Welcome Back

Welcome everyone and in particular to our new families who are joining us for the first time.

A very special welcome to our new staff members, Miss Williams and Kath Gilbert (MARC), and also to Mrs Janssen who will be with us full time in 2015. I would also personally like to thank everyone for the warm welcome that my family and I have received since moving to Toora.

It’s been a great start to 2015 with both students and staff settling in quickly and our many programs already well underway. I thank the staff for the many days that they came in during their holidays to plan programs and organise their classrooms to ensure that such a smooth start was able to happen. The staff and I look forward to working closely with everyone to build on all the fantastic things we have here at Toora, and to work towards ensuring our school is at the cutting edge of Victorian government education by being the best we can possibly be. To do this we will need your help. I would love to hear of any suggestions/ideas that parents have to help us improve our school and encourage you to get involved in the day to day life of the school through the PFA, School Council, Working Bees, or volunteering in any way you can.

As in past years, a school newsletter will be published every fortnight and a curriculum/activities supplement will also be published on alternate newsletter weeks, to keep parents and interested members of our community informed of what’s happening at TPS.

Thanks, David

Staffing and School Structures for 2015

This year we have a staff of 9 (full time and part time). School staff for 2015 is as follows:

Principal - David Tyler
Grade 5/6 (17 students) - Sara Janssen
Grade 2/3/4 (22 students) - Louise Gilbertson
Grade P/1 (16 students) - Rachel Williams
MARC - Thursday - Kath Gilbert

Education Support Officers:
Di Walker - Administration (.8)
Deb Clavarino – Integration (.29)
Sam Embuldeniya: ICT Technical Support (.1)
School Cleaner - Shirley Adams

School Assembly

You are invited to come along to our School Assembly tomorrow at 3:00pm.

This year we have changed our assembly time to Friday afternoons at 3:00pm in the hope that more families will be available to join us.
Grade 5/6 have settled into their classroom with a positive mood and a desire to learn.

We discussed what we want for our learning space and came up with the following words and ideas:

- Calm
- Artistic
- A place you can be yourself
- Students talking quietly about their work
- Happy smiling faces
- Work that is challenging but not stressful
- A good working place
- Some times to be noisy

Grade 5/6 have also spent time in the Prep/1 classroom, helping our buddies. As leaders of the school, we aim to be good role models who look after our younger students and teach them when we can.

- Mrs Sara Janssen

The Grade 2/3/4 class have started the year in fantastic form! Working together we have formed an agreed set of classroom expectations, that we will all be striving to follow.

We have begun looking at each of our own personal learning styles, to discover how we each learn best. We are also finding each of our own strengths and weaknesses and how we can play to those in our classroom environment. We are all STARS in Grade 2/3/4!

- Mrs Louise Gilbertson

The Prep/One class has had a fabulous start to the year. All students have been buddied up with a student from the Grade 5/6 classroom and this has helped our Preps to feel comfortable out in the playground. We have been working on the sound ‘m’ this week and the grade One’s are beginning to develop an understanding of different blends as well. While the Preps had a rest day on Wednesday, the One’s were very busy doing some great writing about their holidays. They also had their first school swimming lesson for the year. We are looking forward to next week as all students have settled in well along with the classroom fish, Agnes and Sparkly.

- Miss Rachel Williams

Buddy Photos: As School leaders we help the younger students both inside the classroom and outside in the yard. We act as role models, helping our new students to learn how school works and looking after them when they feel lost, sad or just need a friend.

We play together, read together, learn together and have fun together!
Aquatic Education Program commenced yesterday for all students in Grade 1-6. Students will need to bring bathers and towel each Wednesday for the duration of February.

Attention: As a whole school procedure and school rule NO parent will be phoned if their child forgets their swim gear. Instead; your child will remain at school and complete water safety and swimming educational activities. Permission forms have been sent home with all students in Grade 1-6 - please send back ASAP if you haven’t already done so. For families who do not hold a season ticket, we do require payment of $3 per session or bulk payment of $12 per child to be paid at the office.

TERM 1 SUN SMART HATS
It is school policy that sun smart hats be worn outside by all students (and staff) during terms 1 and 4. Students are being given this week to get things sorted out but from next Monday 9th February this will be strictly enforced. Any student who does not have a hat will be required to sit on the bench seats in the shade. This consequence is to help remind students to bring their hats to school and to reinforce the importance of being SunSmart. Bucket hats are available for purchase from the school office at $8 each.

