each day by 10.30am, a message will be sent to all parents of students absent from school on that day (partial absence and full day absence). This will provide an opportunity for parents to respond via SMS, the reason for the absence. This will streamline our procedures for monitoring student attendance at school. Once you respond via SMS, you will not be required to send in a written letter of explanation. If you do not respond via SMS, you will be required to send a written explanation (note or email) upon your child's return to school (as per usual). Parents / caregivers are required to provide an explanation for absence to the school within 7 days from the first period of any absence. The 7 day timeframe for explaining absences is a requirement of the Education Act (1990).

To enable us to accurately send the SMS reminders, it is important that we have current contact details for all families. Please notify our office promptly if your contact details change so we can update our records. It is vital to the safety of your children that we have current and accurate contact details on hand.

**Parent Volunteers at School** – All volunteers (classroom reading groups etc, P&C activities, canteen, sport and so on) must complete a copy of the Declaration for Volunteers and Contractors – Working with Children Check. We have copies of these forms at our office. We welcome and value our volunteers and are required by guidelines to ensure we are compliant. Please complete this form along with the required "100 points" documents to be sighted by

a staff member, so we can welcome your contribution in our school. Along with this, if you are visiting to assist in school activities, we require you to sign in as a visitor at our office, before you go to the classroom to help. This again, is for safety requirements in the event that we need to evacuate or have an emergency of some sort. We must have an accurate record of all people on our site, at any given time.

## P & C news

- ❖ The P&C have some very exciting news to share. We have been given approval to do a complete renovation of the canteen. We are hoping to carry out the work over the School holidays.
- ❖ Crazy Camel orders have been sent away with all your children's wonderful artwork being made into fantastic items. We shall keep you posted on the arrival date.
- ❖ Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Birthday-A-Thon Fundraiser. We hope you are enjoying all your fantastic prizes.
- ❖ The infants and primary all had a great night at the Halloween disco. There were some pretty scary costumes on the night and some scary teachers too. The sausage sizzle proved popular. Thank you to all the helpers that made this disco possible. From decorating the hall, setting up tables and chairs, serving and clearing up. Many thanks.
- ❖ Our next meal deal day will be on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November. It will be a **Pizza Day**. Please keep an eye out for the note.
- ❖ A friendly reminder to please pack spoons and forks in your children's school lunches. Also, we are unable to heat children's food up that they have brought from home. We are sorry for the inconvenience.
  
- ❖ Please remember that every Friday until the end of term will be **Sno-Cone Friday**. We would like to provide the children with something nice and icy to cool them down. The cost is \$2.00 and is very popular with the children.
- ❖ Remember to have a look at the Toronto Public School P&C page on Facebook. We hope this page will keep you up to date with events and information from the P&C.
- ❖ The next P&C meeting will be on Tuesday 17 November. If you would like to know more about what is happening in the school, please come along and join us. We welcome all ideas.
- ❖ We are always looking for donations of second hand school uniforms. If anyone has uniforms that they would like to donate, please drop them off to the canteen.

P & C



**ADVANCE ACADEMY OF GYMNASTICS  
TORONTO**

**SUMMER GYM CAMPS**

January school holidays.

8am to 4pm

Plus 2hr hour and 4 hour Clinics

Enquiries 4959- 9333

email:aagatoronto@gmail.com

## Our School App

We now have a new school App. If you are still trying to access information through our previous one you will need to delete it from your phone or device and install our new App from Skoolbag app providers. Some instructions are listed below, hopefully they will be helpful but if you have any problems just come into our office and we will guide you through the steps.



## **OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Connecting our community and our school through newsletters, photos and information.

[www.toronto-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.toronto-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!**

These are some dates you will want to add to your calendar for the rest of the school year.

### **November**

9<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Swim School

9<sup>th</sup> Kinder transition 9.15-10.45

17<sup>th</sup> Kinder transition 11.45-1.15pm

25<sup>th</sup> Kinder Transition 9.15-10.30am

### **December**

9<sup>th</sup> Presentation Day

9<sup>th</sup> Year 6 farewell

10<sup>th</sup> Kinder celebration

14<sup>th</sup> Pool Fun day Yrs3-6, Morisset Pool

14<sup>th</sup> Infants water day, at school

16<sup>th</sup> LAST DAY OF TERM 4

### **January 2016**

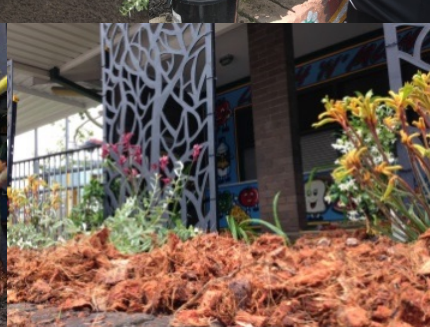
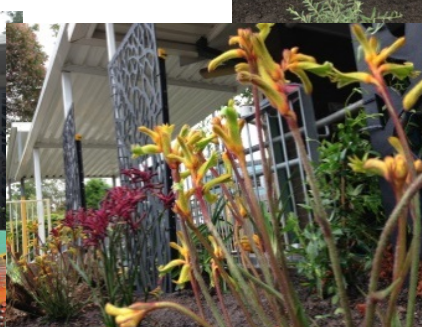
28<sup>th</sup> First day of Term 1, 2016 for students in years 1 to 6.



