Dear Parents,

It’s been over ten years since I last taught at Toora Primary School. I’m most impressed by the changes that have taken place. It was nice to be greeted by many familiar faces on both sides of the fence and meet the next generation. The buildings and grounds provide a marvellous environment in which your children will grow and learn. The school is well resourced and I managed to find most things with little trouble. Buildings are one thing however and the real key to a good school is the staff who continue to work with a high level of professionalism and care for the children and families of Toora and District.

There are great kids here who show curiosity, courtesy and respect. It was pleasing to hear this comment repeated by Alison Lester and Joan Liley after the successful excursion to Fish Creek last Monday. It’s been a brief but happy return to your school and community.

Yours in Education,
Walter Birkenbeil – Relief Principal.

**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

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There will be a whole school Head Lice check next week.

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2013 Prom Camp

Grades 3–6
- November 13th, 14th & 15th
- Cost will be $175.00

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**PFA MOTHERS’ DAY STALL – Friday 10th May**

With Mothers’ Day fast approaching (Sunday 12th May) it’s time to be looking out for items for our Mothers’ day stall.

**Our Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Friday 10th May**

We invite all families to donate one or two gifts.

Suitable gifts include; cookbooks, kitchen utensils, magazines, socks, vases, jewellery, cosmetics, hand and body lotions, shower gels, soap, tea & coffee mugs, candles, chocolates, aprons, stationery, scarves, frames, etc.

Donations can be left in the specially marked box in the Admin foyer. Student spending for the Mothers’ Day stall is limited to $5:00. All items will be priced up to $5 in value.

PFA will also be asking for parent assistance during the pre-stall wrap on Thursday 9th May and also on the day of the stall, so please keep these dates in mind as it is such a lovely event to be part of and the children love seeing you there.
NAPLAN
A reminder to parents of Year 3 and 5 students that NAPLAN is fast approaching on 14th - 16th May. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the National Statement of Learning for English and Mathematics which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a persuasive text.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of the school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

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

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.

Direct Deposit details:
Toora Primary School BSB 633-000 Acc:124311424
Please use your “family name” as Reference.

BOOKCLUB
If you wish to order from this issue of book club, orders are to be returned to the school by Monday 6th May.

If you are paying by cheque please make sure cheques are made payable to Toora Primary School not Scholastic Book Club

SOUTH GIPPSLAND CARERS

Is a group of carers & families of people with additional needs & frail aged. We are there for all carers who live in the South Gippsland region & we provide support, social get-togethers, information sharing & regular meetings.

Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month during school Term from 10am – 12 noon at the Leongatha Community House 16 Bruce St Leongatha.

For more information please contact Heather on 56 689 243

Next meeting Tuesday May 14th 2013

“Tuning Into Kids” - April 29th - June 3rd
Damon Piercy is running the very informative “Tuning Into Kids” workshops at Foster over the next six consecutive Mondays from 29th April to the 3rd June from 11:00am - 1:00pm. A light lunch is provided.

The workshops are open to all parents of school children, if you missed a session at our workshops in Toora and would like to join in contact Damon 0428 620 470.

WHOLE SCHOOL HEAD LICE CHECK

Next week commencing Monday 6th May, our Student Welfare officer Dinah Brownfield will be conducting a whole school head-lice check. If your child is found with live lice or eggs you will be contacted to collect your child and treat their hair appropriately.

With advance notice, parents have the opportunity to check and treat children’s hair over the weekend.

Artwork by Lachlan Lewis
From Alison’s Visit (by Danielle Cashin)

On Monday the 29th we went to Fish Creek hall to see the famous book writer Alison Lester! When we got there we met Alison Lester’s sister Joan. She told us Alison wasn’t going to be long. About five seconds later Alison Lester came out to say hello and started to talk about the book “Are We There Yet”. It was sort of the same as Alison Lester had done in real life. It was amazing and it also sounded fun.

Then she let us go around and look at the art exhibition, there were heaps of different pictures. They were all about her family holiday all around Australia and from the holiday in the book. Then we got to go upstairs and started painting but first Alison Lester showed us lots of different techniques like using crayons, pencils and water colours then we started by sketching our drawing about a fun holiday that we have had. I drew a picture of a sheep from a holiday to my Nana’s and poppy’s for Easter. I went there with my little sister Cheyenne. My favourite part was having the honour to have the chance to meet her. It was a great day and one of the best experiences of my life!

By Danielle Cashin  Gr.4

From Alison Lester (by Jaxon Lewis Gr.3)

On Monday the 29th twenty three people from grade three to six went to see Alison Lester and she talked about her book called “Are We There Yet”. We got to have a look around the exhibition. In the exhibition there were some photos of her trip with her family. She wrote a book about their trip and some pictures of her book. My most favourite thing about it was the paintings.

After, we went and drew a painting. Some people did two and some did one. I did one. I drew about hills, Noni the pony, trees, stars, the sun and a house. My colours that I wanted to use were green and yellow. We used grey leads, water colour paints and crayons.

Then we went back onto the floor and we took some photos and then we thanked her then we went back on the bus. I would love to do it again!

by Jaxon Lewis Gr.3

From Our Visit To Alison Lester (by Callum Ross)

On Monday the 3 to 6 school kids went to see Alison Lester. She talked to us about her book “Are We There Yet?” Then we went around the room looking at her art exhibition. The art was from the book “Are We There Yet?” and there were actual photos of when Alison Lester and her family went around Australia. After that she went to Antarctica with her daughter.

