FUNDRAISING NEWS
Thank you to the families who supported the Bulb fundraiser, for very little effort we have raised $207.50 for the school.

An update on our Pauls-Collect-A-Cap fundraiser, we sent off a bag full of caps last week and have been notified that we had 2208 caps in the bag and have earned $220.80. Thank you to every one in the community, please continue to send in your caps from specially labelled Pauls Milk caps.

STUDENT INFORMATION CARDS – UPDATE DETAILS
If you change your details ie: your telephone number, address, medical issues, emergency contacts or work phone numbers, it is vital that the school is informed. There is a card attached to your newsletter that we would appreciate you taking the time to complete and return to school office for our records.

WEDNESDAY LUNCH ORDERS
There has been an increasing number of incidents where lunch orders have not been calculated at revised 2012 pricing which impacts dramatically on the Supermarket.
Please find a new Lunch Order list attached to this newsletter. We ask that families take a few moments to check the new list when completing lunch orders.
With the absence of a school Canteen, it is a privilege to have our local supermarket available for lunch orders

GRADE 6 LEADERSHIP SPEECHES
An invitation to be an audience at our Grade 6 Leadership Speeches.
When: Monday 19th March
Where: School Project Space
Time: 9:00 am
We would love to have you along to support our up and coming Leadership team.

Tennis with Kim Ross
A huge thank you to Kim Ross who willingly gave up her time to run an extensive and fun tennis program over the past two weeks during our school’s Wednesday afternoon rotational classes for the 2/3 and 4/5/6 classes. The prep/1 class will receive the same tennis program with Mrs Wogan-Browne in the following week. Kim organised and planned a variety of tennis skills and activities and gave the students at Toora Primary School time on the courts.

The students were given a small insight into the game of tennis and enjoyed the experiences that they were able to have due to Kim’s wide knowledge of the game. Thankyou very much Kim.

I liked learning how to do the volley shot. - Lachlan
I liked seeing how many times I could bounce the ball on my racquet. - Xavier
The activities were good because all the kids could do them and have fun. - Aron
I liked playing a game of tennis with the other students. - Lana
I enjoyed it because I learnt new tennis skills. - Stephanie
I liked learning about how to return the ball properly. - Elli
It was fun because it was new to me. - Mitchell
It was fun. Thanks Kim. - Sophie

If you are missing a helmet or a small blue scooter please collect from the office ASAP. These items will be taken to the Op shop next Thursday if not claimed.

Tennis is FUN - Leah, Cody, Ebony, Elli
SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT REPRESENTATIVE VACANCY
There is still a vacancy for a parent representative on school council that need to be filled. If you would like to be involved in the school as a member of the School Council, please talk to a school councillor or Barbara Purvis for more information about this important fulfilling role. School Council plays a very important role in the success of the school so please consider this vacancy seriously.

UNIFORM ITEMS
The following families have Uniform items awaiting collection from the school office: Benton, Rip, Tanner, Guligo, Paola, Hewson and Brewer. The next uniform order form will go home in the first week of Term 2. Orders MUST be accompanied by payment before we can order items.

URGENT - Prep Questionnaire
The School Nursing Program has sent questionnaires to the Prep students we are still waiting on two families to return them. Please return to the school tomorrow if you have not already done so.

WE NEED:
- Clean empty tins (ie: washed tinned fruit, spaghetti tins etc)
- Plastic Straps/handles from boxes

These can be left in the Administration foyer or handed to your child’s teacher.

Help Toora Primary School win $350-$1000 of sports gear!
The Premier’s Active Families Challenge is on again, and our school has the chance to win up to $1000 of sports gear, and receive sports clinics with high profile sporting personalities. All you have to do is get active and have fun with your family! Take the challenge and do 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 days between 19 March – 30 April. The more students who register from our school, the more chances we have to win.

By registering for this challenge you and your family will receive special offers, including:
- 15% off at Rebel Sport
- 20 free YMCA passes
- One free child pass to National Sport Museum
- One free child pass to Melbourne Aquarium.
- Plus go in the draw to win Rebel Vouchers and iPads!

