

Toolamba PS

“Striving for Excellence”

Values: Respectful, Trustworthy and Inclusive



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

WELCOME BBQ

Our Welcome BBQ was a huge success. Many families and teachers enjoyed catching up over a delicious meal and a few drinks.

Thank you to all those people who brought along food to share and assisted with setting up, washing dishes and packing up at the end. It was a great team effort!









SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Positive student attendance correlates with positive educational, wellbeing and lifelong outcomes and is a protective factor against school non-completion, poverty, unemployment and poor health outcomes. Improving student attendance is about improving lifelong opportunities for the students at your school.

High expectations: is 90% attendance a good result?

A child missing one day a fortnight will miss four weeks in a year, and more than a year of school by Year 10. It is important that children develop regular attendance habits at an early age.

Attendance at or above 98%	<p>These students have only missed 4 days or less in a school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They have every chance of achieving to the best of their ability - These students are likely to have positive friendship groups
Attendance 95 – 97%	<p>These students have only missed 5-10 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are more likely to be achieving well at school - With only occasional absences, these students will find it fairly easy to get back in touch with the learning program after absences
Attendance 90 – 94%	<p>These students have missed 11-20 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These students may find it challenging to keep in touch with lessons or with class work - Aim to improve your attendance rate
Attendance 80 – 89%	<p>These students have missed 21-40 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These students have missed up to 1 day every week, which equates to 2 ½ years schooling missed by Year 12 - It will be very difficult to keep in touch with school work and to maintain social connections - Please contact the school immediately to discuss a plan for improving attendance rates
Attendance below 80%	<p>These students have missed more than 40 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These students have missed more than 1 day per week - Students will be 'disconnected' from school. They are almost certain to experience difficulties both academically and socially - Please contact the school immediately to discuss a plan for improving attendance rates

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first meeting for the year will be at 6.30pm on Monday 18th February at 6.30pm. Finance Committee will meet prior to this at 6pm.

School Council elections are upon us again. This year we have 2 parents and 1 staff member who have completed their term of office and are up for reelection, Kristy Thomas, Mel Calleja and Craig Thompson. We also have two members retiring as their children have completed their schooling at Toolamba, Shayne Tolley and Ross Read. Both members have made an extremely valuable contribution to our school. They certainly will be missed.

Included with this newsletter is information explaining how a School Council works and the roles it undertakes. Below is a timeline for School Council Elections for

Toolamba Primary School, 2019. Parents are encouraged to consider standing for election.

COLOUR FUN RUN

P & F are having their first major fundraiser for the year, it is a Colour Fun Run on Friday the 15th of March. Proceeds from the run will go towards sport's equipment and resources for Developmental Play. Your child will come home today with a School Fun Run Sponsorship Form. There is a flier attached to the newsletter which outlines how your child can participate. Firstly go to www.schoolfundraising.com.au and create a profile page. To start fundraising online share your online fundraising link.

UNIFORMS

Just a reminder that students may wear any coloured shoes however we expect them to wear plain white, black or blue socks with no logos. Hair, shoulder length or longer is to be tied back.

Have an enjoyable weekend,
Regards Heather

PRE LOVED UNIFORMS

We have preloved uniforms in various sizes. They sell for \$2.00 each. Come in and browse.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch Orders started this Wednesday. Dawn and Clifton currently provide a lunch service for the school on a Wednesday. Orders are to be written on the front of a brown paper bag and returned to school by the Monday of each week. Please ensure you have the correct money. If for some reason you have placed an order and your child is not attending school on that day please ring Dawn's (58265331) and cancel the order. A menu is attached to the newsletter.

Hot Dog days will start in March.

WATER ONLY SCHOOL

Our school is a "Water Only School." We have made a commitment to only allowing tap water to be consumed on school grounds.

MEDICATION

If your child requires medication please complete a form at the office so that it can be administered during the day.

TIMELINE FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2018

Thurs 21 st Feb.	Call for nominations for School Council
Thurs 4 th Mar	Closing Date for Nominations
Thurs 8 th Mar	Ballot Papers Distributed (If necessary)
Tue 15 th Mar	Close of Ballot for School Council
Mon 18 th Mar	New Council is able to meet.