Later we went and did our own art with Alison Lester. She showed us how she drew. She said to draw a picture then paint it, then turn the drawing around then let the paint go down. Then you will have a pattern. People did all kinds of art work. But mine was something called asdf. I drew two pictures. Then after that we said goodbye to Alison Lester and travelled back to school.

It was a great time!

By Callum Ross

From The Visit to Alison Lester (by Kaleb Hood)

We looked at all the paintings. They were good. They were about her journey around Australia with her family.

We made a post card that you can send to someone. We did a water colour drawing. I did the Toora hills. I used orange, green, purple and blue. We came home on the bus.

By Kaleb Hood  Gr.4
The Exciting Day
On Monday something happened to Grade 3 and up. We went to see Alison Lester at Fish Creek. Alison Lester was talking about her books and mainly about the book “Are We There Yet” and her journey from it.

Second, Alison Lester let us go and have a look at her exhibition and ask questions. Third, we went upstairs to do a painting and a little bit before we painted, Alison Lester did a little example of mixing colours. We did the paintings for half an hour. When we were doing the paintings Alison Lester signed my book, (The Quicksand Pony).

When we first started the painting Alison Lester talked and told us what is good to use.

I was so excited about going and loved it too.      By Lexi Elmore  Gr.4

Alison Lester Is Here
We went to Fish Creek on Monday the 29th of April. Three to six went and the other grade didn’t come because they couldn’t do water colour painting. She talked about “Are We There Yet?”

We looked at her exhibition then we asked her some questions. We did paintings of our favourite places on pictures on water colour paper. I did the hills with roads, mud in the paddocks. The colours on my pictures were brown, black, blue and orange. I drew hills, some roads and mud and a sun and the blue sky, the sky was dark blue.

She showed us lots of techniques for our art works and I used some of the techniques she told us. Some people might not have used the techniques that Alison showed us and people used some of them and some people used all of them.

Some of the stuff in the book was not real and the other stuff was real. They really went to some of the places in the book.

It was brilliant because we got to see Alison Lester and we got to do drawing. Riley Hewson Gr.4

Going To See Alison Lester
On the 29/04/2013 we were going to see Alison Lester. She was going to show us an exhibition of “Are We There Yet”.

When we got to the stadium in Fish Creek Alison Lester was still having her breakfast. We walked into the stadium in Fish Creek and we saw Alison Lester’s sister. She talked to us about the exhibition and she said nice things about us and she told us that Alison Lester was here. Then she went to go and tell Alison Lester that we were there and waiting for her.

Then Alison Lester walked in and she let us have a look around for ten minutes. I started at the start and went along the way to the end. While I was going to the end I saw a lot of different things and a lot of odd things and I saw a lot of pictures of the main characters. I saw the people in the pool and I saw a picture of an elephant and a tiger. Then she talked to us about “Are We There Yet?”.

After she talked to us about “Are We There Yet” we went and watched her do some drawing and the best thing to do is to use crayon and then when we paint it, it will stand out more.

Then the people in the school had a shot. I used grey lead I did a picture of a river, hills and a forest. The hills had trees and pears were on the ground and on the trees. The river had two platypuses, two fish, and a beaver. I had grass in it and a horse and there were apples on the trees. There were stars up in the sky and there was a moon. The horse’s name was Twinkle Star Pipe, the platypus’s name was Stinky Patches and the fish’s name was Sparkles. The grass was nice and soft the sky was nice and blue and the stars were nice and sparkly the apples were nice and red the trees were nice and green the river was nice and blue and the dam was nice and brown and the world was nice. The moon was up in the sky.

Then it was time to go. I had a nice time at the Exhibition.      By William Cashin  Gr.3

By Lilly Guligo
By Nikki Allott
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Please use your “family name” as Reference.

TOORA COMMUNITY GARDEN

A Toora Community Garden is being established in Toora and will be operating from the former Creative Arts Centre in front of the Bonlac building.

Workshops will be held on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 - 1:00pm (Lions Club also has their BBQ operating on the first Saturday of each month - directly across the road.)

Each Thursday between 10—12:00pm there will be a meeting /working bee.

To start the garden project off, the first Workshop will be held on:
Saturday 4th May “Soil Preparation and Getting Started”

Everyone is invited to join us on this exciting new project in Toora.
For further inquiries please phone Sharon on 0434 233 540

TOORA/WELSHPOOL KINDERGARTEN FUNDRAISER

Kids Gear
Thursday 9th May 9.45am at the TOORA Kindergarten

CHILDRENS CLOTHING AT DISCOUNTED PRICES SIZES 000—14
Lots of brands and licensed clothing eg Ben 10, Tinkerbelle etc
Accessories such as necklaces, hairclips, baby needs, socks and more!
Shopping At Your Convenience - Support Your Local Playgroup

ALL WELCOME
Pick Up And Payment On The Day, Cash or Credit Card
For Details www.kidsgear123.com.au

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Student Supervision: We have a staff member on duty from 8:40am until school starts and then again after school until 3:40pm (for last bus).

The school cannot supervise students who are in attendance outside these times. Our classrooms will not be opened before this time.

Before school is a very busy time for staff preparing for the day ahead and it would be appreciated, if any student discussions are required, that a meeting time is arranged via the Administration office or through your child’s Communication Book. After school there is generally more flexibility for staff. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

We are participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program again this year.
It started on Monday 8th April and finishes on Sunday 9th June. Start collecting your stickers at the checkout, and place on point sheets (attached).

Place your completed sheets in the collection box in the foyer. Tell your friends, neighbours and relatives to collect stickers for Toora Primary School!