

Tarwin Lower Primary Newsletter

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Tarwin Lower Primary School
Small School, Big Opportunities

14th June 2017

Newsletter No. 7

Principal's Report

A Positive School Community

The first component of Kids Matter is Positive School Community. In a positive school community, every face has a place, every voice is valued and everyone has something to contribute.



All children need to feel that school is a safe place where;

- people care about them.
- their needs for support, respect and friendship are met.
- they are able to get help to work out problems.



School is a place where there are opportunities for students, staff, families and the wider community to be involved in a range of school activities.

Tarwin Lower Primary is a place where the students are supported by the school and also the community. We have community members running the breakfast program, ensuring the kids have the best start to their day.

Community members and parents listen to students read. The local shops in town support the students by welcoming them when we visit. The post office supports the students by writing personal letters each year from a jolly man in December.

Parents support each other by driving children to events, such as Winter Sports. Parents also support the kids outside the school. Encouraging them to participate in football and drama.



The students are supportive of each other and understand that everyone has differing learning needs.

Our school is a place where everyone knows your name and welcomes you.

Kids Matter has highlighted all the wonderful, positive elements of our school. I am proud to be the principal of Tarwin Lower Primary School.

I look forward to taking our school with your help, from brilliant to exceptional.

Jenni Cox

Principal



Kindness

Cooperation

Resilience

Respect



After School Fun

Each year the teachers give up their time to offer After School Fun to all students. This is the first step to camp for the junior members of the school.

On this evening school students went on a scavenger hunt to find items such as something from the dinosaurs, a four leaf clover and something heart shaped.



They then participated in a newspaper fashion parade before eating a delicious dinner prepared by parent volunteers.

The grade Prep and One students went home and the rest of the school

watched Lego Batman and then slept over.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for giving up their time, especially on a weekend. Teachers are not paid overtime for sleepovers, camps or excursions. They willingly do this extra work and give up their time for the benefit of the students. We are very fortunate we have such a dedicated group of teachers at our school.



Well done to the Whole School Community

Our school attendance has been a focus for the last few years due to poor results. We have been putting a variety of strategies in place to improve this, and now is a time to celebrate!



Term 1 2016

6.44 average days absent per student – totalling 225.5 days for the whole school

Term 1 2017

3.15 average days absent per student – totalling 113.5 days for the whole school

This is almost a 50% decrease. Well done, and remember every school day is important to the learning and wellbeing of your child.

Launch Night is Coming.....

Put this date into your diary – Wednesday 28th June. All term the students have been working with Ben on the interactive novel. This is the date it will be launched.

The school was very fortunate in gaining a \$10,000 grant to employ Ben Everett this term as our Artist in School. We won't be eligible to reapply for this grant for another four years.

Ben and the students have worked hard all term to produce an interactive digital book on an indigenous story.

On the night there will also be on display murals and artwork by the students. Our



students are talented in many areas, come and help support them in their creativity – a component needed in all areas of life when trying to problem solve solutions to problems.

Everyone in the family and community is invited to attend this night with the students. Come and celebrate their achievements they have been working towards all term.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

I got a leaf Mum!

When your child tells you this, it is something for them and you to be proud of. This is our new positive behaviour program we have at the school.



A teacher will give a leaf to a student for a behaviour they would like to highlight. For example, manners, helping others,

having a positive attitude. The leaf is written with why they are receiving it and the date.

When the student has three leaves, they read out the leaves and choose something from

the lucky dip box. Listening to the students read out their leaves at assembly is a wonderful experience for both the reader and the listener, and it reinforces the positive behaviours that happens at the school.



So when your child tells you they have three leaves, it has nothing to do with the changing seasons, and everything to do with their wonderful behaviours and something to be celebrated.

Remember, we encourage all parents/carers to attend our assemblies to help us celebrate student success.



What a Talent!

On the last day of term students will be participating in Tarwin's Got Talent, run by the JSC. Students from all year levels are encouraged to present a talent to the students of the school. They can do this as an individual or in a group.

