



22nd February 2024

Principal News

Four weeks into Term 1 and I couldn't be happier with how our start to the year has been! Our classrooms are abuzz with learning, the yard is a hive of activity and our students (as always) have been splendid.

We have well and truly hit the ground running, here's a quick recap of what we've been up to, and what we've got coming up:

District Swimming

Congratulations to all students who participated in the District Swimming time trials last Friday, we are really proud of everyone that had a go. Special shout out to Tahlia S., Cody H., Nate Re., Bella B., Ryan B., Tyson W., Blaze B., Daisy P., Steph Y., Max A., and Harley W. for making it through to the District event tomorrow. All the information for this event has been shared to Compass.

Student Free Day - 22nd March

We have a Student Free Day on 22nd March so that teaching staff can attend a professional development day in Melbourne. The PD will be on writing.

Attendance

The Education Department are continuing to focus on improving attendance and as such there is added pressure on schools to ensure students are at school everyday, and if they are away, account for their absences. If your child is away for the day, please ensure that you enter a absent note via Compass (our preferred option) or notify the school via phone, email or text. There are currently a number unaccounted for absences in the system, can you please ensure all absences for your child/ren are accounted for with absence note as soon as possible.

Colour Run

The Colour Run is coming back in 2024! The date is set for Friday 15th March. Pencil that date into your calendar and keep your eyes peeled for the details, hopefully released in the next week.

Camps

Both school camps this year will again be with our cluster of Welshpool and Tarwin Lower. Assuming we are allocated places, students in Grade 5/6 will also be offered the opportunity to attend Somers Camp for the full 9-day program.

- Grade 5/6 camp is a 3-day Urban Camp to Melbourne. Dates for this camp are 1-3 May (Term 2, Week 3).
- Grade 3/4 camp is a 3-day camp to Rumbug. Dates for this camp are 6-8 November (the 3 days after Melbourne Cup).

Parent Payments (School Fees)

A topic of discussion at School Council on Monday night was that of parent payments, or school fees as they are more commonly known. In previous years these have been set at \$150, however School Council made the decision to waive these the last couple years, and on Monday night it was decided to again waive fees for the 2024 school year.

Portable Classroom

Due to increased enrolments, the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) have allocated us a double classroom portable. The VSBA have awarded ATCO the contract for supplying and installing the portable, and we have already had a couple site visits and have been provided the draft plans. The VSBA have agreed to our request to put the portable next to the eating area, roughly where the yellow box is below. To put the portable in this location, ATCO will need to gain access through the pool carpark, and to minimise disruption to their operations, we will wait until after the pool closes for winter (14 April). All going to plan this means that the portable will arrive in the first few weeks of Term 2.



SOMERS Camp - EOI

Every 2 years Toora PS (Gippsland Region) is offered a limited number of places for its Grade 5/6 students at the Department of Education and Training's Somers School Camp. This year our allotted time is **April 16th to April 25th 2024**. Cost of the 9 day camp is \$260. If you haven't already done so, and would like your child to be considered for this camp, please contact the Admin Office.

SunSmart Hats

Our SunSmart policy requires everyone to wear a SunSmart hat (wide brim or legionnaires) during Terms 1 and 4. Can you please ensure that your child/ren has a SunSmart hat to wear when outside (this does not need to be a school hat).

School hats are back in stock! \$12.00 each, please inquire at office if you wish to purchase a hat.

School Uniform Orders - Please return order forms by **Friday 1st March**.

TOORA PRIMARY SCHOOL EASTER RAFFLE - MULTI-DRAW \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5

Easter Egg Raffle drawn on Monday 25th March. Thank you for your support

We are running our Easter raffle again in 2024, like in previous years we ask if each family could please donate an Easter egg, rabbit etc to go into the raffle hampers. We will place a box on the Admin office counter to collect them.

We also have a number of families that have in the past donated a goods or service from their/a business if you would prefer to do this please let myself or Luke know.

For those who have done this in the past I will contact you in the next few days to see if you would like to do it again. Any questions or issues let me know.