The first meeting of the new Council will be held on Monday 19th March to elect the office bearers. This meeting is chaired by the Principal. Thereafter, the fully constituted new School Council will meet, chaired by the duly elected president.

What is a School Council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the School Council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The

principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council

- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on School Council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to

nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

What is the workload?

School council must meet at least twice each term

Meetings should be restricted to approximately 2.5 – 3 hours duration at most

All school councilors are expected to sit on at least one sub-committee. Sub-committees also meet at least twice each term

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNCIL

- Establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community
- Develop and monitor the school strategic plan
- Develop, review and update school policies
- Develop, review and monitor the Student Code of Conduct and the School Dress Code
- Raise funds for school related purposes
- Approve the annual budget and monitor expenditure
- Maintain the school's grounds and facilities
- Enter into contracts (e.g. cleaning, construction work)
- Report annually to the school community and to DET.
- Stimulate interest in the school generally

THE COUNCIL DOES NOT:

- Manage the school
- Employ teaching staff
- Represent sectional interests
- Renew the principal's contract or hire and fire the school principal
- Determine class allocations

- Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents
- Purchase land, buildings or motor vehicles
- Enter into hire purchase agreements or obtain credit or loan facilities, unless authorized by the Minister

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Contact the school for further information.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Another school year is well underway. Where did January go? Welcome to those families who are new to our school. It was lovely to meet and chat with so many of you at the Foundation Parents Morning Tea. We understand that beginning at a new school can be daunting for parents as well as students and we hope you feel welcome and comfortable to approach us anytime. Thank you to our lovely parent team who assisted with the morning tea. The delicious assortment was impressive. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for an AGM date. After sad goodbyes to some of our regular supporters last year we are keen to welcome new members. Parents and Friends involvement is a great way to meet new people, to learn what is happening around the school, to get to know the children and to help build a happy school community. We look forward to working together to make 2019 a great time to be at Toolamba Primary- Katie, Beck, Megan & Em ☺

Grade 2/3/4 News

The students and staff of the Middle School team have started the year well. Ms Anset, Mr Tarrant and Mr Thompson are once again the teachers in the section. We have been joined by Ryan Sarkady (Mr S) who is working with the Grade 3/4 classes as a trainee. We are very impressed with Ryan's work so far!

Our three classes will continue to have similar themes throughout the year. We have spent the first few days establishing routines and getting our students ready for a big year of learning. We are continuing to work together to facilitate our fortnightly spelling program, Words Their Way. We have six different spelling groups who focus on words at different levels.

In Mathematics, in the first part of the term students will be focusing on telling the time and place value. When telling the time students have been asked to look closely at the hour hand as their first step.

A reminder that we have decided to relocate the Grade 3/4 camp to Term 4. We will once again be attending Camp Kookaburra, formerly Camp Curumbene.

We look forward to a great year of learning.

Patrice, Tristan, Ryan & Craig

MUSIC NEWS

Students in all grades have been experimenting with using cups as a rhythm instrument. Grades F-2 are integrating concepts such as direction and balance with our song "Hiccup Buttercup". Grades 3-6 are being challenged with "Turning the Beat Around" – a complex rhythm arrangement with cups and chopsticks. I am observing many wonderful drummers in the making.

SINGING LESSONS

Lessons have been very popular and unfortunately I am at capacity. I'm sorry to those students who missed out, however I will try to create more opportunities for singing and choir throughout the year.

Amanda Sibio.

BOOK CLUB REMINDER

Please submit all orders by 9.00am tomorrow, Friday 15th.

Thank You.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE: Mobile No. 0448585568

Enrolments are now being taken. Please contact Chanida Starkey to make a booking. The service will run 5 days per week, between 7.45am-9.00am.

The cost is \$16.00 per Student, per session.

Forms are available at the office.

TOOLAMBA OUT OF HOURS SCHOOL CARE.

