



TORONTO PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

02-02-2016



Welcome to the 2016 school year. We have had a relatively smooth start to the term with our Year 1-6 students resuming last Thursday and then our new Kinder kids beginning their school journey last Friday. There were smiles all around as our youngest students said goodbye to their parents and moved on into the classroom with their Year 6 buddies.

We were able to form our classes on Friday afternoon so all children now know who their teacher will be this year. A note was sent home on Friday explaining the processes involved in forming class structures and allocating students to particular classes.

We have taken great care to ensure all students are best placed for 2016. It is usual for children to be a little unsure or even anxious at the beginning of a new year with the change of class and teacher. We seek your support in being positive with your child about their new class and the exciting year ahead for them.

We all look forward to another extremely rewarding and busy year.

Our 2016 School Plan will be published on our school website shortly, outlining our programs, processes and directions. The plan is in the second year of a 3 year cycle and has had some minor adjustments made from last year.

On Wednesday afternoon February 10, we will have a "Meet and Greet the Teacher" afternoon. This is an opportunity for you to come and see your child's classroom and meet their teacher. Teachers will share information about class routines and happenings for 2016. Please come along so your questions can be answered, 3pm-4pm.

In the next few days, a series of permission notes will be sent home for you to sign. Please support us by ensuring that all notes are returned to school promptly. Updating your contact details and information makes our job much easier.

Book Packs

Information regarding 2016 Book Packs is later in this newsletter. Invoices will be sent home next week for payment. If you would like to pay prior to this, please go to the office. Once again, prompt payment for the Book Packs is very much appreciated.

We are looking forward to another sensational year of learning at Toronto Public School. Have a safe and happy week.

Mrs Van Egmond ☺

Captain Prefect Investiture Assembly

We invite parents, families, friends and members of our community to come and celebrate the investiture of our student leadership team on Monday, 8th February. This will begin at 9:30am in the school hall.

After the investiture, our leaders and their parents are invited to attend a morning tea in the school library.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our assembly,

Nerolie Goss

Assistant Principal

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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

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

February

- 5th Annual Swimming Carnival-Morisset Pool
- 8th Captains & Prefects Investiture Assembly
- 10th Meet & Greet the teacher
- 22nd Clean up Australia Day
- 23rd Safety Day
- 24th X-Country,
Harmony Day,
Anti-Bullying Day
- 25th Pondee Celebration,
Look at Learning

March

- 10th Parent Information Session-using iPads

April

- 24th Easter Hat Parade

2016 Book Packs

At Toronto Public School, families have been asked each year to pay voluntary contributions, which are used to support the school in purchasing resources needed for daily lessons.

This year, we are not asking families to pay this fee. Instead we will be invoicing families for a Book Pack which will include ALL books students need in class for 2016.

The average cost for Book Packs is \$45. The school will be invoicing families for the cost in the first few weeks of Term 1 (please see table for family costs).

Book pack includes;

- Spelling Mastery text book Years 1-6
- Protex English Book x2
- Protex Maths Book x2
- Protex Maths Grid Book x1
- Protex Science/PDHPE Book x1
- Protex Inquiry Book x1
- Protex Handwriting Book
- Whiteboard markers for classroom use

We have also provided a list (over the page) of additional equipment that we request you provide for your child / children in 2016. These items are great ideas for Christmas stocking fillers.

Families who are experiencing financial hardship may make an appointment to speak with Mrs Van Egmond.

We anticipate using these books starting Monday February 8, 2016. ***Payment is due by Friday February 12. Prompt payment will be greatly appreciated.***

Students who have paid for their Book Pack will go into the draw to win some outstanding prizes.

Book Pack Prices

1 Kindergarten child - \$25 (Kindergarten do not do Spelling Mastery)	1 child in Year 1-6 \$45	2 children in Year 1-6 \$80	3 or more children in year 1-6 = \$115
1 Kindergarten child and 1 child in Year 1-6 = \$60	1 Kindergarten child and 2 children in Year 1-6 = \$100	1 Kindergarten child and 3 or more children in Year 1-6 = \$135	SUPPORT UNIT STUDENTS \$25

FOR ANY OTHER FAMILY STRUCTURES PLEASE SEE THE OFFICE

Student Equipment to be provided by families for each child

KINDERGARTEN	YEAR 1 & 2	YEARS 3,4,5,6
1 box of tissues	Pencil case	Pencil case
4 glue sticks (1 per term)	Lead pencils	Lead pencils
	Sharpener	Blue pens
	Eraser	Red pens
	Coloured pencils	Black pens
	Textas	3 different coloured highlighters
	1 box of tissues	Ruler
	4 glue sticks (1 per term)	Eraser
		Coloured pencils
		Textas
		Sharpener
		1 box of tissues
		4 glue sticks (1 per term)
PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME		



2016 Homework Procedures

Rationale:

Teachers raised concerns that majority of students were not completing homework and were frustrated at the time it took to set homework. Students appeared to not value homework and our community expressed some concerns with the current format of homework. After community, student and staff consultation regarding homework, we will be adopting the following Homework Procedures during 2016.

Policy Statement:

This set of procedures outlines to students, staff and our community our expectations and time frames for Homework in 2016.

Implementation:

Homework will have compulsory components – Reading, Magic Words and Counting which are expected to be done daily. Other components will be optional. The same homework grid format will operate from K-6.

Homework will be distributed in Week 1 of each term. It will be due back to teachers in Week 9 of each term. All students who have completed their homework will get an award at assembly in Week 10.

Home reading awards will continue in the same format. Teachers are always available to assist students and parents.

Our homework procedures comply with the DEC Policy Guidelines which can be found at https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/homework/Hwk_Pol_guide.pdf

Monitoring, evaluation and review

This set of procedures will be evaluated at the end of Semester 2 by the Homework Committee (LoL, AP's, interested staff members) and communicated with the P & C and through our newsletter.



