



TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

21st December, 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

Friday 22nd
FINAL ASSEMBLY
2:30PM DISMISSAL



JANUARY

Wednesday 31st
Term 1 Begins for
Grades 1 - 6
Assembly in the Hall

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st
Term 1 Begins for Preps
9:30am to 1pm

Tuesday 6th
Welcome BBQ for Preps,
Grade 5 Buddies and New
Families
5:30pm to 7:30pm

Wednesday 7th
NO PREPS due to
Assessments

FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2017!

Thankyou to everyone in the Tecoma school community for making this a successful year for our children and our school. It has been another exciting year with many new and different things happening to continue to engage and challenge our children and to seek out new ways to make our school the best it can be. Some highlights for our children and staff in 2017 at Tecoma have been:

- Record enrolment in Prep and continued increasing numbers across the school
- Continued growth in Before and After School Care program to unprecedented numbers, where we have had to increase our licence limit
- The school obtaining KidsMatter certification, a process that has taken 5 years
- Participated in Framework to Improve Student Outcome (FISO) Network with a focus on Numeracy. We organised a Curriculum Day involving 7 schools focussing on Numeracy
- Introduced "I can" statements, where students establish what is next on their learning continuum
- Sent home reports in our new format that included student negotiated learning goals
- The whole school production "The Legends of the Living Library"
- The introduction of "Google Apps for Education" in grades 4-6
- The amazing Lapathon that raised over \$22,100 for the school, all of which is going towards the second stage of our playground.
- The opening of our new Art room, Prep room and almost completed Library/Music room
- Our Dads and Mates Breakfast and Education Week celebrations
- Entry in chess competitions
- Tecoma Primary School Information Night held in the grade 1/2 area for new parents
- Strengthening our Prep transition program with hugely positive parent feedback
- Successful fundraising activities and Parent Network run activities (Disco, Movie Night, Minute to Win it, Morning Munchies, Thermomix raffle) that gave the children and adults some great fun!

- Introduction of more laptops to our school
- Continuing our weekly Kinder library program
- Our Christmas Carols Concert on the oval
- Numerous performances by the school Choir
- Participation in the 1000 Steps Service and the HMAS Castlemaine Service which included a tour of The Shrine of Remembrance and the HMAS Castlemaine
- Mid year swimming at Monbulk Aquatic Centre
- Camps at Maldon and Phillip Island for children in grades 3-6
- Coaching clinics
- Grade 6 Graduation and Prep Graduation
- An end of year Transition Week to prepare for new grades
- Entry into the State Aerobics Championships
- Successful involvement in the University of NSW testing and the Premiers Reading Challenge
- And much, much more....

Firstly, thank you to our dedicated team of staff (Leadership team, teachers, office staff, integration aides and OSHC team) who work together to give your children the very best learning environment that they can provide at Tecoma. I know these people are looking forward to a well-deserved break, once they get over their own Christmas and New Year celebrations. I know that with school running up to December 22 this year, many staff are having to cram their own Christmas preparations into 2 days, such has been the ferocity of the workload in this final part of the school year. Well done to all staff for a sensational year of learning, challenges, reflection and development at Tecoma.

A huge thank you to all School Council members for their support and tireless contribution to the school for the betterment of all children, not just their own. A very special thank you to School Council President Fiona Green, Treasurer Simone Sultana and Secretary Kelly Machin who held Executive Roles.

Thank you to the parents who continue to work hard in so many ways to make a huge contribution to our school's ongoing success. Thank you to Danielle O'Brien and Jemma Lind who have led the Parent Network to complete another successful year. The Parent Network have been wonderful in raising \$12,500. I would like to acknowledge all members of the Parent Network for your hard work.

A special thank you to Marnie Martin who has continued to take on the coordination of the Uniform Shop this year.

Thank you to our wonderful children. Having read your reports, we can see the progress you have made especially around your learning goals. Terrific progress has been made. Thank you kids for all your hard work.

Thank you to all our Tecoma parents who ensure that everything that we ask and expect of them is done as well as possible. It takes a village to raise a child and the partnership we experience here is brilliant.

As the old saying goes "*use it or lose it*" and this is very applicable for students and their learning. It is very easy to see the holiday break as a time for relaxation and fun, and so it should be - they deserve a break. However students often return to school having lost some of the learning that they had previously mastered. So if you want your child to start the 2018 school year ready for learning, please set some time aside over the holidays to:

Read! Make sure that students are continuing to read, everyday if possible. Books are readily available from the local libraries, make great Christmas presents, and they can be read and reread many times. Newspapers and magazines are popular, even comics to entice the more reluctant. Older children can read to younger siblings. Set up some routines to make sure there is time for reading: each night before bed, in the morning, or while dinner is being prepared. Parents read with or to your child, children can read to you or retell the book or chapter they read. Discussing the content of the book is also crucial.