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 2015 Parent Supported Materials and Services Charge (formerly known as school fees) at $150 per child. The Parent supported materials and services charge is due now from all families and can be paid at the school office. (We also accept payment plan)

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Our First meeting of School Council for 2015 will be held next Thursday 12th February in the school staffroom at 2:00pm.

We look forward to welcoming all councillors to the 2015 school year.
COMMUNITY NEWS

TOORA FOURTHS FOOTBALL TRAINING
(Under 15’s including 11-12yr olds who would like to train for fitness)

Training commenced last Monday 2nd Feb at the Toora Football Ground at 5:00pm.

Training will be each Monday and Wednesday at 5:00pm.

Inquiries to Troy Johnson 0409953743

GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL TRAIL OFFICIAL OPENING - TOORA TO WELSHPOOL
SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2015

You are invited to join in the fun as the Toora to Welshpool extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail is officially opened.

Celebrations kick off at Toora with a Barbeque provided by the Toora Lions Club, with Face Painting, Fairy Floss, and Jumping Castle.

Walk, run or cycle the trail all the way to Welshpool for afternoon tea, giveaways and information on future rail trail projects.

STROVE TUESDAY - PANCAKE TEA
6:30pm 17th February 2015
$16 for a Family

Great Fun and lots of food at the Anglican Church Hall, Foster

Friends of the Toora Heritage Pear Orchard Inc Present:
The 4th Annual
PEAR/pair PARTY!
Sunday 15th March 10am - 4pm
Mill Street, TOORA, Vic

Featuring...
LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY
Local Produce Stalls
Art Exhibition
Face Painting
Children’s Activities
Talks & Demonstrations
Family & Local History Display
FOOD STALLS & CIDER
Local Ice Cream & Coffee
Taste & Buy Pears!

ENTRY BY DONATION

Plus... 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Toora Post Office Featuring - Brass Band & Display
Australia’s Biggest BBQ by the Toora Lions to support Cancer Research for Kids with Cancer
Toora Village Studio Gallery Art Prize

Further Info: ph 0428 864 520 Follow us on Facebook

FREE BARBEQUE AND FAMILY FUN DAY
Opens @ 11 am
Facepainting, Jumping Castle, Music, Information

Welcome to Welshpool
Port Welshpool Road
AFTERNOON TEA
Opens @ 3pm
Afternoon Tea, Information, Giveaways
SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYGROUNDS NOTICE

As part of Council’s ongoing Playground Replacement Program for 2014/15, works will be taking place between 12 - 16 February 2015 at the following locations:

1. Lewis Street, Port Welshpool
2. Stanley Street, Toora Sagassar Park, Toora

The playgrounds will be fenced off while works take place and unable to be utilised between these dates.

GIPPSLAND POWER FOOTBALL CLUB

Will be holding Under 11 and Under 13 Fitness and Skill acquisition days at the Gippsland Power Centre Of Excellence Morwell Football Ground, Travers Street, Morwell

JUNIOR COACHING PROGRAM
Under 11 Monday 30th March 2015
Under 13 Tuesday 31st March 2015
(Numbers will be capped)

Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm
Cost: $100.00 For registrations please contact the Gippsland Power Football Club office on 51346133
* Registrations close on Friday March 27th*

THE FUTURE OF TOORA KINDERGARTEN

Consultation on early childhood services in your community

Council is undertaking a review of the current and future demands of the Corner Inlet kindergartens including Toora, Welshpool and Fish Creek. These Early Years facilities have been identified as requiring upgrades in the next 10-15 years.

A major part of the review involves consultation with the local community service providers and government departments to identify the current and future needs for kindergarten services in Corner Inlet. The review will provide recommendations to Council that will ensure Council infrastructure meets the needs and standards required to deliver future kindergarten programs for Corner Inlet.

Three public consultation sessions will be held in February to allow people to provide their thoughts and opinions in regard to the future needs for early childhood services in our communities. Additional consultation will be held separately with various groups.

Fish Creek Hall (Meeting Room) on Monday 9th February between 9:30am - 12:30pm
Toora Hall (Meeting Room) on Tuesday 10th February between 9:30am - 12:30pm
Wishpool Hall (Meeting Room) on Wednesday 11th February between 9:30am - 12:30pm

For further information please contact Shelley Fitter on 56629226.