Anyone can register, so get your friends and family to take the Challenge too.
Get more active more often, spend quality time together and have fun. It’s free, it’s easy, and there are plenty of chances to win! Register online at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge or call 1800 463 684, and remember to include our school’s name when you register.

2012 CALENDAR
March
Preps attend school every day
16th Scholastic Book Club orders due
23rd National Ride to School Day
27th Athletics Sports
28th School Council Annual General Meeting
30th Term 1 Ends

April
16th Term 2 starts
20th Central District Squad Athletics - LEON
25th ANZAC Day holiday

May
15th-17th NAPLAN Testing Years 3 & 5
25th District Cross Country

June
08th Curriculum Day - Pupil Free
11th Queens Birthday Public Holiday
12th Division Cross Country
26th Parent Teacher Interviews
29th Term 2 Ends

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

Leadership Conference
Four representatives from the Grade 6 classroom will be selected to participate in a South Gippsland Leadership Conference. This conference will be held on Thursday 22nd March at Korumburra.

Don’t miss our students Artworks on display this weekend at the Pear/Pair Party! Mill St, TOORA.
Two Types of Potato Salad

Dig for potatoes in the vegetable garden tyres.
Peel the potatoes and enjoy that earthy smell.
Dice the potatoes into bite size pieces.
Boil the potatoes in a big pot of bubbling water.
Meanwhile chop up the mint and chives into the smallest pieces you can.
Check the potatoes are ready. Cooked but still a little firm.
Divide potatoes into two bowls.
Melt a tablespoon of butter in one bowl and add the mint. Mix.
In the other bowl add a good dollop of mayonnaise then add the chives.
Mix. Simple and yummy!
Prep for Parents:  
Every Little Bit Helps...

While you are already encouraging your child’s learning at home, getting involved in your child’s school can benefit your child, the school and you.

It is well known that children with interested and involved parents do better both academically and socially at school. It enhances your child’s sense of belonging as they see you actively participating in a place that means a lot to them. It also has benefits for the school (and the community). The more parents get involved, the better the school can meet their students’ needs.

What isn’t said too often is that you also receive some benefit. At the very least, you’ll probably make connections with teachers and friendships with other parents, as well as developing your own skills and experience.

Depending on the amount of time you have, and your skills, interests and experience, there are a number of ways you can get involved in your child’s school.

A simple way to become involved is reading the school newsletter. These are usually sent home in your child’s school bag, or emailed to you, or uploaded on the school’s website. School newsletters often contain information about what is happening at your child’s school and activities available for you and your child. And it doesn’t take much time to read the newsletter either. Reading the newsletter will also help you discuss what is going on at school with your child.

If you have a bit more time, you might consider volunteering. Schools often have opportunities for parents to help with running the school canteen, attending working bees, going on excursions and camps or helping on sports day. They may also have opportunities for you to be members of environment committees or cultural groups. You could also volunteer some time to help listen to children read or helping them with maths. You might also consider supporting a school or student fundraising activity or helping out at the school fete. You may even like to join the school’s parent club.

Joining the school council is another option. School councils include parents, school staff, community members and the school principal. In Victorian government schools, councils determine the school direction, priorities and budget. Basically they act as the decision-making board for the school. They generally meet regularly throughout the school year. Usually, the school council is elected by the end of March each year so even if you don’t want to join the council, you can still vote for candidates. You may also like to join a sub-committee of the school council, like the school grounds sub-committee.

No matter what you choose to do, getting involved in your child’s school will give you a better idea of how the school is run, what it is trying to achieve educationally and what challenges it faces. It will also allow you and your child to become active members of your community and make it a better place for everyone.

Naturally, you should talk to your child’s school or ask your child’s teacher about would suit the amount of time you can spare. Your child’s school will welcome any opportunities that your involvement.