Count! We don't expect you to teach the mathematics curriculum, but making sure that your child has automatic recall (less than 2 seconds) of maths facts is crucial. Driving in the car is a good time to practise, encourage students to improve becoming faster and more accurate (with all students having different competence – ranging from counting forwards and backwards by 1s, and knowing numbers before and after in Prep to confidence with addition and subtraction facts, multiplication and division facts in the senior school). More suggestions for ways to support your child at home can be found in your child's report.

One of the best presents you can give your child this Christmas is a love of learning which makes their future brighter.

LAST DAY

Our final assembly will be held on Friday 22nd December from 1.45pm – 2.30pm where we say farewell to our Grade 6 students and other staff and students who will not be returning to Tecoma PS in 2018. We may stage the assembly on the top basketball court depending on the weather, otherwise we will be in the hall.

A reminder there is no Out of School Hours Care on the last afternoon.

FAREWELL MRS MORGAN

Last week as a staff, we farewelled Mrs Abbey Morgan after 52 years in the teaching service. She began her career in 1966, a year in which I had great delight in telling her last week that I wasn't born!

After working at a number of schools, Mrs Morgan arrived at our school in 1983. She must have found this school to her liking as 34 years later she is still here!

Just in my time, Mrs Morgan has been in the library, the Art room, the Prep room, grade 1/2, grade 3/4, special needs including remedial and extension classes, and finally in the last 2 years, our Reading Room.

Mrs Morgan always accepted whatever roles she was given, with an attitude of "whatever you need me to do". She was and is the utmost professional and it is important to go out on top and full of energy. Mrs Morgan exhibits that every day as she runs and zips around our school, collecting children and ensuring everything is running smoothly.

Teachers like Mrs Morgan leave a legacy, remembered by so many students over the 52 years. Many students read, spell, add up and know their grammar and punctuation as a result of the teachings of Mrs Morgan. On behalf of the many who were taught by you and worked with you over the 52 years, we salute you and thank you Mrs Morgan for all your work over the years. Have a wonderful retirement and next stage in your life.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION

Grade 6 children and their families enjoyed their very special graduation night at Burrinja on Wednesday evening with many favourable comments on this night being passed on by participating parents.

It is a very intimate night for the Year 6 graduating students and their parents and the focus of the evening allows the children to demonstrate their enormous skills in public speaking as well as the thoughtful reflection on their primary school journey and the opportunities that lie ahead. Awards were given out on the evening to students selected as best exemplifying our school's "School Values".

The Simon Zachariah Award is a perpetual award given out each year to the best 'all round' student. This includes personal qualities as well as academic, artistic and sporting abilities. This year the award went to Sophia Giantomaso. Congratulations Sophia on achieving this great honour. Sophia now has her name engraved onto the Simon Zachariah plaque which stays in our school for years to come and she also receives her own award to keep as a memento of this occasion.

The **School Values Awards** went to:

Community – Olivia Crabtree
Personal Best – Amelie Veil
Integrity – Alex Harvey
Learning – Anakin Van Huizen
Respect – Dylan Sandham
Creativity – Lucy Hopkins

The La Trobe award, organized by the Federal Member for La Trobe, Mr. Jason Wood, was presented to Scarlett Stoppel-Lovell.

Special attendance award to Billy Martin who was given a commemorative football to signify that he has never missed a day of school and that by far, I have had to collect his football off the roof more than any other student in my time! However I think he has an apprentice in Prep that may catch him over time.

The Bendigo Bank Scholarship award was given to Madalin Brown who has led by example in her role as one of our School Captains.

I would like to thank our fantastic staff who put the night together with special mention to our grade 6 staff, Mrs Lisa Hoskins-Faul and Mrs Deb Langford who held the reins very tightly in organising the graduation. It went beautifully Lisa and Deb....thank you!
I wish all the year 6 children a very positive transition into their secondary education. You will all be sorely missed and of course we look forward to you all visiting in future years to hear of your new ventures.

FAMILIES LEAVING TECOMA

A special mention to those families leaving Tecoma this year, often after a long association with the school. Thankyou to the following families for their friendship and valued contributions over the years:

From 6F: Beer (Rohan), Brasher (Nick), Condon (Vincent), Copelin (Emily), Fox (Amy), Frawley (Blake), Giantomaso (Sophia), Goldie (Samantha), Jackson (Dakota), McLeod (Violet), Smith (Charli) and Walton (Georgia)

From 6L: Byers (Leo), Caddy (Ella), Dubbeldam (Jessica), Fawke (Gingerlily), Hubai (Timmi), Pude (James), Ronalds-Greatbatch (Finley), Seeley (Ava), Shovelton (Nate), Thomson (Daniel), Van Huizen (Anakin) and Wright (Callum)

And students from other years:

Gibbs (Adele), Porter (Harrison), Tozer (Lara), Douglas (Skyla), Sabeeh (Summer), Jubb (Riley), Williams-Duignan (D'Archi) and Vincent (Mikayla).

We hope that you take many happy memories with you of your times at Tecoma.

