Dear Parents,

It’s nice to be back after my last stint here in May. We wish Mrs Purvis a relaxing and happy holiday and look forward to her return in early September. Her holidays are only just starting after working much of the past week making sure our school was ready for the coming term.

We were grateful that the term commenced with beautiful weather and students and staff in good spirits. Welcome Mr Hughes who will be with us for next five weeks, replacing Mrs Corcoran who is on Bereavement Leave. Sadly, her brother passed away during the vacation and she is looking after her family and herself.

Some of you may already be aware that Dinah will not be returning to work at Toora Primary School. For most of you this will come as both a shock and surprise. She has been with us for many years. I had the privilege of first getting to know her as a parent of a student when I was first teaching here. She has been a wonderful support to students, parents and teachers alike and her presence will be missed by all of us. We hope she will return to give us the opportunity of properly saying goodbye and thank her for her years of commitment to the Toora and District School and to the broader community.

In her place we have two new members of staff. On behalf of the school I welcome Sara Janssen (Mrs Janssen) and Jane Pickering. They will each join us for two days a week from Tuesday to Friday and take on many of Dinah’s roles and responsibilities.

Despite all these changes, school continues as normal. In preparing for the term, I took time to read something of what Toora Primary School says about itself these days. Schools create shared ideals – Vision and Values – which provide a collective focus for how things are done. What interested me especially was what you said about how you treat each other, and by that I mean teachers, students and parents – the Toora School Community.

The words that stick in my mind are **effort, achievement** and **high expectations** but jumping out were **RESPECT** (for self and others) and **POSITIVE ATTITUDE**.

I want to see what that looks like here as they are really universally important values to live by, not just in school. Schools are critical places as they lay the foundations for our children's physical, social, emotional and academic growth and development.

I’m looking forward to my short stay and the opportunity to briefly share in the learning journeys of the children in our care.

Yours in Education. Walter Birkenbeil – Relief Principal

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to Arie Bos who tended our Kitchen Garden over the holiday break. Thank you to Les and Dinah for resurrecting our “Time Capsule” garden over the break. Plants for this garden were purchased by Mrs Purvis using the money the school received from the State Garden awards last year.

Thank you to Mr Ken Height who completed the fence along the laneway between the oval and Whatley’s hardware yard.

Thank you to all of the School community members who popped in over the holidays to do gardening and cleaning up. We do appreciate all work big and small that is undertaken in our grounds.

**CLUBS**

The school will run two, three week Clubs Sessions this term. Clubs are an opportunity to conduct fun (but educational!) activities in small (ish) groups of mixed age and ability. We hope to conduct these on consecutive Thursday afternoons, followed by a one week break, then the second round. In the past some parents have been available to assist and we again ask if there are any volunteers interested, keen and willing to join staff to offer a greater range of activities. If you have something in mind and also have a current **Working with Children’s Check**, please contact the School.

**BOOK FAIR OPENS MONDAY 22ND JULY**
**2013 CALENDAR**

**JULY**
17th   MARC Library Wednesday (for this week only)
22nd   BOOK FAIR commences
30th   Kinder Transition - Kinder visiting school

**AUGUST**
1st    Choir visiting Prom View Lodge 2:15pm
7/8th  School Council Meeting 2:00pm (date TBC)
13th   Kinder Transition - P12 students visiting Kinder

**SEPTEMBER**
5th    Choir visiting Prom View Lodge
9th    Principal Barb Purvis returns from leave
10th   Kinder Transition - Kinder visiting school
12th   Division Athletics Sports
20th   Last Day Term 3 early dismissal 2:20pm

**OCTOBER**
07th   Term 4 commences
17th   Regional Athletics
22nd   P12 to Kinder for visit

**NOVEMBER**
4th    School Closure day PUPIL FREE
5th    Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
7th    Choir visit to Prom View Lodge 2:15pm
13-15th Grade 3-6 Camp to Wilsons Promontory
29th   Kinder visiting school 11:30-12:30

**DECEMBER**
2nd    2014 Parent Information session 10:15am
5th    Prom View Lodge Choir 2:15pm
9th    Grade 6 Graduation Dinner
10th   State-wide Transition Day
20th   Last day Term 4 early dismissal 1:20pm

School Office Hours
8.30am—4.00pm (Wednesdays unattended)

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

**MINI MOVES CLASSES**
Mini Moves classes are fun physical activity sessions especially designed for kids. Each Session includes
- Warm up activities and ice breakers
- Cardiovascular fitness and strength
- Sport skills, fun games, balance activities
- Stretching
- Nutrition

All places need to be booked in advance. Foster classes will begin in Term 3. For all enquiries please call Regan on 0427881640

**SOLAR INFORMATION**
Interested families can view our Solar Energy Feed-in and usage from our school website [www.tooraps.vic.edu.au](http://www.tooraps.vic.edu.au) and click on the SMA icon on our homepage.

**GRADE 3-6 CAMP REMINDER**
A deposit of $25 and your completed expression of interest form needs to be returned to school ASAP.

There are limited numbers so inclusion in our Wilsons Prom camp will be on a first in basis. $75.00 is due in by the end of Term 3 with the balance due prior to camp.

**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE 2nd INSTALMENT 2013**
To be eligible for the EMA:

Your child must be enrolled at a primary Government or registered school in Victoria on 2nd August 2013 for the second instalment; and:
You must on 15th July 2013, for the second instalment:
- be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
- be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
- be a temporary foster parent.

Submit your application to the school by the due date:
2nd August 2013 for the second instalment.

Please note: you only need to make a second application in August if your child changes schools between February and August or your circumstances have changed.

The Pension Concession Card (PCC) or Health Care Card (HCC) is subject to electronic confirmation with Centrelink to verify that the cardholder is receiving a benefit.

Education Maintenance Allowance forms are available from the school office.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**
Starts on MONDAY (22nd July) for three days. Families and community members are invited to attend during the week.

All students will be walked through the Book Fair on Monday so that they can fill in their “Wish Lists” and then purchasing will take place for students on **Tuesday and Wednesday 24th & 25th July**.

Parent / Community Members may purchase:
Monday - 8:30-9:00am, 11:00-11:30am, 1:00-1:50pm
Tuesday - 8:30-9:00am, 11:00-11:30am, 1:00-1:50pm
Wednesday - 8:30-9:00am, 1:00-1:50pm, 3:00-3:20pm

**WANTED - 8 ply left over balls of wool or 8 ply scraps of wool. Students are entering the “Wool Collage” section of the Melbourne Show and urgently require your assistance with oddments of 8 ply wool. Please leave all donations in the designated box in the school Admin area.**