Welcome to 2012

Toora PS is a great school full of wonderful, enthusiastic, caring people. Each of our students is valued as a special person with extraordinary abilities. Our teaching and learning programs reflect the needs of our students recognising and catering for different learning styles and celebrating student achievement.

We warmly welcome you back for the new school year. We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday break and were able to spend time with relatives and friends.

A very special welcome to our Prep students and their families: Jai Allott, Kaylee Brewer, Django Dyson, Erin Jones-Jacobson, Jasper Kennedy-Watterson, Holley Rip, Chelsea Brown, Olivia Paola, Tannah Benton and Aaron Tanner.

Welcome to our students and families who have moved to Toora from other locations: Xavier Westbrook, Jacob Cicchini and Tyler O’Conner.

We welcome back all of our staff and announce that with the retirement of Mrs Julie Lecher, our new cleaner is Mrs Shirley Adams. Staffing is as follows:

Principal: Barbara Purvis
Prep/1: Ali Wogan-Brown
2/3: Kerry Corcoran
4/5/6: Philip Vaudrey
Education Support & Student Welfare: Dinah Brownfield
Education Support: Deb Clavarino
Administration: Di Walker
MARC Van (Mobile Area Resource Centre): Sophie Callcott

2012 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Prep students absent WEDNESDAY’s
3rd Students commence 2012 school year
6th PFA meeting in Multipurpose Hall 3:00pm
8th PFA Hamburger lunch
8th PE sessions commence - Swimming
14th Parent “Getting to Know You” Interviews
15th IGA Lunch orders commence
15th PE swimming session
22nd PE swimming session
23rd District Swimming Sports (Korumburra)
25th Foster Show
27th School Photos
29th PE swimming session

March

Preps attend school every day
12th Labour Day PUBLIC holiday

2012 Term Dates

Term1: 1 Feb - 30 Mar
Term2: 16 Apr - 29 Jun
Term3: 16 Jul - 21 Sept
Term4: 8 Oct - 21 Dec

School Office Hours

8.30am—4.00pm (Wednesdays unattended)

Absences - Phone the office or write in your Child’s communication book

Lunch Orders

Every Wednesday - order must be in by 9:15am

NEW SCHOOL RULE

As a whole school procedure and school rule NO parent will be phoned if their child forgets sports gear, notes, lunch etc. This is to support our student education / living skills program - where students are encouraged to be more accountable.

We have bread and spreads (margarine, vegemite, jam) in the staffroom. If your child forgets his/her lunch they will be given a sandwich and a piece of fruit from the staffroom.

Students forgetting swim gear will remain at school and complete water safety and swimming educational activities whilst their class is at the pool.

PARENT SEATING

We remind parents that there is seating available at the front of the school (Highway side) for your use whilst waiting to collect children.

LUNCH ORDERS NEXT WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY

IGA Supermarket lunch orders will not commence until Wednesday 15th February. The 2012 Price list is attached to this newsletter.

Next Wednesday 8th February the Parents & Friends Association (PFA) will run a hamburger lunch:

Hamburger in Bread (with sauce & onion optional) $1:00

Please write your child’s name, class and quantity of Hamburgers on an envelope and enclose money.
**PARENT SUPPORTED MATERIALS AND SERVICES CHARGE**

This funding is extremely important to the school as it forms a part of our overall school operating budget and is used and relied on for:

- Cultural Performances
- Classroom materials including student stationery (eg: paper, pens, pencils, books).

School Council has set the 2012 Parent Supported Materials and Services Charge (formerly known as school fees) at $120 per child.

The Parent supported materials and services charge is **due now** from all families and can be paid at the school office.

**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

**Process for 2012:**
The allowance will be paid in two instalments. To be eligible the claimant must:

- be a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen, and
- hold a current Centrelink Pensioner Concession or Health Care Benefit Card, or a Veterans Affairs (TPI) Pensioner Card, or be a foster parent as at the first day of term 1 (**29 January 2012**) for the first instalment, and the first day of term 3 (**16th July 2012**) for the second instalment, and
- submit their application to the school by the due date – **29th February 2012**

No late claims will be accepted.

As the EMA is provided to assist low-income families any applications based on Centrelink payments that are not income tested (eg Carer Allowance, formerly Child Disability Allowance, Mobility Allowance and Remote Area Allowance) are not eligible unless the claimant, in their own name, complies with the second dot point above.

To claim the EMA, parents are asked to complete the attached EMA form and return to the school office no later than **29th February**.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

We do have some items of School Uniform in stock as well as second hand uniform items. Please call in to the office or contact Sandra Jenkins if you wish to purchase any items of School Uniform.

**TOORA PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM CODE**

- Uniform colours of dark blue, light blue and white.
- Blue and white check dresses permitted. Block colours for shirts, shorts and pants.
- No other colours in trim.
- Toora Primary School logo permitted. No offensive logos or larger than 5 sq cms.
- For safety reasons thongs, open toe sandals and backless shoes are not permitted.
- Long pants are to be of a safe length.
- During Terms 1 and 4 students **must** wear either broad brimmed or legionnaires hat.
- Our Sun Safe policy does not allow the wearing of singlet tops or similar dress tops.
- Students not complying with the uniform code will be directed to change into a stock of uniforms held at school.
- School uniform is required for ALL STUDENTS.

Please label ALL clothing; especially during the swimming program.

**SCHOOL HATS**

Toora Primary School is a SunSmart school. Brimmed hats are an essential part of our school uniform for first and fourth terms. All children must wear a brimmed hat outside or will be directed to the shaded table area for the duration of lunch and recess. Hats are available from the office at $5 each.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

School Council ratified the inclusion of white or light soled sport shoes as part of the Toora Primary School uniform policy. If purchasing shoes over the next few weeks please take this recommendation into consideration as sport shoes are required when students are participating in sport activities in the multipurpose Hall.

**PARENT / TEACHER “Getting To Know You” Interviews**

Interview forms are going home with students today, for “Getting To Know You” interviews between parents and teachers to be held Tuesday 14th February. Please complete and return in your child’s communication book.

Interviews are available from 1:00pm and 5:00pm. This is a normal school day, your child will attend school and in the afternoon participate in whole school activities from 1:00 - 3:30pm.

**REMINDER:**

- All visitors to the school MUST sign in at the office before entering the classroom area.
- Bus travellers must have a note handed to either the office or Bus Duty teacher if they are not travelling home on the bus.
- Bus Students are Supervised from 8:15am until 3:50pm. All other students are supervised between 8:40am - 3:30pm.

**PAULS COLLECT A CAPS - YES we are still collecting!**