From the Principal
At Toora Primary School our goal is to engage all our students in their learning. As a community we value effort, respect and maintaining a positive attitude. We are fortunate here to have highly motivated and dedicated staff that go above and beyond to ensure that we are always working towards achieving our goal and supporting our values.

KIDS MATTER
This week Brett Whittle and Sara Janssen took part in a two day workshop in Melbourne as part of our commitment to introducing the Kid Matter program. KidsMatter Primary is a flexible, whole-school approach to improving children’s mental health and wellbeing for primary schools. Through KidsMatter Primary, schools undertake a two-to three-year cyclical process in which they plan and take action to be a positive community; one that is founded on respectful relationships and a sense of belonging and inclusion, and that promotes:

- social and emotional learning (including evidence-based social and emotional learning programs)
- working authentically with parents, carers and families
- support for students who may be experiencing mental health difficulties.

We all look forward to seeing this program unfold in our school community knowing that it will support our students not only in their learning but their general wellbeing.

NAPLAN
Next week is NAPLAN. Our grade 3 and 5 children will be doing the very best they can over the three days of testing. If you don’t want your child to sit the NAPLAN tests for any reason you have to let me know- otherwise we expect all children to participate. Over the last four years our school has performed very well in NAPLAN. However, it is far from being the be all and end all in terms of telling us where your child is at as a learner. For example, your child could perform very well in NAPLAN in terms of their knowledge, but still be not proficient in being an independent learner, taking risks and showing resourcefulness and resilience. The other issue with NAPLAN is that, by necessity of the number of children sitting it, it is a multiple choice test. This is the least accurate testing method and as a result almost one third of children will do better or worse on the day than they were capable of. So- in a few months from now, when you receive your NAPLAN data, I still advise you to have a quick chat to your child’s teacher as to their accuracy. It will be interesting to see how they go and of course we all wish them the very best of luck-particularly our grade 3 children, who will never have sat such a formal test before.

2014 CALENDAR

MAY
09th Grade 5/6 Winter Sport (Leongatha)
12th PFA Meeting 9:00am
13th NAPLAN Testing commences Gr3 & Gr5
14th School Lunch orders
14th National Volunteers Week Special Afternoon Tea
16th Grade 5/6 Winter Sport (Foster)
16th Grade 3/4 AFL Football Clinic
20th School Photos
22nd Toora PS annual Cross Country event 2:00pm
23rd Grade 5/6 Winter Sport (Korumburra)
28th Year 7 2015 Information Evening at SGSC
30th Grade 5/6 Winter Sport (Foster)

JUNE
5th Division Cross Country
6th Whole Staff Maths PD - Pupil Free Day
9th Queens Birthday Public Holiday
19th Regional Cross Country
27th Last Day Term 2

JULY
14th School resumes Term 3

AUGUST
4th—11th Yarram Eisteddfod

SEPTEMBER
1st Grade 6 students - Second Orientation Day
11th Division Athletics Sports
19th Last Day Term 3

OCTOBER
6th School resumes Term 4
23rd Aquatic Ed. Program commences

NOVEMBER
4th Pupil Free Day
5th Public Holiday

DECEMBER
8th Graduation Dinner
9th State-wide Transition Day

School Office Hours
8.30am - 4.15pm (Wednesdays unattended)
Absences - Phone the office or write in your child's communication book
GENED - On Tuesday we welcomed Wendie Walker to our school to answer any questions we had about GenEd, our school reporting system. All families have been issued with passwords and logins for GenEd that enables you to monitor your child’s performance on a regular basis. The feedback that your child’s teacher posts on GenEd is evidence based and relates to specific learning tasks. At the end of this term Progression Points will be added for your child to support the feedback that has been reported on over the semester. If you have any queries or issues with GenEd, please contact your child’s teacher, the office or myself.

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES - Parent/Teacher Conferences for semester 2 will take place on Wednesday 25th of June. Further information will be sent home with your child closer to this date. These conferences are a great opportunity to sit down with your child’s teacher one on one and discuss where your child is at with their learning and what their next steps are.

WINTER SPORT - A reminder to all students in Grades 5 & 6 that our Winter Sport program commences this Friday, 9th June. All notes and monies must be returned to the office prior to students departing otherwise your child will not be able to attend. Please make sure that you bring a change of clothes in case of wet weather.

AFL FOOTY CLINIC - All students in Grades 3 & 4 are fortunate to be attending a footy clinic with the Hawthorn Football Club next Friday, 16th June in Leongatha. Mrs Wogan-Brown will be escorting the students and we are sure they will have a great day, we look forward to hearing all about it.

SCHOOL PHOTOS - Our annual school photos will take place on Tuesday 20th May. Individual order forms will be sent home in the next few days.

SCHOOL LUNCHES - A big thanks to our Parents Club for arranging school lunches to begin again for all our students. Our first one will be next Wednesday, 14th May. This is a great service while we wait for our canteen to be up and running.

- Sharon Mitchell

Students in Prep/1 created a beautiful wreath for ANZAC Day. Mrs Mitchell placed the wreath at the Cenotaph as time ran out for the whole class to walk up to the Cenotaph.