This is generally the only raffle we do each year, a book of around 20 tickets will come home in the next couple of weeks for each family to sell, if anyone wants more I always leave extras at the office. Our Raffle will be drawn on **Monday 25th March** leaving us time to distribute hampers to the winners, before the end of term.



Thanks everyone
- Michelle Bacon

CAMPS, SPORT & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child. An application form can be collected from the front counter at school



Go to school with Blika, Guthny & Gigja

This year we are very lucky to be a part of a pilot program involving horses and school students.

Ross and Susie Macaw have a beautiful property in the Foster hills and own three wonderful Icelandic ponies. Blika, Guthny & Gigja are helping our students build confidence and self-esteem through the work they are doing with the ponies.

Each Friday afternoon three students: Charleigh, Tyson and Lola, spend an hour learning about horse care, learning to ride in a safe controlled area and building a trusting bond with the ponies.

This week will be our third visit and it's been amazing to see how quickly the students riding skills have improved and the wonderful bond already forming with Blika, Guthny and Gigja.

Our school is extremely fortunate to be able to offer this unique experience.

- Deb Clavarino



Prep Classroom News

In the Prep Room this week we have been learning the sounds Pp for Peter penguin and Tt for Tim turtle. It has been lots of fun learning these sounds, spotting them in different words we use, and figuring out how we move our mouths to make these sounds correctly.

We had our first swimming lesson last week, the Preps had a wonderful time hopping in the pool and very bravely trying the different skills that our wonderful instructors were helping them through.



We welcomed a new student this week to our class, adding to the cousin crew in the Prep room. It is awesome to see these lovely family members learning and growing together as a part of our wonderful class!



Art

Over the last few weeks we have been working on our entries for the Foster Show Art Competition. The Show is on this weekend, if you want to head on down and check out our students' amazing work. There has also been some amazing work making some pears for the art gallery in Toora for the Pear Party this Sunday, another beautiful creation our students have worked very hard on if you have the chance to have a look.

- Miss Lind

Year 1 Classroom News - Miss Tuckett

We have had a busy two weeks! The Grade 1's were eager for swimming lessons to start and had an amazing time. In writing we have really been focusing on having a capital letter to start our sentences and a full stop to end them. In maths, we have been looking into addition and addition strategies - counting on, making 10. In reading, we have been exploring high frequency words, rhyming, and retelling main events.

NEXT WEEK'S LEARNING

SoundWaves - Our focus sound of the week will be 'k, c, q, ck, x' as in kite.

Reading - we will continue to have a focus on high frequency words and reading strategies

Handwriting - we will be focusing on letter formation of letters that fall - g, j, p, q, y, z

Mathematics - we will be continuing our exploration of addition and solving a variety of addition equations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are available, please join us for morning reading in the classroom from 9:00-9:15 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

It will be Miss Jean's (Louise) last week with us next week. We have thoroughly enjoyed having her as our student teacher for the last three weeks and we wish her the very best in her future teaching.



Year 2/3 Classroom News



During the past two weeks the students in the 2/3 room have been working very hard. In literacy the students have been focusing on narrative writing and the importance of finding ideas and having a clear understanding on where to take their stories.

During our numeracy unit the students have been looking at Place value and getting a deep understanding of numbers. Having students understand that 4282 is 4 lots of thousands, 2 lots of hundreds, 8 lots of tens and 2 lots of ones.

It has been awesome seeing the students back in the pool and building their skills and confidence.

Over the next fortnight the students are moving into sizzling starts in their writing. While in numeracy we are going to focus on division.

- Miss Crawford



Lunch Box Corner

zucchini zucchini zucchini zucchini

Zucchini Slice

an oldie but a goodie & perfect for lunch boxes

Ingredients

- 3 zucchinis grated
- 1 carrot grated
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 3 bacon rashers diced (optional)
- 6 eggs lightly beaten
- 1 1/2 cups cheese grated
- 1 onion, diced

1 pinch salt and pepper *to taste

Method

Add all ingredients to the one bowl and mix well.

