THANK YOU

I can not believe how quickly time has gone and that we are already heading into the last week of Term 2. I would like to sincerely thank all the families, students, and staff of Toora Primary School for making me feel welcome and supported during my time as your Acting Principal.

The Toora community should feel proud of the amazing school that your children have the opportunity to attend. I have been blown away by the level of commitment and dedication displayed by the staff here. Di has been a wonderful support to me in the office and she keeps the school operating smoothly and she is a constant welcoming face to all families and visitors to the school. Our education support members, Deb and Durelle do an amazing job at supporting all of our students both in and out of the classroom. Many of the extra opportunities our students receive could not happen without their support and hard work. The community should be proud of the teaching staff that you have here at Toora. They all work tirelessly at doing their best to provide all students with a challenging, caring and engaging learning environment.

This term I have been privileged to be involved in many fantastic programs and activities. It was amazing to see the Grade 6 class at the Student Leaders Conference at the beginning of the term, learn about leadership and express their ambitions and hopes for their future and the future of the school. I have seen sheer determination and courage from all our students at the various sporting events that have been held this term. My greatest enjoyment has been being able to teach each class and get to know the students individually.

Thank you to the families who volunteer their time for the school. From providing support at sporting events to being a member on School Council, it is this support and positive role-modelling that helps Toora Primary School be a great learning environment for all our children.

I wish everyone all the best for the remainder of 2014 and again thank you, my bucket is overflowing!

Sharon Mitchell

2014 CALENDAR

JUNE
19th Regional Cross Country
23rd Grade 2/3 Drama Productions at Assembly 9:00am
23rd BLUE LIGHT DISCO 4:30 - 6:30pm Foster Scout Hall
24th Scheduled fortnightly PFA Meeting 9:00am
25th Parent/Teacher Interviews 1:00 - 5:00pm
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
10th-12th 3-6 School Camp
11th Junior School Long Day Excursion

School Office Hours
8.30am - 4.15pm (Wednesdays unattended)

Absences - Phone the office or write in your Child’s communication book

For a more comprehensive yearly Calendar go to www.tooraps.vic.edu.au/website%20calendar.pdf

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

If you are in receipt of a Health Care Card or are a Foster Parent you are eligible for Semester 2 EMA allowance.

Please contact the office for an application form. Those families who received an EMA payment in the 1st term need not re-apply. Applications close 1st August 2014.

An event - NOT TO BE MISSED

GRADE 2/3 DRAMA CLASS PREMIER!

9:00 am Assembly Monday 23rd June
Be early for BEST seats!
MATHEMATICS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All the staff at TPS were fortunate to attend a whole Professional Development day on our closure day 6th June, at South Gippsland Secondary School. The day was presented by Di Siemons, a world renowned Maths specialist from RMIT University.

The staff enjoyed learning more deeply about the way that we all learn maths. The activities during the day were great fun and teachers look forward to bringing the new ideas to all classrooms.

LIGHTNING PREMIERSHIP

Students from grades 5 and 6 joined with students from Foster Primary to participate in the Lightning Premiership at Mary MacKillop College on Tuesday 17th June. We had students play football and netball. By all accounts everyone had a fun, muddy, tiring day! A big thank you to Mr Whittle and Rob Lewis for transporting our students to Leongatha. Thanks Rob also for being our umpire in the football.

DRAMA CLASS PREMIER!

We are extremely fortunate to be able to announce the exclusive premier of the Grade 2/3 Drama Class plays this coming Monday 23rd June at 9am. We are all excited to be able to witness the hard work and learning that has been happening in Ms Chalmers drama classes this term. We welcome all families to this fantastic event.

PARENT – TEACHER INTERVIEWS

A reminder to all families that Parent-Teacher interviews will be held next Wednesday 25th June. A letter with your Interview time will be sent home with your child on Friday 20th June 2014.

The Grade 2/3 Class invites you too…

A Morning of Productions!

Featuring:

Animal Circus
Magical Problems
Medieval: Back in Time Fights

Monday, June 23rd 2014
9am Sharp
DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY EVENT AT STONY CREEK

Last Thursday our eight Toora Cross Country qualifiers travelled to Stony Creek for the District Cross Country event. The course was a grass, sand and mud course and really tested our students’ cross country ability. There were students from 29 schools competing with approximately 90 students in each race.

The day started with the 9/10 year olds running 2 kilometres then the 11’s and 12/13 years old running 3 kilometres.

Congratulations to all of our students who participated: Tylah O’Connor, Danielle Cashin, Lachlan Lewis, Lexi Elmore, Jaxon Lewis, Sophie Allott, Reghan Lewis and Jodie Allott.

Congratulations to Sophie Allott and Lachlan Lewis who have qualified in their age group to run at the next level - the Gippsland Region Cross Country on Thursday 19th June.

Thank you to our staff; Mrs Sharon Mitchell and Mrs Ali Wogan-Browne for transporting our students to and from Stony Creek and to our parents who went along to watch and support our students. Thank you also to Mr Rob Lewis for his training session for our runners last week.

Good Luck Sophie and Lachie for your events tomorrow at Lardner Park.
YOU BE THE COACH

Over the past 5 weeks students from Years 2, 3 & 4 have been involved in “You Be The Coach” sport sessions with Year 9 students from South Gippsland Secondary College.

At the completion of the program students wrote 'Thank you cards to their Year 9 coaches. Below is a reply we received from the Secondary College.

Dear Toora Primary School,

I would just like to thank you both for your efforts in assisting with the You Be the Coach students from South Gippsland Secondary College. On behalf of the students and me, we would like to thank you all for your motivation and willingness to participate in all the activities that the students ran at your school. My students had a truly excellent experience with your kids and really looked forward to every session they took part in organising.

The You Be the Coach students were very excited and very pleased with themselves after the sessions. My students honestly developed a rapport with your kids at Toora and began to know them on an individual basis which is really excellent. Thank you all for you time and perseverance in setting up and planning. It was a highly rewarding experience for all of my students and I to see them all progress so well. The students all loved the fan mail they received!

Regards,

Shem Hawking and the You Be the Coach students.
HOCKEY VICTORIA CLINIC

On Wednesday 4th June our Grade 2/3 students got some inside tips from Victorian State League Hockey player Michaela Cook.

During the 40 minute session, Michaela demonstrated some basic skills of Hockey, such as pushing, dribbling and trapping, as well as conducting a mini game with our students.
FAMDA presents 
BUGSY MALONE PRODUCTION

Sessions:
Friday 11 July 7.30pm
Saturday 12 July 2pm Matinee, 7.30pm
Sunday 13 July 2pm Matinee
Friday 18 July 7.30pm
Saturday 19 July 2pm Matinee, 7.30pm

Ticket Prices
Adults $28
Concession (pensioners, seniors, students 16+/Groups >9) $22
Children Under 16 $15  Family of 4 $75  Any additional children in the family $10 each
For more information contact FAMDA  0400 867 872   www.famda.org.au

NEWS AND NOTICES

REMEMBER:
- 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.

PFA MEETING - Tuesday 24th June at 9:00 am

We urge all Parents & Friends to join us for this meeting to discuss future Fundraising events and the formation of our school Canteen and canteen roster.

Come along, share a cuppa with us and put your ideas forward.
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses. From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.