Toronto Public School *'We believe all students can be successful'*

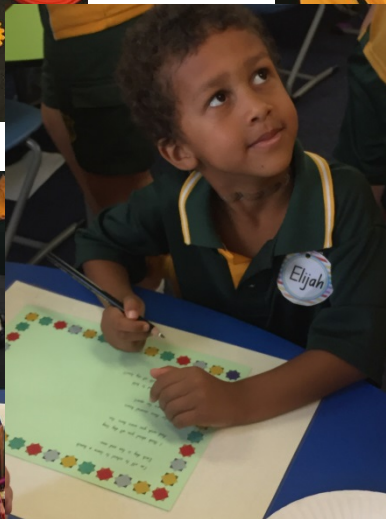
Homework Term 1 2016

The first row of activities is **COMPULSORY** homework. It must be completed at least 4 times per week and signed off. The rest of the activities are **OPTIONAL**.

Homework is due Monday Week 9 to the classroom teacher. Students who complete homework tasks will receive an award at Week 10's assembly.

COMPULSORY X 4 per week	Reading You need to read for at least 15 minutes.	Magic Words Practise reading and writing the Magic Words	Counting Practise skip counting forwards and backwards	Helping out Assist your family by doing jobs.
	Design your own recording system for these activities.			
OPTIONAL	Rewrite a favourite story and put a crazy twist on it!	Put your Magic Words in alphabetical order.	Take a page of junk mail and add up how much the page would cost.	Keep your room immaculate for a whole week.
	Review a magazine article.	Write a story using as many Magic Words as possible.	Learn your times tables.	Wash the car.
	Look at the junk mail and design your own advertisement.	Make a bingo game with your magic words and play with a family member.	Write out your own shopping list for a week and work out how much it will cost.	Help out in the garden.
	Make a phonecall to another member of your family and tell them about a book you have read.	Make a find-a-word using your Magic Words.	Write some number problems for a family member to solve.	Wash clothes and hang them on the line. Bring them in and fold them.
	Share a book with a family member.	Time yourself to see how quickly you can read it.	Play board games with your family.	Cook a meal for your family. Clean up afterwards.
	Design your own recording system for these activities.			

FIRST DAY OF School



TORONTO PUBLIC SCHOOL

All Settings Matrix



Respect	<p>Be an active listener (including 6Ls)</p> <p>Follow instructions</p> <p>Be polite</p> <p>Care for Property and Environment</p>	
Learning	<p>Be a team player</p> <p>Be an Active Participant</p> <p>Be Prepared</p> <p>Achieve your goals</p>	
Safety	<p>Be in the right place at the right time</p> <p>Move Safely</p> <p>High Five / Report to teacher</p> <p>Respect Personal Space</p>	

2016 DRUM PROGRAM

Join the
Hatchman Drum Corp
in 2016 and find the
heartbeat of
your School!

No equipment or experience required

See,
hear & create fun
and original rhythms
from everyday recycled
items which some may call
junk! Great for developing
creativity, coordination and
environmental awareness with
all lessons very much
a hands-on
experience.

SHOWCASE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Each lessons is
aimed at developing
a range of physical and
mental skills while
students also work
towards an end of
year performance.



The Hatchman Drum Corp

Our
drum program is
currently implemented
in 13 schools across the
Hunter region with over 300
students participating in this
ever expanding and
innovative take on
traditional music
education.



2016 Program Duration

4 x
Standard school
terms. A great budget
friendly way to introduce
music to the lives of your
kids through this dedicated
and unique education
program.

\$10
P/W

Program Instructor, Col Hatchman, draws upon his vast industry knowledge and experience to deliver a fun and energetic music program after 30 years of playing drums himself, including in a successful professional capacity.



Loudest Drummer in the World

For more information

DRUMCORP.COM.AU





PONDEE NEWS

Happy New Year to all our Pondee families and the TPS community. Another busy school year ahead and we are excited about the many cultural activities we will share and experience.

At Toronto Public School we have a team who are enthusiastic to support the learning opportunities of all Aboriginal students. We have two contact people at the school who are always willing to answer questions or concerns. These people are Jenny Ryan and Teresa Doyle.

Toronto Public School supports Indigenous students and parents in a number of ways: **Personalised Learning and Support Plan; Cultural Activities;** and **PONDEE KIDS**. For new families at TPS, Pondee is the Awabakal word for the place on Lake Macquarie where Toronto is situated, which is why our students thought it would be a great name to identify who they are. Pondee Kids meet once a week and it is a chance to get to know other Indigenous students in our school and partake in cultural activities.

For our Pondee families, Miss Jenny or Mrs Doyle will be contacting you over the next fortnight to arrange a time to meet regarding your child's 2016 Personalised Learning and Support Plan (PLSP). There are two parts to the PLSP: 1. Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 2. Personalised Learning Pathways (PLP). These meetings are a great opportunity to catch up and set some goals for 2016.

Save the Date: Pondee Afternoon tea is Thursday 25th February. An invitation will be sent home shortly.

After consultation with our Pondee Kids and their families, as well as the local AECG and community members, TPS now has their very own Acknowledgement of Country. We are very proud of this unique version.



PONDEE NEWS

Toronto Public School community would like to respectfully Acknowledge the Awabakal people, who are the Traditional Custodians and First Peoples of the Land on which this meeting takes place. We value the cultural heritage, the customs, and the beliefs of all Indigenous peoples.

We honour the wisdom of the Elders of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, seeking to walk together in the spirit of reconciliation.

We also acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the education of all our children.

We extend a warm welcome to everyone who visits our school.

We look forward to sharing a wonderful year with you.



Mrs Jenny

Mrs Doyle