Past talents include singing, dancing, jokes, magic and playing an instrument. Please encourage your child to present something on this day, we love to see students of all ages show their talent.

It is a time for celebration of the various talents of the students in a safe and supportive environment. Parents, Carers, Friends, Grandparents, everyone is invited to attend. You will be guaranteed of a lovely afternoon.

It's Your Money

Various fundraising has been occurring all year. Some of the money is going towards Melbourne Camp- the price will be reduced by \$30 per student, making the cost \$130 each. This is great value for money for the three days we are in Melbourne, going out for dinner for both



nights, going to the Shrine, Museum, IMAX, bowling and Eureka Skydeck to name a few.

Money will also be put aside for the end of year excursion for the whole school. However, there is still money yet to be allocated.

Do you have ideas for where this is needed? We would like to hear from you. Please let us know in person or email.

Postie Delivery

The need for students to return their forms in one central place has been highlighted recently with all the forms for the excursions this term.



To help solve this problem, we are going to have a letterbox for students to “post” their forms. We have the letterbox and stand, but it is currently not self-supporting.

Can you help solve this problem? Please let us know at school – we need your help!

Free to Good Home

*Large Desk

*Metal drawers – used previously for posters.

*Lengths of timber

First in best dressed 😊

School Bank Details

ACC 151500626
BSB 633108



All photos of what is happening at school is on our Facebook site.



Keep up to date with your child's learning on Compass.



Our School Council Meeting last night had a special visitor. Thank you Aunty Kylie for always teaching us about the native wildlife.



Everyone needs a friend



“Those girls of school are mean. I told them about this great game but they wouldn't play it. They said I couldn't play with them.”

Rebecca, who is seven, plays happily at home with her four-year-old sister Samantha. Samantha adores her big sister and will do anything she says. But with school friends it's not so easy.

Rebecca's mother wonders whether the other children really are mean or whether Rebecca may be too pushy.

When children come over to visit it seems to go well as long as they are doing what Rebecca wants. But if the other child wants to do something different, Rebecca often sulks or goes off in a huff.

Children's friendships often have their ups and downs. When friendships are going well they support children's emotional wellbeing and confidence, as well as providing someone to play with. Positive friendships help children have fun, and also help them cope during periods of stress and change. This is why having friends at school is so important for children.



Helping children with the ups and downs of friendships

It is not always easy for children to know how to manage friendships. Problems with friends can affect how children feel about themselves and their enthusiasm for activities that involve others. Parents and carers can help children learn the kinds of friendship skills they will need as they grow and develop.

Learning how to make and keep friends involves a number of skills. Children learn more and more complex social skills from those around them as they develop. Home life has an effect on the development of social skills. A child who asks an adoring little sister is likely to have more leadership skills. A child who is the little sister may be more used to fitting in with what others want to do. These children are likely to need differently when they go to school and meet other children with different life experiences and social skills.

Core friendship skills for children

- Cooperation**
 - How to share, how to take turns, how to work together towards a common goal.
- Communication**
 - Using words to explain what you want and listening to others respectfully.
 - Paying attention to body language (eg making eye contact, smiling, being able to read others' nonverbal reactions).
- Understanding and managing feelings**
 - Being able to express feelings in ways that help others understand you.
 - Recognising and responding to other's feelings.
- Accepting and including others**
 - Recognising others' needs for respect and friendship.

Solving friendship problems

Children develop friendship skills through playing with other children. Because they are learning, they are sure to have times when things do not go as they would like. Sometimes they blame themselves for what has happened.

They may say, "Nobody likes me 'cos I can't run as fast as they can." Sometimes they blame everyone else for the problem and, like Rebecca, say, "The girls are all mean to me." Even though they blame the other children they may still think of it as a problem they cannot change.

How parents and carers can help

First and foremost you can help children by listening to them talk about the everyday joys and troubles that come out of their friendships. Asking what might have led to others' reactions can help the child, with your assistance, to think of possible solutions.