Pictured here are a very excited Prep/1 class

THANK YOU
Thank you to Mrs Kelly Packham and Mrs Rachel Lewis for helping with Reading in the Prep/1 class this week.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

We have our Mother’s Day stall tomorrow and once again a small band of unbelievably committed Mums have provided a wonderful experience for our children.

To pick a gift for Mum, Nan or Grandma is a special thing for many children and it’s great that they have the opportunity to do so. All gifts are well worth their price tag of between 50 cents and $5.

We wish all of our Mums a wonderful day on Sunday.
**Student of the Week Certificates**

- **Resilience**  
  Brayden Rip - For continued improvement in his listening and concentration skills.

- **Persistence**  
  Thomas Brown - For excelling and continually challenging himself during the exploration of Addition.

- **Organisation**  
  Carly Anderson - For huge improvements in her knowledge of letters and their corresponding sounds.

- **Confidence**  
  Callum Ross - For remaining defiant and yet not aggressive during a bullying experience.

- **Getting Along**  
  Ava Brown - For persistence and dedication towards her work, particularly her Mathematics.

- **Grade 2/3**  
  For working hard to set goals for their learning and always trying to do their best!

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**HEADLICE**

It is extremely important that parents continue to be vigilant in checking their children’s hair. Children are **NOT ABLE** to remain at school with head lice. Once treated they may return. Head Lice checks will be held at school every second Thursday, which is Newsletter week.

**PFA MEETINGS** - These are held fortnightly with the next meeting scheduled to run on Tuesday 12th April at 9:00 am

**YEAR 7 2015 INFORMATION EVENING**

Students and parents who are interested in finding out more about the Year 7 Program at South Gippsland Secondary College are invited to an information evening on Wednesday 28th May at 7.00 pm. The venue for the evening is the College Flexible Learning Centre, Pioneer St, Foster. The evening’s program will consist of:

- Hands on activities and displays of student work
- Information about the Year 7 program and College activities
- Opportunities to talk with staff about the Year 7 program and your child’s needs
- A presentation by the Year 7 Ambassadors
- A delicious Supper

If you have any questions or require additional information about the evening, please contact the Year 7 Program Leader: Amy Kneee on 56822066. Keee.amy.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

We look forward to seeing you there!

**REMAINDER:**

- 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.
Our annual Cross Country event will be held on Thursday 22nd May 2014 in the vicinity of Sagasser Park. All students from Grade Prep to Six will be expected to take part with the only exceptions being students with a note from their parents citing medical reasons. All students will have taken part in training sessions in preparation for this event.

There are two levels of participation:

- A walk/run of approximately one kilometre (Prep to Grade 2 will participate in level 1)
- A run of approximately two-three kilometres

Only students who take part in the two-three kilometre run are eligible to win medallions/ribbons. Students, whom qualify for the next level (Division), will compete on Thursday 5th June 2014 at Stony Creek Race Course.

Students will be expected to wear appropriate clothing (School Uniform, shorts and t-shirt) including comfortable footwear. A change of clothes, particularly socks and shoes as well as a plastic bag to put any wet or muddy clothing in would be a good idea. Water is available from a drinking tap at the park and students will be offered cut up oranges at the completion of their event. Students may bring their own drink bottle if they prefer.

The cross country will commence shortly after 2:00pm and we welcome parents, friends and family members to help to act as marshals and to watch the students in their annual cross country event. If you can help in any way with this event please let us know prior to the day. Weather permitting we will present the medallions at the park before returning to school. Students can be dismissed from the park after all presentations, please let your child’s teacher know if you are taking your child home from the park. All other children will be walked back to school for dismissal.

Thank you,

Ali Wogan-Browne

TOORA CROSS COUNTRY HELPERS - THURSDAY 22ND May at 2:00pm

I _____________________________ will be able to help marshal at the Toora Cross Country event on Thursday 22nd May from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm.
Volunteers and special helpers make an important contribution to our school and help to make our learning programs rich and exciting for students.

We are fortunate to have many helpers around the school, willing to assist in classrooms, the PFA special lunches, the school gardens, sporting events such as our Athletics and Swimming sports and Cross Country and with excursions.

Thank you for your help and the time you make available to assist us and to help your child to have a richer and happier learning experience at school!

We would like to acknowledge the special role volunteers play in and around our school.

You are invited to Afternoon Tea At Toora Primary School on Wednesday 14th May at 3:00 pm

We look forward to sharing a cuppa and something to eat with you.
Mrs Sara Janssen (Student Welfare officer at Toora PS) will also be attending these sessions.

Would you like to learn to:

* Be better at talking with your child?
* Help your young child better manage their emotions?
* Teach your young child to deal with conflict?

Tuning in to Kids is a parenting program that teaches parents skills to help their young children begin to understand and regulate their emotions.

Parents who complete the program find improvements in their children’s emotional competence, social skills and behaviour.

Foster Primary School and UnitingCare Gippsland offering Tuning into Kids at
Foster Primary school, 75 Pioneer Street Foster

Monday evenings for 6 sessions from 12th May to June 23rd, 2014

7pm – 9pm, a light supper will be provided.

Please phone Damon Piercy on 0428 620 470 or 5662 5150 for information or to register or Email: damon.piercy@ucgipps.org.au

*This program is for parents and carers only. Unfortunately no child care is available.*