



TERARA TIMES



Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome to Terara Public School, 2011. I trust our students and their families had a wonderful festive season and had the opportunity to spend some quality time together during this special time of year.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our new teacher Mrs Julia Buckingham into our school, filling the position created by Mrs Cato's retirement at the end of last year. Her wide range of experiences along with her passion for teaching and cooperative approach will be a great asset to our school throughout 2011 and beyond. Mrs Buckingham will be teaching the 3/4 class each day except Wednesdays. I'm pleased to have secured the services of Miss Carmae Hopper for the 3/4 class each Wednesday. Miss Hopper is well known to our students, having worked a significant number of casual days with us throughout 2010. Julia and Carmae spent time at school planning together over the break and I'm very excited about the opportunities they have lined up for our 3/4 students.

Tomorrow we welcome our new Kindergarten students for their first official day at school. After a very successful orientation program I'm sure the big event will be a smooth transition and one eagerly awaited by children and parents! On behalf of our school community I welcome our new families and encourage them to become involved in school life as much as possible because this creates a better outcome for all involved. We know this is a significant milestone in the lives of our new students and their parents so if there is any way we can assist please just ask.

I take this opportunity to wish all our students and families a happy year ahead. I'm very excited about all the wonderful programs and opportunities we are able to offer throughout 2011. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's time at school please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself.

Looking forward to another fantastic year,
Rod White
Principal

WEEK 2

TERM 1

Monday 31st
January

Monday
Students begin

Tuesday
Kindergarten Begins.

Library days this week only:

Kindergarten:

Friday

1/2

Tuesday

3/4

Thursday

5/6

Friday

*It's lovely to see
so many smiling
faces this morning!*

Class Structures

This year the breakdown of student numbers has resulted in the establishment of a straight kindergarten class, rather than our typical K/1 class. We would expect to resume to a K/1 structure for 2012 or if numbers change dramatically over coming weeks which would be unlikely.

Therefore our classes are currently as follows:

Kindergarten: Lyn Riches (Bu Ferry)

1/2 (stage 1) Janelle Moogan

3/4 (stage 2) Julia Buckingham & Carmae Hopper

5/6 (stage 3) Robyn Jamieson

Rod will continue to focus on Learning Support and take each class for 2 hours per week for Information & Communication sessions (including library and technology).

Week 2, already?

Because this year our staff returned to school last Friday, last week was gazetted as Week 1. Therefore students commenced in Week 2!

Assembly Day

Please note that this year our school assemblies will be held on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays (usually fortnightly). Our first school assembly will be on Tuesday 22nd Feb (week 5)

Worrigee Bus Run Update

Plans for an afternoon bus run to Worrigee are now with the Department of Transport and Nowra Coaches are confident that we will have some news in

coming weeks. Hopefully we can have a positive outcome shortly.

After School Sport

The After School Sport program is a Commonwealth funded initiative to encourage an active lifestyle. This term the program will operate on Tuesdays and commence in week 4 (15th Feb) between 3:10 - 4:10. Participating students will be given a light afternoon tea prior to their session commencing. A form will be attached to next week's newsletter to indicate your interest.

Textbooks

At the end of last year a sheet was sent home outlining expected costs for textbooks. These have been ordered and when they arrive we will let parents know the exact price. All books (including home reading journals) are to be brought through school, please do not buy them elsewhere.

Prompt payment will ensure students are able to begin using their new books.

Classroom Switcheroo

It was a case of déjà vu for our 3/4 students this morning as they found themselves back in their old 1/2 classroom. This year the 1/2 students have swapped rooms with 3/4 and throughout the term we can expect access ramps to be installed into the new 3/4 (old 1/2) room.

Over the break Mrs Moogan has been very busy relocating from into what we've always known as the 3/4 room. Thank you Mrs Moogan for all your hard work in moving rooms during your 'holiday' - as you can imagine it was a mammoth effort!

New Literacy Programs

Last year our *Literacy Legends* program and the purchase and systematic use of guided reading and home reading resources led to improved reading outcomes for our students.

As reported last year, we're excited to join the Reading Recovery program for 2011 which will be facilitated by Belinda Walker. Belinda will be with us from 9am - 11am each day for Semester 1 and at Greenwell Point throughout Semester 2.

Reading Recovery is a highly regarded program that focuses on improving the reading outcomes of students in Year 1. Up to 4 students will be eligible for the program and these students will be selected following assessments in coming weeks. Parents of Year 1 students will be regularly updated on the program.

Also at the end of last year we were successful in our application to join the Region's highly acclaimed L3 program. Language, Learning and Literacy focuses on using our new levelled readers to fast-track Kindergarten students' reading progress. The program involves training for the kindergarten teacher and includes in-class support to ensure student learning is maximised. The program ties in beautifully with Reading Recovery and follows similar principles.

These two programs will add to our already varied suite of options for our teachers to draw upon to support our students in literacy.