# PONDEE NEWS



More rain! No painting! We are still waiting for the sun to shine again to be able to grout the mirror pieces of our serpent to protect them and finish the final details of painting. During CAPA and Pondee Kids, we continued to work on the garden above the wall. We managed to plant some jelly baby plants, kangaroo paws and climbers beside our garden screens. Part of the wood chipping is done as well. We had to call one of our Pondee dads to help move a stubborn tree stump. Thanks to Mr William's for his muscles.





Without the donations of the following companies and assistance from individuals, our amazing wall and garden project, as it is today, would not be possible. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for helping Pondee Kids make a start on this amazing project.

Mr and Mrs Lavercombe, Mrs Richens, Mrs Carter, Miss Lord, Mrs Gaylor, Mr Rooker (Chloe and Charli's Dad), Mr Williams (Anna's dad), Mr George and Mr Ken (the Maintenance Men), Mrs Anna – assistance with rendering, painting, grouting, screening, watering, and gardening.

Bunnings Morisset – donation of the paint.

Fast Glass Newcastle, Toronto – donation of the mirror for the serpent.

Oz Landscape Supplies, Toronto – donation of the soil for the garden.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to all our Pondee Kids who have contributed in some way. You have certainly left your mark at TPS! I would like to mention Liam (4/5C) and Dominik (4/5A) who have gone above and beyond to help clear the garden and help plant and water. Real men at work!



# Mentors For Our Schools

# Yakka Day

## Closing the Gap

Yakka Day provides young people the chance to TRY--A--SKILL, to learn more about various occupations by attempting some of the skills used in particular jobs. Career related learning makes their education more relevant. Career related learning helps young people to make the connection between learning and work. It encourages them to think about their present and future roles in families, as workers and community members.

Yakka Day encourages young people to contemplate about their future and the importance education plays in getting a job. It also provides students with opportunity to see the vast variety of jobs in which young Aboriginal people can be employed.

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November, some of our current Pondee Kids were fortunate enough to attend Yakka Day in at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium with some ex-Pondee Kids from the high school. We participated in many workshops that showcased various jobs – childcare, mechanic, bricklaying, hairdressing, landscaping, animal care, photography, information technology, Police, plumbing, Lady Tradies, cake decorating, farming, just to name a few.

Mrs Jenny and Mrs Doyle







# KEEP YOUR CHILD **SAFE**

**IT'S THE LAW** THAT PEOPLE WHO WORK  
WITH YOUR CHILDREN MUST HAVE A  
WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK.

Download a free parent's brochure from our website:

[www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check)



# Transport for NSW

## Fact sheet: The School Opal card

### Article I. Who's eligible?

**Section 1.01 To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:**

- Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

### Who needs to apply?

Most students or parents won't need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016.

However, a new application is required if:

- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

### How to apply

**Step 1** Complete the application at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

**Step 2** Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.

**Section 1.02 Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.**

The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required.

If the student doesn't qualify for free travel

**Section 1.03 They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.**

Apply at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

### Article II. Find out more

For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).





## FAQ: School Principal

Dear Sir/Madam,

Changes to SSTS applications and the introduction of the School Opal card.

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) gives eligible students free or subsidised travel between home and school, on the approved train, bus or ferry services.

From term one 2016, Transport for NSW will be issuing School Opal cards to students eligible for travel under the School Student Transport Scheme via a new online application process.

The introduction of the new School Opal card and online application form will provide significant benefits for schools:

### Automatic renewal

Most parents, guardians and students won't need to apply for a School Opal card if they have already been given a school student travel pass and will automatically receive a School Opal card in 2016.

However, parents, guardians and students will need to apply if the student:

- is just starting school and has not had a pass before
- is in a transition year (i.e., year 2 to 3, or 6 to 7)
- is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school
- or, if the student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

### Reduced distribution

While School Opal cards will automatically sent to schools for existing pass holders for distribution for travel in term one, all new applications received for travel from the start of 2016 will be sent directly to the student's nominated address.

### Online application form

Schools will no longer need to keep the SSTS application form as parents, guardians and students can go online from 2 November 2015 to complete their application form, print it out and return it to the school.

### Fewer forms

Schools will only need to endorse a single application form for each student's eligible address and send it to a single address (Locked Bag 5085, Parramatta 2124) even if they are applying for multiple services.

### Simplified replacement process

Schools won't need to endorse additional applications for lost, stolen or damaged passes, as parents, guardians and students simply need to visit [www.transportnsw.info/school-](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-)

students or call 131 500 to order a new School Opal card. Schools can continue to follow their current processes for students who have lost their pass.

#### Online eligibility assessment

The new online application portal will automatically assess eligibility based on distance rules.

#### Same eligibility rules

The eligibility rules for subsidised school travel remain the same for travel inside and outside the Opal network. Students may need to live a minimum distance away their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking distance or further.

Schools can find out more about the School Student Transport Scheme at [transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/schools](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/schools) How you can help?

- Display the enclosed poster on the school noticeboard.
- Distribute the flyers to students and parents.
- Encourage applicants to go online to apply for 2016 travel in the Opal network via your communication channels. The application is available at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students). Paper forms that have already been completed and submitted to Transport for NSW or a transport operator will be processed and do not need to be resubmitted.
- Responsibly dispose of any remaining blue SSTS application forms.
- Add digital tiles and banners to add to your website when they arrive via email.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Passes and Schemes on 02 9891 8900 or 1800 227 774.

Thank you for your support. Transport for NSW