ATTENDANCE

As you would be aware, we have a reward BBQ to celebrate those children who reach an incredible achievement....97% attendance in the second semester of this year. We had 56 children attending my reward BBQ on Tuesday, where they ate the culinary delights that I served up plus received a certificate to mount on the wall. Well done kids.....and mums and dads who got you here each day!

START OF 2018

Teachers resume on Monday 29th January, we have a pupil free day on Tuesday 30th January and children commence on Wednesday 31st January (Preps on the Thursday 1st February). Our school office will be open from Wednesday 24th January if you need to contact the school. Prep parents; please note your special timetable for starting times was included in your Prep information packs. There will be a whole school assembly at 9:00am on the students' first morning back.

THANKS FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Earlier this term, school Subject Contribution letters were sent home to all parents. On checking with the office, many payments have already been made which assists the school with budgetary processes in the new school year. Thank you to those families who have managed these progressive payments.

Student supplies will only be handed out at the start of next year on payment of the allocated contributions. Parents who are experiencing financial hardship are urged to come and make an appointment at the school office to discretely speak about a payment plan (should an existing plan not be in place already). These supplies will be handed out to students on the first day upon payment of these essential items.

PICNIC WORKING BEE

You will have received a notice regarding the Picnic Working Bee in the New Year. Please put this in your diary. It gives our community a chance to get together after the break and have our school looking brilliant for the children's return.

What : Working Bee

When: Tuesday January 30, 2018

Time: 4.30pm to 8pm.

Hope to see you all here.

2018 TERMS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY DATES

Wednesday	31st January	9:00am	<u>Term One commences</u> – Grade 1-6 students begin
Thursday	1 February	9.30am- 1.00pm	Prep Students begin
Monday	12 March		Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday	29 March	2:00 – 2:30pm	Assembly (Term 1 concludes - <u>early dismissal</u>)
Friday	30 March		Good Friday
Monday	2 April		Easter Monday
Monday	16 April	9:00am	<u>Term Two commences</u>
Monday	11 June		Queen's Birthday Holiday
Friday	29 June	2:00 – 2:30pm	Assembly (Term 2 concludes - <u>early dismissal</u>)
Monday	16 July	9:00am	<u>Term Three commences</u>
Friday	21 September	2:00 – 2:30pm	Assembly (Term 3 concludes - <u>early dismissal</u>)
Monday	8 October	9:00am	<u>Term Four commences</u>
Tuesday	6 November		Melbourne Cup Holiday
Friday	21 December	1:45 – 2:30pm	Assembly (last day of 2018 - <u>early dismissal</u>)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

My best wishes to all our families for the Christmas period. I hope you all have a chance to spend some quality family time together and re-charge the batteries.

If you and your family use our school grounds during the holidays and see any suspicious activity, please call DET Emergency Management 9589 6266 or Belgrave Police 9754 6677.

I look forward to seeing you around our school in the New Year.

Until then, have a great holiday break and stay safe!

Rohan Thompson
Principal



To our wonderful Tecoma Community,

This week all of our Take Home Books have been sorted, relabelled and repaired in preparation for the 2018 school year.

Our Junior School Literacy Coordinator, Miss Nieuweboer, has worked tirelessly to purchase books each year to build this resource, in order to give the children a great variety of books to read, as well as increasing the number of books we have, to cater for our growing school enrolments.

Unfortunately there are over 1,000 books missing since the last stock take, at the end of last year!!!!

This is a huge amount of books to go missing and an amount that can't simply just be replaced as a part of natural attrition.

Can you please have a really good search of your shelves, bags and any other place a 'Take Home Book' may be hiding over the break and bring any that you find back to school on the first day back next year.

A HUGE thank you to the following companies that donated prizes for the Lapathon:



OSHC NEWS

AFTER SCHOOL CARE WILL NOT RUN ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM
(FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER)

OFFICE NEWS

- THE SCHOOL OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON THE 24TH OF JANUARY FROM 9AM TO 3PM. SCHOOL FEES ARE DUE BY THE 31ST OF JANUARY IN ORDER FOR YOUR CHILD/REN TO GET THEIR BOOK PACKS ON THE FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL. IF YOU NEED TO SET UP A PAYMENT PLAN, PLEASE SEE US IN THE OFFICE.
- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IN THE NEW YEAR YOU GO ON FLEXIBUZZ AND CHOOSE THE NEW YEAR LEVEL OF YOUR CHILD/REN'S CLASS SO YOU GET ALL THE CORRECT NOTICES/INFORMATION IN 2018!



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL
TECOMA FAMILIES!



HEATHER, KARIN & ANTHEA

Fab
Nobs
THEATRE INC.

A Summer Musical

GOLDBLOCKS

AND THE
THREE BEARS

A colorful illustration of Goldilocks, a young girl with blonde pigtails, holding a basket of flowers. She is standing next to three bears: a large brown bear, a medium brown bear, and a small white bear. A pink balloon with the text 'Fun for kids' is floating nearby.

Fun
for
kids

January 11 - 20
2018

fabnobstheatre.com.au