

# Toolamba PS

## “Striving for Excellence”

Values: Respectful, Trustworthy and Inclusive



### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

#### JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our JSC had their first meeting for the year where they voted on office bearers and discussed ideas for 2019. Our Term One focus will be the promotion of the Colour Run on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and a Weird and Wacky Wednesday on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. We had tied votes for two positions.

PRESIDENTS: Breeanna Bell, Ashton Young

SECRETARY: Hanna Turner

TREASURERS: Billy Corbett, Mac Calleja



#### COLOUR FUN RUN

P & F are having their first major fundraiser for the year, it is a Colour Fun Run on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. Proceeds from the run will go towards sports equipment and resources for Developmental Play.

To register:

1. Go to [www.schoolfundraising.com.au](http://www.schoolfundraising.com.au)
2. Follow the steps to create a profile page.

3. To start fundraising online share your online fundraising link.
4. You can share this on Facebook, by text message or email.

At this stage we have had 59 students who have created a profile.

If you need help with registering please pop into the school. We are more than willing to help you with this.

It would be a good idea to keep your eye out for a white t-shirt for your child to wear on the day. We would also love some volunteers to assist with the organisation and running the day.

#### FROG BOG

It never ceases to amaze me how creative our hut builders are. Once again, crystals are the trading currency, and much sought after by all who play in this area.





## PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT INTERVIEWS

Your Interview times have been attached to the newsletter. If for some reason you are unable to make your appointment please contact the school so that an alternative time can be organised.

## P & F AGM

Last night we had our first P & F meeting for the year. Our new office bearers for 2019 are:

President: Nina Lemma

Vice President: Monica Kinnane

Secretary: Taryn Ferguson

Treasurer: Amanda Davies

We are very appreciative they have taken up these positions as P & F in a much valued part of our school. Many thanks to our retiring office bearers, Katie Calvarino, Bec Trevaskis, Meagan Corbett and Emily Sawyer . We certainly do appreciate your tireless efforts over the past few year. You can be very proud of the valuable contribution you have made to our school.



## Parents and Friends Update

Last night we had a lovely meeting which kicked off with a slide show of school memories from 2018. Thank you Heather for reminding us of all the wonderful experiences Toolamba Primary School offers students throughout the year and the special role that Parents & Friends plays in making many of these activities possible. We would like to welcome a whole new committee for 2019. Congratulations to our new committee. I am sure the school community will

continue to support and assist your efforts as they have done for us. The next Parents & Friends meeting will be Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm and is open to all mums, dads, relatives and friends.

## READING TIME

Now that all the Foundation students have settled into the school routines parents are very welcome to come in and hear their child read or choose one of our lovely picture story books to read to your child. Research conducted by Melbourne University illustrated the importance of reading to your children.

## Key Findings

**The frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment.**

- Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e., language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life.
- Reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age 4-5 as being six months older.
- Reading to them 6-7 days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.
- Children read to more frequently at age 4-5 achieve higher scores on the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for both Reading and Numeracy in Year 3 (age 8 to 9).
- These differences in reading and cognitive skills are not related to the child's family background or home environment but are the direct result of how frequently they have been read to prior to starting school.

This research is a result of a partnership arrangement between the Department of Education and Early

Childhood Development and the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.

## YEAR OF REVIEW

Yesterday Filippa, Craig and I attending a briefing session around our School Review. In Term 2 we will commence our Pre-Review Self Evaluation of our progress against our Strategic Plan. This process gives schools a means to identify their achievements and areas for improvement.

Have a lovely weekend,

Regards Heather

## ENCOURAGE KIDS TO HELP AT HOME (EVERY DAY WITHOUT PAY)

### POSITIVE PARENTING

by Michael Grose

Confident kids are competent kids. Past experience has taught them that they can be successful. The easiest (and most neglected way) to help develop competency is to give kids opportunities to help out at home. Don't overburden them with jobs. Sensibly allocate chores according to their age, interests and study requirements. Expect children and young people to help without being paid.

Provide pocket money, but avoid linking it to chores. Helping in exchange for money develops in children a notion of 'What's in it for me?', which is a self-centred view of life.

However many parents tell me that they can't get their kids to help unless they pay them. Those parents have made a rod for their own backs. It's time for a change of tune. Don't wait until they are old enough to help. Start now, regardless of age. Toddlers and teens and all ages in between should be expected to chip in and help.