Pour into a well-greased 16cm x 26cm slice tin and bake at 180C for 30-40 mins, or until browned. Slice into fingers once cool.



An important reminder regarding safety in our school

All late arrivals (after 9:20am and early pick up (before 3:15pm) of students must be logged through the iPad at the front office.

This is to ensure that, in the case of an emergency, all staff are aware of student numbers onsite.

Visitors Policy

Just a friendly reminder that all visitors (including parents during school hours) must sign in at the office.

The only exceptions to this are parents:

- entering the school grounds for drop off before the start of the school day
- entering the school grounds at the end of the school day for pick up
- entering the school grounds for specific school events such as parent teacher interviews or assembly

Our [Visitor Policy](#) is available on our school website:

www.tooraps.vic.edu.au

Thanks in advance for your support.

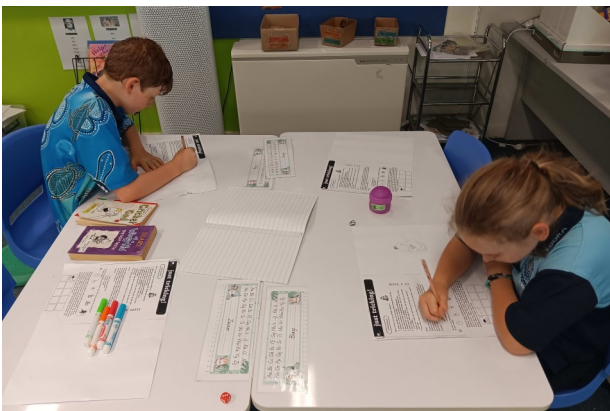
Year 3/4 Classroom News

Our 3/4 Class has done well to show resilience and keep up with new & familiar routines over the past two weeks with the excitement and challenges that came with the power outages across our community. Students had the opportunity to apply for classroom jobs and everyone has been allocated their special responsibilities, starting their 'Job Trials' and practising this week. It's great to see the enthusiasm our students have shown for taking on ownership and responsibility in our classroom and taking pride in their work.

In Maths we have continued our work on Place Value and Problem Solving, working through different strategies and consolidating our understanding of numbers to help us solve more complex mathematical problems.

In Literacy, everyone is working on their persuasive writing pieces by creating strong and captivating reasons and examples about which animal makes the best pet. We have been making some great connections, inferences and summaries of our learning in Reading during our group tasks and reading responses. We are now in our third chapter of our Nim's Island novel study unit, where we are learning more about tropical environments, remote living and sustainability.

Everyone has been really enjoying their Wednesday's which are filled with lots of great learning and fun in their Specialist lessons. You can see some of our students sharing their learning in MARC, Science and mindfulness here! Keep up the great work & positive attitudes 3/4 Class legends! 😊 - Miss Ardley



Year 5/6 Classroom News

The senior class have been largely unphased by recent storms, earthquakes and heat waves... Never a dull moment!

Mathematics has brought problem solving, factors, multiples, working with decimals and plenty of number fluency practice.

This week we finished our read aloud novel, Storm Boy and we will continue to utilise content from this novel to create persuasive and narrative writing pieces. Additionally, Colin Thiele's brilliant use of descriptive and figurative language will be re-addressed to inspire students to create their own descriptive language.

Senior students have spent plenty of time in the pool for both regular swimming lessons and preparing for time trials, in preparation for the upcoming District Swimming Sports. We wish our squad of swimmers all the very best!





MARC Preview of Learning – Term 1 2024

As the year of 2024 begins, we have been pleased to welcome students that we already know and new students to our weekly MARC Library sessions of learning.

The MARC van continues to visit (with either Mrs. J or Mrs. Callcott at the helm) Tarwin Lower PS...Mondays, Welshpool and District PS...Tuesdays, Toora PS ...Wednesdays, Powlett River PS...Thursdays, Kongwak PS...Thursdays and Fish Creek and District PS...Fridays.

Students are able to borrow books for two weeks. Students can reborrow current borrowed books if they wish to or delve into the wonderful range of books that we 'carry' in the van, making a new choice.