Try a problem-solving approach

- When problems arise in friendships it is important not to blame children but to show them how to find a solution. A problem-solving approach is often helpful.
- 1 Encourage the child to describe what has happened.
 - 2 Ask about how they felt.
 - 3 Ask them how they think the other person might see it and how they might be feeling.
 - 4 Get them to think of ways they could do things differently next time.
 - 5 Encourage them to try the new approach – get them to practice with you so they feel more confident.
 - 6 Check back with your child to see how things turned out.



This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary Information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au



14th June 2017

You Are Invited to the Launch of
Tarwin Lower Primary School
Digital Indigenous
Story Book

with local artist Ben Everett

Wednesday 28th June

6pm-8pm

Thirsty Work Gallery

**Come and see the storybook that the
students have created.**

Artwork and Murals will be displayed

**Tea and Coffee and Snacks will be
available**



How Much Do You Know About Your Business Manager, Lindy Cumming?

How long have you been at Tarwin Lower Primary School?

My children attended this school from 1993 to 2003. I began working as a Language and Literacy Aide in 2000 and finished in 2005. In 2007 I became the Business Manager and I am in my 11th year. So all in all I have been associated with this school for 24 years!!

What inspired you to be a Business Manager?

I became a Business Manager because I have an affinity with numbers and I like office work! If you had asked me about office work when I was in high school I would have said 'never'. I had thought about becoming a teacher so I guess working in schools was the best way to do what I was good at as well as work with kids, which I love.

What is the best part of your job?

I love the part of my job that deals directly with children. I love it when they come and show me their work or I can comfort them when they are hurting.

What do you like doing in your free time?

Reading books is my great passion. I also like to walk my dogs every morning and I enjoy doing craftwork. I have a number of different projects on the go at

the moment. When I get bored with one I move on to another.

Do you have a family?

I have a daughter who is 25 and a son who is 29. I also have a beautiful new grandson Ayden who is nearly 4 months old. Both my brothers live in South Gippsland so I am very involved with their families and their children as well.

What is your favourite colour?

I like lots of colours. I am very attracted to vibrant jewel type colours such as electric blue, bright pink, aqua green and orange.

What is your favourite animal?

My favourite domestic animal is a dog. I have 2 dogs, Ella (a 5 year old golden retriever) and Jazz (a 13 year old whippet who was my Dad's dog) My favourite wild animal is a tiger.

What is your favourite number?

25, my birthdate.





14th June 2017

For Your Calendar

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|---|--|
| Friday 16 th June | Pies Delivered – Pick up from School @3.30pm |
| 19 th June – 30 th June | Ms Jenni Cox on Long Service Leave Mr Gene Vanderzalm Acting Principal |
| Monday 19 th June | Lightning Premiership (Gr 5/6) |
| Wednesday 28 th June | Reports home Launch night of the students Digital Indigenous Storybook at Thirsty Work Gallery @6pm |
| Thursday 29 th June | Divisional Winter Sports (Gr 5/6) |
| Friday 30 th June | Tarwin's Got Talent @11.30am Everyone is invited to attend ☺ |
| Friday 30 th June | End of Term – finish @2.30pm |

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| Monday 17 th July | First day of Term 3 |
| Tuesday 1 st August | School Council Meeting @6.30pm Training for School Review |
| Monday 7 th August – Wednesday 9 th August | Melbourne Camp for grades 3/4/5/6 |
| Friday 18 th August | School Review – Panel Day 1 |
| Tuesday 22 nd August | Book Week Dress Up Day |
| Thursday 31 st August | School Review – Panel Day 2 |
| Tuesday 5 th September | School Council Meeting @6.30pm |
| Thursday 7 th September | Division Athletics at Wonthaggi Secondary College |
| Friday 22 nd September | Sports Colour Dress Up Day Last day of Term 3 – finish @2.30pm |