



TORONTO PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

28-04-2015

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

OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

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

www.toronto-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

From Our Principal

Welcome to Term 2.

Whilst it wasn't the return after the holidays we imagined, we are thankful that TPS got through last week relatively unscathed. We are saddened to hear that unfortunately, some of our families were not so lucky and send them our best wishes for a quick resolution and recovery. Some staff members also sustained damage to their properties and many were unable to attend school on Tuesday and Wednesday due to road closures and flooding.

Whilst many of our neighbouring schools lost power and water and also sustained building and grounds damage, we were fortunate to have avoided any damage to our school buildings. Our playground was covered with big branches and debris from our trees however, this was all cleared by our wonderful staff on Wednesday. We are waiting now for the piles of foliage to be removed from our site. An arborist will be coming to complete a site inspection shortly, to ensure our large gum trees are secure. Until this occurs, students will be reminded to stay away from these areas.

The events of the last week have also highlighted our great need to improve communication systems during times of crisis. We experienced great difficulty in communicating updates to our families. We lost our internet connection for two days so were unable to use our school app or email as an effective means of communication (we are in the process of updating our school app and there will be more information about this as it progresses).

We had planned for our electronic sign to be operational by Tuesday of last week however, the electrician reconnecting the power was held up by rain on Monday. This should be working sometime this week.

Local radio updates and phone calls to individual families (and the assistance of our families spreading the word) helped with communication. We are extremely grateful to all families for supporting our school and each other during this period. Our only concern was the safety of our students, staff and community.

Staffing News

We have two new staff members this term. Welcome to Mrs Stacey Colelough and Mrs Michelle Loughlin. Mrs Colelough is coordinating a complex learning needs program and Mrs Loughlin is assisting as a School

Learning Support Officer. We welcome them both and look forward to their contributions to our students and school.

Mrs Goss and Mrs McPhee are both currently on Long Service Leave. 1/2G are being taught by Mrs Wendy Goss and K/6M are being taught by Miss Threlfall. Mrs Goss resumes duty in week 3 and Mrs McPhee in week 5. In their absences Miss Booth is relieving Assistant Principal for Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 and Mrs Sibthorpe is relieving Assistant Principal in the Support Unit.

Opportunity Class application information

If you are thinking of applying for Year 5 entry to an Opportunity Class for 2016, you must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

What are Opportunity Classes?

Opportunity Classes cater for highly achieving Year 5 and 6 academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These classes help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level. Applications are now open for students in Year 4 who would like to apply.

If you are interested, please contact the school office for an information brochure. Applications close May 15.

ANZAC Assembly last Friday

Last Friday we held our annual ANZAC assembly in the hall. This year we commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli. We were fortunate to have had Mr Noble from the Toronto RSL as a guest speaker at our assembly. He was able to share some really interesting historical facts and stories. We thank him for taking the time to share his knowledge of this incredibly important event in our nation's history. Congratulations to our wonderful students who displayed the utmost respect throughout the assembly.

Have a safe, dry and warm week everyone and remember – *"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good, put together that overwhelm the world"* – Desmond Tutu

Mrs Van Egmond ☺

Morning supervision of students

We have had a number of students arriving very early to school. Please also note that students should not be at school before 8.35am. **Teachers are on duty in the playground from 8.35am.** If you require care for your children before school, please contact YMCA Lake Macquarie OOSH on 4959 4444 or 0459 988 196. Please help us to keep our kids safe.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!!!!!!

April

28th Starstruck rehearsal

May

3rd Aerobics competition in Sydney

8th Mothers day stall and breakfast

11th Starstruck rehearsal

12th – 14th NAPLAN

19th P & C meeting

21st Athletics carnival

June

11th Starstruck rehearsal

12th Starstruck

26th Last day of term

Please Note*

NEW TAXI ZONE

STUDENT
PICK UP
AND
DROP OFF
AREA

Please take notice that the council has created a **taxi zone** at the front of the school, near the gate entering the teachers car park, directly adjoining the current "drop off/pick up" zone. Both of these areas at the front of our school are strictly **NO PARKING** before or after school. Please do not park there to pick up/drop off your child. It is important for our children's safety that our parents and caregivers follow these rules so that none of our precious students are hurt or injured entering or leaving our school premises.

Thank you

Our New Website

Please check out our new website at www.toronto-p.schools.nsw.edu.au. The website contains up to date information from the Department of Education and Communities and more specifically from our school. News articles, events, notes and photographs can all be found on the site. We are quite excited about the site and would like your feedback. If you have suggestions about how the site can be improved please talk to or telephone Mrs McPhee.