Mobile No. 0457847970

Out of School Hours Care is available at Toolamba Primary School; after school Monday to Friday from 3.15pm to 6pm during school terms. The price is \$16.00 per student, per session. Bookings can be made by ringing the After Hours Care number which is **0457 847 970**. Please ring this number rather than book through the office.

Enrolment Forms are available from Fiona or the office.

To make a booking for Mon, Tue, Wed or Thurs you need to ring before **12pm on that day**. Bookings for Friday need to be made before **5.30pm on Thursday**.

If you have booked your child/children into care and wish to cancel it, this has to be done prior to 12 midday by ringing 0457847970 and speaking to Fiona or leaving a message. **If the cancellation is made after this time, you will be charged regardless of whether you use the service or not.**

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

OCCASIONAL CARE

Occasional Care is available at Toolamba Kinder on **Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am-3pm**. If you would like to book a place for your child, please call the Kinder on 5826 5320.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TENNIS COACHING AVAILABLE

There are four available places for intermediate tennis lessons with Bruce Ferguson. These are held at the tennis courts before school, 7.45 to 8.15am Tuesday mornings beginning the first Tuesday of term.

Cost is \$90 for 10 lessons. Please contact Kristy Thomas if your child is interested in 0439 353 316

LADIES SOCIAL TWILIGHT TENNIS

Join us for a hit and giggle on a Tuesday night. All abilities welcome.

Starts : 12 February 2019

When : Tuesday nights 6.30pm

Where : Toolamba Tennis Club, Wren St

Cost : \$60 (2018/18 season)

Contact: Mel Calleja 0488 004 004

JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

Coach : Mark Mills

When : Tuesday nights from 6.45pm

Where : Toolamba Tennis Club, Wren St

Cost : \$11 per lesson (30mins)

Starts : Tuesday 5 February

Contact Mark on 0429 307 373



TOOLAMBA LION'S CLUB Inc.

Meets 1st Tuesday of each month.

For more information, contact:

Heather Mulcahy 0447 332 833

Amanda Sibio 0447 405 335

Keira Birchmore 0417 252 874

ADVERTISING

GUITAR AND KEYBOARD LESSONS

Cliff Doornkamp conducts 20-minute lessons for both guitar and keyboard every Thursday. The cost is \$18.00 per lesson (payable at time of lesson).

For more information, please contact Cliff Doornkamp on 0474 769 963.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF TAE KWON DO

Learn fitness, confidence, discipline and self-defence!

First session free.

Monday and Wednesday 7pm to 8pm

In the Toolamba Hall (next to the school)

All ages are welcome!

Contact: Stephen – 0428 021 169

Weekly Canteen Order - Dawn's Shop

TOOLAMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL LUNCH ORDER MENU



PIES: \$4.50

PLAIN MEAT

STEAK & ONION

CHICKEN

QUICHE

SAUSAGE ROLL \$3.50

PARTY SIZE: \$2.00

PIES

SAUSAGE ROLLS

CHEESE & BACON ROLL \$2.50

(TOMATO SAUCE .20c)

LUNCH ORDERS AVAILABLE WEDNESDAYS

**ALL ORDERS TO BE HANDED TO TEACHER BY THE
END OF MONDAY**

CALENDAR

Thur 14 th Feb	Foundation -2 Information Session. 5.00pm
Fri 15 th Feb	Hot Dogs
Mon 18 th Feb	Finance Committee/Curriculum 6pm School Council Meeting. 6.30pm
Fri Mar 1 st	Hot Dogs
Thur 7 th Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri 15 th Mar	Colour Run
Mon 11 th Mar	Labour Day (No School)
Mon 18 th Mar} Fri 22 nd Mar }	Grade 5 / 6 Canberra Camp
Fri 22 nd Mar	Hot Dogs
Fri 29 th Mar	Toolamba Athletics
Tue 2 nd Apr	Tatura Athletic Sports Grade 3-6.
Fri 5 th April	Last Day Term 1
Mon 22 nd April	Easter Monday NO SCHOOL
Tue 23 rd	First Day Term 2
Wed 4 th Dec} Fri 6 th Dec }	Grade 3 / 4 Camp Currumbene NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

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