



# TORONTO PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

16-02-2016



Welcome to Week 4.

Our first few weeks have been very settled with classes working hard and beginning lots of new learning. Our visit from John Fleming in week 2 confirmed that we are on track with our Explicit Instruction implementation and he was able to assist us in setting our next lot of goals. John worked closely with our team of School Learning Support Officers and was able to provide them with many ideas about how to best help and support our students using particular intervention strategies. Word is spreading amongst our local schools about the great things happening in our TPS classrooms, and we have had many visitors (teachers) from other schools coming to see the quality practices. We had nearly 150 teachers in our school hall for professional learning about "Self-Talk" while John was here. I continue to be very proud of all students and staff at TPS.

I can't believe how incredibly well our new Kindergarten children have transitioned to their school life. They look like seasoned professionals and are stunning us every day with their reading and writing abilities already! Congratulations to ALL these students and also to our awesome Kindy staff who have made school a super place for them to be.

Thank you to all families who have paid for Book Packs. The response has been wonderful with more than 75% of our students having paid. We will continue to take payments, so please organise to send payment in as soon as possible if you haven't already.

Our first P&C meeting for 2016 is on tonight at 6.30pm in the staffroom. If you would like to become more involved in our school or are looking for ways to support our students, please come along and join our excellent team of volunteers. Our P&C actively fund raises and supports our school to ensure that our children have the very best resources available. Everyone is welcome.

The Toronto High School transition program is beginning for students heading to high school next year. Please ensure that you take note of the important dates so you can keep abreast of what's happening. The first transition activity for students in Year 6 is on Tuesday March 1 where they will participate in a variety of lessons at the high school. There is also an information evening for parents and students on Wednesday March 2 at 6.30pm in the THS hall. Parents of students in Years 3,4 and 5 are also invited to attend this information session if they wish. Year 6 students will be given notes about these events.

This year the Department of Education is rolling out a new Finance and Administration system to be used by Principals and school office staff. The new system will be very different from the previous system and as such, our office staff and I will require a number of days out of the school to attend training. The training is quite extensive and there are a number of tasks that need to be completed in school before the system goes 'live'. Whilst it will be a good thing to have this new system up and running, the training will have an impact on how quickly our office staff are able to respond to requests from both staff and parents. You will also see some less familiar faces in the office (relieving) on days when they are at the training, particularly at the end of Term 1 and throughout Term 2. I mention this for two reasons: firstly to keep you informed and secondly to ask that you consider checking the newsletter or the Skoolbag app before ringing the office with an inquiry. We have fantastic office staff who are friendly and who love to assist parents wherever they can, but both they and I will appreciate those times when you are able to find the answer to a question yourself. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Have a safe and happy week everyone and remember – *"Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude."* Ralph Marston

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.

### ***IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!***

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

#### **February**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Clean up Australia Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Safety Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> X-Country,  
Harmony Day,  
Anti-Bullying Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Pondee Celebration,  
Look at Learning

#### **March**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Yr 6 transition to High School Visit
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr 7 2017 Info evening for parents at Toronto High School
- 10<sup>th</sup> Parent Information Session-using iPads
- 24<sup>th</sup> Easter Hat Parade



## Swimming Carnival 2016

Our swimming carnival was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February at Morisset Pool and was a huge success. Congratulations to all participants. Students showed fantastic behaviour and great sportsmanship throughout the day. Thank you to all parents and friends who came along to support our students. The winning house for 2016 is Watigan!



## Community News

Congratulations to all of our new school leaders for 2016. It was great to see so many parents and carers at our assembly. We know these students will do a fantastic job for our school and community.

Wednesday afternoon we had open classrooms and it was a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers. The children love to share their work and classrooms with you.

If you would like to help at school in any way, please see your child's teacher. We welcome helpers in our classrooms, canteen, library and even our gardens could use some TLC. If you can help in any of these roles I would like to invite you to the library on Friday morning at 10am for morning tea. It is also a great chance to meet and chat with some other parents at our school.

We would also like to invite parents and carers to attend our regular assembly on Monday mornings. Assembly starts at 9am in the school hall.

The school banking representative was very pleased with the number of eager bankers. We have had a great number of parents and carers signing up their children to start their school banking. There is no minimum banking amount. Every deposit you make earns a token.

While on the playground staff have noticed the amount of unhealthy foods that are in our children's lunchboxes each day. We would like to encourage our children to choose healthier snacks for lunch and recess. Our children learn better when they are consuming nutritional foods.

Your Community Engagement Officer

Tracy Marsland



## P & C NEWS

The P&C would like to welcome back all students and families and also welcome new students and families to the 2016 year.

A big welcome to our new staff members also. We look forward to getting to know you all.

Unfortunately, our renovations to the canteen did not commence over the holidays. We will keep you posted with any future plans.

Our first P&C meeting for the year will be tonight, Tuesday 16 February. If you would like to know more about what is happening in the school, please come along and join us. We welcome all ideas.

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.

If you require school uniforms for the new school year, please call in and see Sue at the Canteen.

We will be selling the old sports shorts and sports shirts for \$5.00 each to make way for our new stock. Please see Sue at the canteen. There are various sizes available.

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.

**HAVE A FABULOUS YEAR ☺**



**New Dance classes @ Toronto High!  
Come Try your First week free!**

**Wednesday**

3:30pm 2-5Yrs Jelly Beans Jazz/Ballet

**Thursday**

4:00pm 5-12Yrs Jazz Technique

4:30pm 5-12Yrs Jazz Concert

**Classes from \$5.50!**

**Please go to [www.jbdance.com.au](http://www.jbdance.com.au) to enrol**

**0401 473 457 / [jessie@jbdance.com.au](mailto:jessie@jbdance.com.au)**

## **Shim Jang Taekwondo**

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Master Greg Dovey*

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# PONDEE NEWS

## **HARMONY DAY 2016**

At TPS we are celebrating Harmony Day 2016 on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Harmony Day is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. Students will attend workshops organised by TPS teachers and participate in fun cultural activities.

The central message for Harmony day is that 'everyone belongs', reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.

The theme for Harmony Day 2016 is **our diversity is our strength**. We want to hear how diversity makes you and your community stronger.

**'Our diversity is our strength because together we...'**

For more information about Harmony Day please go to <http://www.harmony.gov.au/>

## **Pondee Afternoon Tea**

By now you should have received your invitation to our Pondee Afternoon Tea on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Please respond promptly for catering purposes. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **PLSPs**

Mrs 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.

Mrs Jenny

Mrs Doyle