The term 'chore' definitely has an image problem. Use the term 'help' as it is easier on the ear and really does indicate what you want from your kids.

Share This

Here are eight ideas to help you get your kids to help out at home without being paid:



1. **Keep jobs real**

Kids can sense it when parents give them jobs to keep them busy. Make sure the jobs you apportion make a real contribution to their own the family's well-being.

2. **Balance the personal chores with family jobs**

Chores are generally divided into two areas. Jobs such as keeping a bedroom tidy benefits a child and jobs such as setting the table benefit the family. By doing this kids learn to contribute positively to family-life.

3. **Place more difficult tasks on a roster**

The children can refer to it when needed, which takes the load off you and removes the need to remind them. Rotate the unpleasant tasks frequently. And here's the key to making rosters work – place yourself on the roster too! Kids are generally more willing to help when you as a parent are involved.

4. **Use Grandma's principle to make sure jobs are done**

Grandma's principle means you do the less pleasant tasks first. That is, make sure jobs are finished before mealtimes or before starting pleasant activities such as watching television.

5. **Avoid doing jobs for children**

When children get the message that no one will do their jobs for them they will be more likely to help out.

6. **Show your appreciation for their help**

Make a fuss when they help so they know that their contribution to the family is valued. If you do it often enough they may even show their appreciation for all you do for them!

7. **Keep your standards high**

Don't accept half-hearted efforts or half-completed jobs. If you think your child is capable of putting the cat food back in the fridge and placing the spoon in the dishwasher then insist that he or she does just that, rather than leaving the cat food on the sink. A job properly done is valued in the world of work, which they will eventually enter.

8. **Rebrand the term 'chore' as 'help'**

The term 'chore' definitely has an image problem. Use the term 'help' as it is easier on the ear and really does indicate what you want from your kids.

**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

We thank all those who attended our information evening last Thursday. It was lovely to break and have some informal time in our classrooms with those who were happy to chat. Parents enjoyed viewing their child's classroom, as well as belongings such as lockers and book boxes.

Foundation's Wednesday assessment is now complete. Many thanks to those who have brought their child/children up for this testing. Your efforts with this is much appreciated.

We have given much time in the beginning few weeks to establish routines and procedures in our classrooms. After our summer break, it is important to do this, and for each child to know exactly what their teacher expects. Building relationships, trust and respect has also been developed. It has been fabulous to see students now coming into the room at 9am and know exactly what to do for their first reading session.

In Numeracy, we have been focused on Counting as well as Subtising. The students have really enjoyed using concrete materials such as Dominos, Dice and Tens Frames to do this. The Grade One students have also been working hard on Worded Problems and Place Value. We are very excited to see the growth the students have made when we complete the post- test next week and share this with you in Parent Teacher Interviews.





Each Monday after lunch, the Foundation children enjoy outside minor games with Mrs Bathman and Mr Sarkady. We have involved the children in team games with hoops and bean bags, as well as learning a Wilson McCaskill game called Piccadilly Circus.

During this time, the Grade Ones have been working with Miss Larcombe and Miss McCoy, working on our integrated topic for this term: Our Earth. We have done a lot of learning about the months of the year and seasons. In the next coming weeks we will be focusing on the weather and what natural disasters are. We are really excited to have lots of hands on learning and to build our world knowledge.

Expected daily homework in Junior School is reading take home books and sight word practice in both Foundation and Grade One. It is also important to fill in the "Home Reading Tracker/Booklet" each night in order for us to record books read, and how often. We do encourage reading easy familiar books. However, it is important to change at least one of their books daily. Each week as an optional extra, Grade Ones have spelling words as well as a 10 question math strip. If completed, please return on Friday so we can revise and discuss questions. The words sent home will be part of a spelling test that is completed on Fridays. By sending these home students have the opportunity to not only practice at school but also at home and you then have an idea of what they are focusing on in the classroom allowing you to engage in conversation about your children's day.

Please don't forget that the door is open for morning reading. We would love to have you in the classroom/Learning Street for the first 15 minutes of each day. Children love having someone to read to in

the morning, as well as having someone read a picture book to them.

## **ART**

Thank you to those parents who have sent along an art smock for their child to wear during art sessions. Your cooperation and assistance has been greatly appreciated.

