All students have made a wonderful start to school for 2013 and the grades are being most industrious in their approach to their learning.

Our “Welcome Healthy Breakfast” was well received by students and parents. We extend thanks to Kathryn and Hamish Brown, Fiona Brown and Kelly Packham for their help in preparation and cooking.

The first of our six parent workshops “Tuning into Kids” run by Damon Piercy was very successful. We remind parents that the second workshop will be on Monday 18th February 11:00-1:00pm at the CFA Meeting room. If you missed the first session, you are still able to join in on the other sessions.

On Monday at the school assembly we will be listening to our Grade 6 students give their Leadership speeches. Invitations have gone home to families of Grade 6 students.

Good Luck to the following students competing at the District Swimming Sports at Korumburra on Tuesday: Morgan Cook, Jacob Cecchini, Tylah O’Connor, Stephanie Storr, Brittany Viney-Walker, Riley Hewson, Ava Brown and Lexi Elmore. We wish you success and know that you will all be great ambassadors for Toora Primary School and the Prom Coast team.

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER’S RISK

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This might include mobile phones, electronic games, toys, musical instruments, sporting equipment and cars parked on the school premises. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. You are reminded that students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. If mobile phones or iPods are brought along for use before or after school for example on the bus they must be left at the Office on arrival and collected before home time.

**2013 CALENDAR**

**FEBRUARY**

**Prep students absent WEDNESDAY’s**

19th District Swimming Sports - Korumburra

20th Swimming Program Grade 1-6 Session 2

27th Swimming Program Grade 1-6 Session 3

28th Last day to lodge EMA application

**March**

**Preps attend school every day**

11th Labour Day PUBLIC holiday

13th School Council AGM 7:30pm

14th Whole School Athletics Sports at Foster

15th Back-up day for Athletics Sports

20th Great Southern Portrait Art Workshop

27th Great Southern Portrait Art Workshop

**2013 Term Dates**

Term1: 31 Jan - 28 Mar  Term2: 15 Apr - 28 Jun

Term3: 15 Jul - 20 Sept  Term4: 7 Oct - 20 Dec

**School Office Hours**

8.30am—4.00pm (Wednesdays unattended)

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

**REMEMBER:**

- 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 or a note in the communication book 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.

**VIEW OUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

Our newsletter can be viewed online at our website at any time. Check it out in colour!

[www.tooraps.vic.edu.au](http://www.tooraps.vic.edu.au)

Facebook page: TooraPrimarySchool
SECONDHAND SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS
The school is looking for any second-hand uniform items that we can pass onto families or use as replacement uniform in the case of accidents at school. If you have any items in good condition that you would like to donate please leave at the school office.

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 $8 each.

HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES
Please take the time to clearly name (check names) on jumpers, jackets and belongings. Already we have unnamed items in lost property. It is terrific to see most of the children proudly wearing their school uniform.

Don’t forget that now is the time to tighten up the home routines after the holiday period. Late bed times are fine over the break, but we cannot optimise your child’s potential if they are tired. Please encourage a good sleep schedule so they are refreshed and ready to tackle the academic and social challenges that school days bring.

SPACERS & SCHOOLS: REMINDER FOR PARENTS & CARERS
Schools/preschools in Victoria have been informed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria about new guidelines regarding the use of spacers for children with Asthma.

Spacers are essential equipment when following Asthma First Aid best practice, however schools/preschools will no longer be able to wash, sterilise and reuse spaces from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students with asthma symptoms.

Asthma first aid kits should only ever be used as a back-up for when a student does not have their own spacer available, if it is a first asthma attack or the cause of breathing difficulty is unknown.

Some schools/preschools may implement a policy where parents/carers are responsible for the cost of the spacer if one must be used from the asthma emergency kit.

Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their Asthma Plan, medication and spacer is always available to the school/preschool staff.

Please make sure your child always brings a spacer with them to school, or has one that stays at school.

For more information please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or email schools@asthma.org.au

FOSTER SHOW
The Foster Show is a wonderful community event which Toora Primary School is proud to support. All of our students will be entering items this year.

We hope that you go along and see all the wonderful displays on the weekend of February 23rd & 24th.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) applications close 28th February 2013

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
School Council nominations are open for the 2013/2014 year. A Nomination form for new School Councillors is is available from the school Administration counter. It must be returned to the School office no later than 4.00pm on Wednesday 27th February 2013.

There are 2 parent vacancies and 1 staff vacancies. Parents/guardians of students of Toora Primary School are entitled to nominate for parent vacancies.

School Council currently meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm (time and day is up for negotiation with all School Council members.) Meetings are capped at 2 hour duration, and school council is obligated to meet at least 8 times during the year to meet DEECD requirements.

We value parent input into Toora Primary School and welcome new ideas and support. Please give serious consideration to becoming a School Councillor.

The Annual General Meeting, followed by the first meeting of the new School Council, will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm

Every year at this time we call for interested parents to nominate for School Council. Positions are for 2 years, requiring half of the Council to change each year. This ensures that all parents have the opportunity to contribute.

TOORA UNDER 13 NETBALL TRAINING
We would like to invite anyone interested in playing netball this season in our 13 & Under team to begin training with us on Wednesday 20th February @ 4:30pm at the Toora Netball Courts.

The coach for this season is Emma Jones.

Please contact Tara (club secretary) for any other info on 0438533446. We welcome all new players.

Boys are eligible to play in this grade up to the age of 12.
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 2013 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.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

We may have opportunity to host Religious Instruction sessions commencing second term if enough families are wanting this.

Laurie Grady (Welshpool), and Sister Mary (Yarram) have offered to conduct sessions but are still looking for a third instructor.

(Our previous instructors are not available)

Please complete the slip below and return to school as soon as possible.

RESEARCH INSTRUCTION

Child/Children:________________________________________

☐ I DO WANT MY CHILD/CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

☐ I DO NOT WANT MY CHILD/CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Parent name:________________________________________ Signature:________________________________________

Date:________________________________________