FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are planning a change of bell times to fit in with our neighbouring schools and to ensure travellers are in time for buses at the end of the school day. The changes would shorten the lunch break by 10 minutes allowing an earlier dismissal time of 3:20pm, which would also provide the extra time that some of our students require to be punctual for after school activities eg: dance. This has been approved by the Regional Director and will be discussed at our next School Council meeting (Wednesday 19th June) and a starting date will be determined.

Midyear student reports will be sent home on Tuesday 25th June 2013 providing time for you to review your child’s progress before the parent/teacher interviews. During third term staff will be participating in regular professional development to learn more about the Ultranet and preparing for end of year reports that will be provided through the Ultranet in line with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s recommendations. Throughout semester two staff, students and parents will be supported to use the Ultranet to share regular feedback as to student development and specific learning achievements.

Unfortunately over the long weekend a fox managed to enter our hen house and killed all seven chooks. This was very distressing for the school and wider community. We will add extra fox proofing modifications to our hen house before obtaining new hens. It is reassuring to know that our neighbours are protective of our school and I was thankful for a phone call early Sunday morning to alert me of the news. Thank you to Myunah’s family who has kindly offered three hens to the school but we will need to further fox proof our henhouse before we can take delivery.

Over the weekend I travelled to Traralgon to spend the $300 voucher that the school received for winning a prize in Victoria’s School Garden Awards. We now have a Mulberry tree that has leaves for silk worms; a blood orange and lemon tree to be planted in front of the garden shed on the oval; a number of Grevilleas for along the oval/laneway fence plus low growing feature plants for our Time Capsule Garden. Planting will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Dinah Brownfield has requested to work only two days a week as of Term 3 and will continue in the federally funded Chaplaincy/Student Welfare Worker role for her two days. We currently have a vacancy advertised on Recruitment Online and in local papers to fill the DEECD funded 2 day Student Welfare Officer position. We thank Dinah for her excellent work in these very demanding roles during Semester 1.

Good Luck to our 5/6 students playing in Lightning Premiership next Friday

Congratulations on an excellent effort and Sportsmanship shown by our Division Cross Country Runners last Wednesday.

Students in Grade 3/4 will be performing a short item at Monday Assembly. We welcome any parents who wish to come along and watch.
REMINDER:
- All visitors to the school MUST present at the Admin office and sign in.
- 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 3:40pm. All other students are supervised between 20 to 9 to half past 3
- Our phones are manned during the school business hours of 8:30 am - 4:30pm.

STUDENT REPORTS - Second copy required
As the time fast approaches for your children’s reports to be sent home - please confirm with the office either by telephone or in writing, as to whether you still require a second copy of your child’s report.

CHILDREN & SICKNESS
We have a very high number of children absent from school with a variety of illnesses ranging from – diarrhoea/vomiting, colds, hard to diagnose viruses and many other school ground ailments such as Head lice.
There have also been some children coming to school obviously unwell, which is unfair to both the child and to all those around them.

In an endeavour to minimise cross contamination, spreading and respreading of their ailments, for example: there are times when children may appear to have a slight pain in the stomach, it may be more, we ask parents to keep their sick children home and get them checked out at the Doctors if symptoms persist.
If your children are absent, please contact the office or send a note with your children on their return to school.

SPORT NEWS
Congratulations to our runners who competed in the Division Cross Country, you not only gave your best effort but displayed respect and sportsmanship to your fellow runners. Well done: Mikayla, Brittany, Lexi, Sophie, Jaxon, Morgan, Aron and Lachlan.

We wish our Grade 5/6 students participating in the Winter Sport Lightning Premiership next Friday the very best of luck for their games.

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Interviews will take place from 1:00pm - 5:00pm (last appointment time 4:45pm) on Wednesday 26th June. Students will have class as usual in the morning and join in together for whole school activities in the afternoon.
Parent / Teacher Interview forms have been sent home earlier this week and also attached to a previous newsletter.
Interviews are of 15 min duration and times will be allocated on a first in basis.
Interview letters will be sent home on Thursday 20th June confirming your interview time.
If you are unable to make an interview on Wednesday 26th due to prior commitments please communicate with your child’s teacher through the communication book for an alternate date/time.
Families of students in P/1/2 will also have the opportunity for an interview on Thursday 27th June between 9:00 and 11:00am.

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.

EARN & LEARN
Finished on Sunday 9th June.
Please bring any stickers or sticker sheets to school so that we can receive some fantastic educational resources
Almost three-quarters of children aged between eight and 12 are accessing social networking sites and spending more than half an hour a day, sometimes chatting with strangers.

Research released as part of National Cyber Security Assessment Week reveals that one in four "tweens" are active users of Facebook, despite the social networking site setting 13 as the minimum age for eligibility.

You have heard about it via the media, however here is a reminder about what it is and the importance of acknowledging the impact of this in everyone’s lives.

Cyberbullying is the use of technology to deliberately and repeatedly bully someone. Groups and individuals can be both the perpetrators and targets of bullying.

What is it?
Cyberbullying can include:
• abusive texts and emails
• posting unkind messages or images
• imitating others online
• excluding others online
• inappropriate image tagging imitating others online.

Children and young people can also be affected by hostile behaviour that does not fit the definition of cyberbullying. For example, a one-off insensitive remark or joke online or via text is not cyberbullying by definition. However, the impact can still be widespread due to the rapid spread of the content and the relative permanency of the message sent. Because of this, these types of incidents still need to be treated seriously.

How does it differ from face-to-face bullying?
While cyberbullying is similar to face-to-face bullying, it also differs in the following ways:
• it can give the person doing the bullying a sense of being anonymous, so they may behave in ways they wouldn’t offline
• it can occur 24/7 and be difficult to escape
• it is invasive, impacting students’ social worlds at school and home, online and offline
• it can have a large audience—readily shared with groups or posted on public forum
• it is very difficult to delete bullying comments and images.

Stay tuned for some more little snippets regarding CYBERSAFETY.

Please note: A Toora Primary School Cyberbullying policy will be included as part of our Student Engagement Policy currently under review, with drafts accessible from the school website.
Winter Sport & Division Cross Country