## **5/6 CAMP-CANBERRA**

**Dates:** 18.3.19-22.3.19

**Cost:** \$570

**Payment Terms:** Full payment required by the end of term one!

## **3 / 4 CAMP CURRUMBENE**

**Dates:** 4.12.19-6.12.19

**Cost:** \$220

**Payment Terms:** Full payment prior to camp

## **NEWSLETTER EMAILED**

If you would like to receive the weekly newsletter by email, as well as a hard copy, please email the school with your request. [toolamba.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:toolamba.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### **CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families, The allowance is paid to the school to go towards expenses relating to camp, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 per primary school students
- 225 for secondary school students

### How to apply

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2018, you do not need to complete an application form in 2019 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form in any of the following changes have occurred:

- **New student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools in 2019 or you did not apply in 2018
- **Changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2019. Check with the school office if you are unsure.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit

[www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

### PRE LOVED UNIFORMS

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

### TIMELINE FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2019

Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb.	Call for nominations for School Council
Thurs 4th Mar	Closing Date for Nominations

Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Ballot Papers Distributed (If necessary)
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Tue 15th Mar	Close of Ballot for School Council
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Mon 18th Mar	New Council is able to meet.
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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 or encourage 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.







We are hoping to field teams at all age levels, including the new Kinder Roos. To help organise teams please register your child's interest through our Facebook page messenger or to 0417504520. A registration night with boot swap will be held on Tuesday 12th March at 5pm at the school amphitheatre.

If you are interested in coaching please give me a call, there is plenty of support from the association and it is a great way to be involved. Remember - without coaches we don't have teams.

Watch our Facebook page and the newsletter for important information and updates throughout the season.

Many thanks,

Katie

Toolamba Junior Soccer Delegate

### JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

Coach : Mark Mills

When : Tuesday nights from 6.45pm

Where : Toolamba Tennis Club, Wren St

Cost : \$11 per lesson (30mins)

Contact Mark on 0429 307 373

### 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



### TOOLAMBA LION'S CLUB Inc.

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.

For more information, contact:

Heather Mulcahy 0447 332 833

Amanda Sibio 0447 405 335

Keira Birchmore 0417 252 874

### TOOLAMBA IS HAVING A GARAGE SALE

**When:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March from: 8am-1pm

Register your house on the Toolamba Lion's Club Town Garage Sale Map \$10

Or book a car boot site at Lion's Reserve opposite Junction Hotel \$5.00

\*\*Lions will be selling Breakfast Egg/Bacon rolls and Sausage sizzle for lunch. Maps \$2.00 on the day @Colaura Gardens\*\*

To register your house or book a car boot site contact; Heather Mulcahy 0447 332 833, email [heathermmulcahy@gmail.com](mailto:heathermmulcahy@gmail.com)

### ADVERTISING

The logo for Watches & Diamonds features a diamond ring with a large diamond set in a gold band, with the text 'Watches & Diamonds' in a cursive font below it.

Manufacturing Jeweller and Watchmaker.  
All work done on the premises.  
150 Hogan street Tatura, Victoria 3616  
(03)5824 1100

### 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



### Bovine Inseminations

#### HERD IMPROVEMENT SERVICES

1740 Finlay Road, Tongala, 3621

Phone (03) 5859 0763

FAX: (03) 5859 0219

### 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.

### LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch Orders are on 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.

### 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\*\*

### LIBRARY VAN

Parks out in front of the school.

Mondays 3.00pm-4.15pm

March	4	18
April	1	15
May	13	27

### CALENDAR

Fri Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Hot Dogs
Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Labour Day (No School)
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Colour Run. 2.00pm
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar}	Grade 5 / 6 Canberra Camp
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar }	
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Hot Dogs
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Finance Committee. 6.00pm School Council Meeting A.G.M. 6.30pm
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Toolamba Athletics
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Tatura Athletic Sports Grade 3-6.
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day Term 1
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Monday NO SCHOOL
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	First Day Term 2
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	School Photos
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> May]	Life Ed
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> May]	
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Birthday NO SCHOOL
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	School Concert Rehearsal
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	School Concert
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Father's Day Stall
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec}	Grade 3 / 4 Camp Currumbene
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec }	<b>NOTE CHANGE OF DATE</b>

Wren Street, Toolamba. 3614

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