Dear Parents,

As we continue our journey to becoming a fully fledged ‘Kidsmatter School’ it has been pleasing to hear so many of our students discussing our values and sharing experiences of times that they have made positive decisions in the classroom, in the playground and outside of school. Throughout the latter part of 2015 we ran a project called the ‘Smile Project’ in which our students took part in activities designed to create a positive school community.

Component 1 of the Kidsmatter framework encompasses this need to have a feeling of belonging and create an environment where every person, regardless of background, race, or gender can be valued and celebrated.

As part of our continuing work in this area throughout 2016 we will be running a number of cultural afternoons, as well as re-creating our Learning Stone area to educate our students on Indigenous Australians.

As with all special programs at Toora Primary School we would love to have as much parental involvement as possible, as studies show that the stronger the connection between home and school, the greater the outcomes for students.

If you would like to be involved in any of the above activities please let me know. Thanks for your assistance in building a positive, thriving school community.

David, Principal.

Free Dress Day Friday 26th February

We will host a free dress day as part of the Relay For Life “Paint The Town Purple” Week. All students are asked to wear a dash of purple or yellow as a sign of our fight against cancer and bring a Gold coin donation.

We join in with other schools from the Shire who are also participating in this day.

Grade 3 Students - Library / Take Home Bag (Navy with School logo) $7.00 Now in stock and available from school office

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 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 8:45am - 3:30pm.
PEAR PARTY - 13th MARCH 2016 COLOURING COMP.
Each year, the Toora Village Studio Gallery holds an art competition to coincide with Toora’s Pear Party held in March. This year, the gallery invites primary school-aged children to enter a colouring competition based on the competition's theme – “There’s a Pear in There…” Toora artist Carol Linton will judge entries, which will be displayed in the gallery from the 3rd March. Prizes will be awarded in three sections – GrP-2, Gr3-4, Gr5-6. Entry is $1. Please submit your completed coloured sheet and your entry fee to the School Admin office for collection before 3rd March.

FOSTER SHOW PREPARATIONS
Lots of teamwork and busy people in the 4/5/6 room this week as we continue to prepare our entries for the Foster Show.

PARENT PAYMENT - ESSENTIAL ITEMS 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).

Family Statements will go home early next week to all families with this charge added to it. For those families using the Payment plan option the first payment is due: 26th February, families paying the whole sum this payment is due 24th March.

Grade 2/3 Classroom News
We are settling in well in the Grade 2/3 room as we establish our new routines and focus on the school values (Be Safe, Be Fare, Think, Learn and Care). From the first week focus of “social and emotional learning”, we agreed on the kinds of behaviours we want to see in our classroom:

- Fairness
- Trying our best and
- Honesty
- Treating others the way we want to be treated.

These merged as priorities in our class and it has been great to watch the students put these into practice, treating other with respect and reflecting honestly on our behaviour. I am very happy with our progress as a class.

Parents will notice we do not have a dedicated Communication book this year, rather we have the Home Reading record which can be used for brief communication or email, as a more reliable contact. I encourage all parents to use email to relay important information. (whittle.brett.d@edumail.vic.gov.au).

For Grade 3 students the tidy blue Toora Primary School carry pouches were not included on the booklist. However these are available from the office at a small cost of $7.00 I encourage parents to acquire these or provide similar so that Readers, Marc books, the Home Reading records and the Spelling Revision books can travel home safely. It will also help greatly with organisation in the classroom.

The inside cover of the Spelling Revision books contains the students’ Google email account details as well as Mathletics and Reading Eggs passwords should any eager beaver wish to use some of their screen time progressing at home.

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PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION Nomination Form

I wish to nominate ________________________________ for an elected position on the Toora Primary School Parents & Friends Association Committee.

PFA Office Bearers: President   Secretary   Treasurer   Fundraising Co-ordinator   (please circle)

CANDIDATE’S DETAILS:

Name: __________________________________________________________

Residential address: _____________________________________________

Contact phone (mobile or landline): _______________________________

Email: _________________________________________________________

I am the parent/guardian of __________________________, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

Name of Nominator: ____________________________________________

Signature of Nominator______________________________ Date ____/____/2016

CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE:

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school PFA Committee.

Signature of Candidate: ________________________________________ Date ____/____/ 2016

Nominations Close: Wednesday 24th February 2016 4:00pm

Voting, if required, will occur at the PFA AGM 26th February 2016