Source: http://www.education.vic.gov.au

Annual General Meeting of School Council postponed until 28th March

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS  
Leaflets went home this week with all students. Orders & money due back to school by Friday 16th March.
PROM COAST ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

PROM COAST ATHLETICS CARNIVAL - TUESDAY 27th March 2012

Tuesday 27th March is our Prom Coast Athletics Carnival which sees our Toora school compete against one Welshpool team and three Foster teams. The emphasis for the day will be on participation, having a go at the events and doing our best. The day is set up to be fun for all students whilst also being used as selection trials for the Prom Coast combined team to compete at the Athletics carnival in Leongatha on Friday 20th April.

All grades P-6 will compete at the South Gippsland Secondary College (SGSC).

**Grades 3-6** will be on the Secondary College main oval whilst **Grades P-2** will participate on the Secondary College Soccer field.

**All students to be at SGSC by 9.00am**

Parents are expected to make their own arrangements to transport students to and from the sports day. The sports are expected to finish at approximately 2.45-3.00pm and parents are asked to collect students at this time. If someone other than a parent is to collect your child please let their class teacher know. Students are under the supervision of teachers whilst at the sports.

Toora PS will compete as one team. Students are expected to be wearing our Dark Blue Sports tops, or a dark blue T-shirt with navy or black shorts with comfortable shoes suitable to run in, and bring a positive attitude with them on the day. No student will be permitted to remove their shoes. Students are to wear hats.

Families may choose to bring a picnic lunch and snacks for their children, the Secondary College canteen will be open to purchase drinks and snacks for those wishing to do so.

**TRANSPORT TO AND FROM THE ATHLETICS SPORTS AT FOSTER**

The Athletics Sports day is an important component of our Physical Education program and we expect all students to attend. Parents are expected to make their own arrangements to transport students to and from the sports day. In the past parents have organised amongst themselves how to best share the transporting of students to and from Foster for the day. If you are having specific difficulties with transport please see your child’s teacher / or communication book.
National Ride2School Day invites students to participate in the largest ever active event held nationally for schools – to celebrate riding, walking and scooting to school!

Toora Primary School is encouraging families to participate in this event and help promote the benefits of physical activity such as active transport when considering their options for travelling to school on Friday March 23rd.

If distance makes it impossible for you to consider this an option, perhaps you could park the car away from the school (e.g. near Sagasser park) and walk the rest of the way!

HOWEVER, the school wishes to remind families of some safety needs for the day.

REMEMBER: Children do not develop peripheral vision until they are 10 years of age; therefore it is not safe for them to ride independently on the road until they are at least 10. Helmets must be worn if riding or scooting. It is also recommended that if allowing your suitably aged child to ride independently that they have completed a program such as ‘Bike Ed’, which alerts and guides them through many aspects of being a safe road user.

If in doubt accompany your child on the journey and enjoy the ride! Or WALK to school with your child.

With these thoughts in mind, why not encourage your child to either ride, walk or scoot to school.

Question: Are cyclists allowed to ride two abreast when travelling on a road?

How to be a smart rider (Sourced from the Ride2School Website)

- Always wear a bike helmet and make sure that it fits properly and has no cracks in the foam.
- Have mudguards on the bike to stop water and mud hitting your face and back when it rains.
- Give way to people walking on shared footpaths and keep to the left hand side.
- Be careful of, and give way to cars backing out of driveways because they might not see you.
- Learn the traffic signals and signs and be sure to obey them.
- If you are riding on the road, ride in marked bike lanes wherever possible.
- Children under the age of 12 years old are allowed to ride on the footpath.
- If you are riding on the road, find quiet streets and stay to the left hand side of the road.
- Use hand signals when you are turning right so it is clear to everyone where you are going.
- Wear bright and shiny clothing so people can see you easily in the day time and the night.
- Have a bell or horn on the bike to warn people when you need to ride past them.
- Keep the bike chain well oiled so that the bike runs smoothly and doesn’t rust.
- Use bike lights when it is raining or foggy so you can be seen easily, even in the daytime.
- Learn how to fix a flat tyre. Carry a puncture repair kit and pump for longer rides.
- Check that the brakes work and are in good condition before riding the bike.

Answer: Cyclists are allowed to ride two abreast on all roads. However, in some instances such as on busy roads, it may be safer for cyclists to ride in single file.