You may not know this, but the acronym MARC stands for Mobile Area Resource Centre. The MARC van is currently based at Fish Creek and District PS. The MARC van has had several bases since it was begun in this area in 1979.

The following is a preview of our focused learning sessions in Term 1, 2024.

Week	Junior	Middle	Senior
1	MARC program expectations. 'The Children who Loved Books' by Peter Carnavas	MARC program expectations. 'The Great Book Swapping Machine' by Emma Allen.	MARC program expectations. Introduction to 'visual note taking' (sketch noting). The Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen
2	Share texts which celebrate traditions associated with Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year.	Share texts which celebrate traditions associated with Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year.	Introduction to novel study of 'Impossible Creatures' by Katherine Rundell. During reading students will practise visual note taking.
3-5	Learning about authors. Enjoying and sharing books written by Stehen Michael King, e.g. 'Henry and Amy – Right way round and Upside down.'	Learning about authors. Enjoying and sharing books written by Andy Griffiths, e.g. 'The Treehouse' series.	Continue weekly serial reading of text 'Impossible Creatures' by Katherine Rundell. Students to work on learning tasks from an activity grid providing many choices.
6	The fun and delights of Dr Seuss.	The fun and delights of Dr Seuss.	As above.
7	Wonderful new literature	Wonderful new literature	As above.
8	Our life force, water, is explored using fiction and non - fiction texts.	Our life force, water, is explored using fiction and non - fiction texts.	As above.
9	Easter traditions	Easter traditions	As above.

Yours in reading and learning.

Jeanette Johnson and Sophie Callcott

BUS COMMUNICATIONS

1. It is school practice to follow the last notification by parents / carers regarding bus travel and not rely on verbal messages relayed by students.
If a misunderstanding occurs or there is confusion, we endeavour to contact parents.
2. Parents/Carers of bus travellers who are not going home on the bus on any given afternoon **MUST** notify the office prior to the end of the day. A phone call or note to school is required.
3. If the arrangements are permanent, eg: Cricket training for the whole of Term 4, please request a 'Change of Arrangement' form from the office. At conclusion of your child's participation it is your responsibility to contact the office and the arrangements revert back.



POP ME
ON YOUR
FRIDGE



Feb / March 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
19	20	21	22	23 District Swimming at Toora Pool Café Lunch Orders Assembly 3:00pm
26 Questacon IncurSION 10-11:00	27 Breakfast Club - Pancakes	28 No Prep Students MARC Library	29 Pie Warmer Lunch Whole School P-6 Swimming	Mar 1 Last day to submit Uniform orders Café Lunch Orders
Mar 4	Mar 5 Breakfast Club 8:40-9:00am	Mar 6 Preps come to school every day! MARC Library	Mar 7 Pie Warmer Lunch Whole School P-6 Swimming	Mar 8 School Photos  Café Lunch Orders Assembly 3:00pm
11 LABOUR DAY Public Holiday	12 Breakfast Club 8:40-9:00am OHS Audit	13 NAPLAN TESTING MARC Library Parent Club Meeting 2:45pm	14 NAPLAN TESTING Pie Warmer Lunch Whole School P-6 Swimming	15 NAPLAN TESTING Café Lunch Orders Assembly 3:00pm
18 NAPLAN TESTING School Council AGM 5:30pm	19 Breakfast Club 8:40-9:00am NAPLAN TESTING	20 NAPLAN TESTING MARC Library	21 NAPLAN TESTING Pie Warmer Lunch Mr H at Network mtg all day	22 PUPIL FREE DAY All Teaching Staff at Writing PD — Melbourne
25 NAPLAN TESTING	26 Breakfast Club Bacon & Eggs 8:40-9:00am	27 MARC Library Prom Coast Athletics Yrs 3-6 Parent Club running the BBQ at Sports	28 Pie Warmer Lunch Last day Term 1. Early dismissal 2:20pm	29 GOOD FRIDAY

FUTURE DATES: April 15th - Term 2 commences

Our School VALUES are:
Be Safe, Be Fair, Think, Learn & Care