New Library Open for Business

Also over the holidays we moved into our new library and I'm excited about having our first library lessons in there this week. As you can imagine it was an enormous task to relocate. A special thank you to Mrs Thompson who gave up a number of days during the holidays to stock-take and assist with the move.

Our new library is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and video conferencing facilities, amazingly taking our total IWB count to 5 (quite remarkable for a 4 class school!)

I am eagerly awaiting for a reply from DET regarding our plan to convert the old library to a multi-purpose space/hall and will keep you informed of our progress.

Please see the front of the bulletin for library days this week only.

Hats

A reminder that students are to wear their school hat whilst outside or they will be asked to play under the COLA in accordance with our Sun Safe policy.

Uniforms

Students looked splendid today in their uniforms. A reminder that they are to wear their sports uniform each Friday.

Bus Book

If you have any change to usual routines regarding getting home from school, please inform Ruth who will write it in the bus book which gets read to each class every afternoon.

Home Reading Incentive

With our strong Literacy focus in the classroom we are asking for parents to support school programs by encouraging students to read regularly at home. We have put in place a system where children who read each weeknight will be invited to attend a principal's morning tea at the end of each term to recognise their commitment to reading.

Today primary children were given a home reading sheet for the term. Infants students can use their homereading journal. If you are waiting on a new journal please keep a record of their reading and copy it into their journal when they arrive.

Parents are asked to write the title of the book their child reads and sign each night that children read. For younger students it might be a complete home reader or for older students it might be a chapter or a number of pages of a bigger book. Please note it is the number of nights, not the number of books that is the focus. Any books from school, libraries or home that is age appropriate are suitable.

Children are expected to read each night from Monday - Thursday and at least one night from Friday - Sunday. We are asking for parents to sign for a maximum of 6 nights each week, however in some weeks children will need to read for six nights to reach 50 nights this term - we will be asking for all home reading sheets to be in at the beginning of Week 11.

Students whose parents indicate they have read for 25 nights can return their

chart to school and receive a certificate. For 50 nights of reading this term they will be invited to morning tea.

As with all home-school programs it is vital that children are supported. Please encourage your child to read and only sign for nights that they read. Signing for nights your child has not read will promote dishonesty to your child and undermine the incentive program.

Thank you for your support in helping improve your child's reading.

Crunch and Sip

To support our healthy food focus for 2011 each class is introducing a fruit break during the morning session. Trialled in the 3/4 room last year, Crunch and Sip will simply be an opportunity for students to have a piece of fruit (or vegies) and drink of water in their classroom at a designated time. Water can be brought in a plastic bottle (preferably clear!)

This is not an outside break and the break time will be determined by each teacher to ensure it doesn't interfere with student learning. Children are to eat only fresh fruit/vegies (not fruit bars or musli bars) and are to eat only their own piece of fruit. A reminder that we are not to have nuts at school. Given the short time frame teachers will not be able to peel or cut fruit so it will be eaten the way it comes!

We hope this will bridge the gap between breakfast and recess, particularly for our students who catch buses early in the morning. However we remind students that this is not a replacement for a healthy breakfast or recess.

Tuckshop

One aspect of school life that we evaluated at the end of last year was our school tuckshop. Unlike many schools Terara does not operate a formal canteen but with the support of volunteers the school tuckshop has run for a number of years.

The tuckshop's main role is to provide a service to students and their families, however through the hard work of volunteers the tuckshop also raises funds for student resources. Over the past 3 years the tuckshop has raised nearly \$6000 which we have been able to spend on reading resources including homereaders and books for our levelled reading system.

During our evaluation we established a committee which will work together throughout 2011 to ensure our priorities are met for the year. The committee consists of Nat Speechley (coordinator), Ruth Thompson (SAM) and Rod White (Principal).

Our priorities for the tuckshop this year are to ensure:

- Items are available and stocked weekly
- Communication is enhanced between the tuckshop, volunteers and parents.
- Lunches are cooked and monitored appropriately.
- A wide selection of items are available and *Healthy Food* guidelines are adhered to.
- Funds are raised to support students.

It is important to acknowledge that the tuckshop only operates with the support of volunteers and our school office staff. A special thanks to Nat who has again offered to coordinate and to Ruth who kindly assists each Monday and Friday.

In this bulletin you will find a request for volunteers to take orders on Monday and/or Friday mornings. It would be great if you could assist from 8:30 until about 10:00am. Please return the sheet by next Wednesday 9th February.

The first tuckshop day will be Friday 18th February. A menu will be sent home with next week's bulletin.

If you have any questions or suggestions for our newly revamped tuckshop please see myself, Nat or Ruth.

Many thanks

Rod

Needed for Nowra Show Entry

If anyone has any pictures or magazines with Prince William and Kate Middleton they would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Mrs Moogan

Community News

Lyrebird Netball

Registrations 2011

Friday 4th February 4:30 - 6pm

Saturday 5th February 9 - 12

@ Shoalhaven Netball Association Courts

Please call 44216281 for further details.