



TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

12th October, 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

Thursday 12th

Parent Family Life Session
7pm (Grade 5 & 6)

Tuesday 17th

Interschool Summer Sports
(Grade 5 & 6)

Thursday 19th

Family Life Session 1
(Grade 5 & 6)

Wednesday 25th

Step into Prep
(Buddies)

Thursday 26th

Family Life Session 2
(Grade 5 & 6)

Friday 20th

School Disco
P-2 4.30pm—6.00pm
3-6 6.15pm—7.45pm

Saturday 21st

Minute to Win It Night

NOVEMBER

Thursday 2nd

The Great Tecoma Lapathon

Family Life Session 3
(Grade 5 & 6)

Friday 3rd

CURRICULUM DAY
No Students at school

WELCOME BACK:

I would like to welcome back everyone to term 4. I think that the term break was desperately needed by all in our community. I was talking to some parents this morning and we all feel healthier. Whether that was just the sleep ins, some down time or the fact that we have had a chance to throw the winter bugs away I'm not sure. Probably a combination of all. I hope you managed to get away at some stage, were able to get outside and enjoy life.

Term 4 in classrooms has begun well with Miss Nieuweboer, Mr. Wilson and Ms Van Elmt back this week after some long service leave last term.

On leave for the next 3 weeks is Miss Perushyn, being replaced by Mrs Langdon.

It promises to be a very busy and eventful term for the children. Teachers have started to work through engaging, carefully constructed units of study with the children. Staff have reported of enjoying the chance to charge their own battery over the break and now look forward to many highlights planned for term 4. Some of our staff have returned from a fantastic study tour of Japan, visiting both Primary and Secondary Schools. They gained some great insights! I don't think we will have the children doing the cleaning of the school and toilets as they do in Japan just yet!

Of course, our core focus at Tecoma is student learning with a focus on literacy and numeracy. Our curriculum is carefully planned to ensure that all students maximise their learning in these important areas and all of our extra-curricular activities are carefully selected and planned, so that links can be made to formal learning in Maths and English. Teachers will be continuing to undertake a range of assessment activities in preparation for the end of year reports – it is very important that children attend school every day.

This is always a busy term so start marking those important dates from our calendar into your diary now. To avoid putting pressure on the office staff in the final weeks of term to process forms and money, end of year activities will be planned early. Please assist our office staff by having notices, etc, arrive back on time.

Don't forget next Friday is disco night (forms due back Tuesday) and the next day on Saturday morning, we have our team participating in

LAPATHON:

At the end of last term, we sent home forms for our Lapathon. The last lapathon we ran was in 2012 where we needed \$22,000 to put air conditioning into the grade 1/2 building. We raised this amount spectacularly, thanks to the hard work and generosity of our community.

We have decided to run it again in 2017 to raise funds for the next stage of our grade 3-6 playground. You will have seen that thanks to our hard working parent network, we were able to complete stage 1. We now need to complete stage 2.

The target as per the fundraising thermometer on our office is \$25,000.

If every child was able to raise \$63, we will achieve this target.

We also will offer some prizes. The major prize, due the generosity of a grandmother in our school, is the free use for one week over the Christmas Holiday break of a house in Rye. This will go to the family that raises the most money per child they have at our school. The house is 2 streets from the beach and is the ideal summer retreat.

The date of the lapathon is Thursday, November 2. This is the day before the Curriculum Day on Friday November 3. We are inviting all community members to come along; mums, dads, grandparents to cheer the children on.....at the completion of the run, the children will get a free fruit cup put together by the Parent Network. We will also have a cake stall and a sausage sizzle. We don't often run events that are purely about fundraising but this event is.....we have that target and we want to get there!

Sponsorship forms have already gone out, but if you need more, please contact the office.

Thanks for your support!

CONGRATULATIONS.....

On Monday, our Prep teacher Mr Shelley Smith greeted me with the news that she and her husband Jesse are expecting the arrival of their first child in April, 2018. She announced it with much excitement to our staff that night at staff meeting.

I would also like to announce that Mrs Abbey Morgan, our Reading Room teacher will be retiring after many years of fantastic service to the Department of Education and Tecoma PS in particular. Thank you Abbey for a job well done.

There you go, news of totally different implications but news that deserves our heartiest congratulations!

STAFFING AND GRADE STRUCTURES FOR 2018

Throughout November and early December we will be working on our class structures and student combinations for next year. Changes in student numbers and staffing combinations usually cause us to reshape our proposed class structures several times throughout this term.

Due to our increasing numbers, we have several staff placements that may or may not be a part of our 2018 staff team, with various interview processes to occur.

Please note that we are not deliberately trying to withhold information from you and that it places staff in a difficult situation when they are asked (even quite politely) for information on staffing and grade placements for next year. The reality is that we do not know who will be teaching grades next year and several factors will determine how this is finally decided. For me or any member of staff to tell you one thing will make it very difficult to explain when this changes.

At this stage the school is planning to hold 19 classes (currently 17) next year for what is expected to be 414 children (currently 391) next year, but we need definite numbers across all levels before we make that decision.

Due to this, it is vital that we are made aware of any circumstances that may impact on our enrolment numbers. Please let us know urgently if you intend to enrol a child at our school, if you are aware of people in our community who will be enrolling or if you intend to transfer to another school. We desperately require this information as soon as possible in order to establish grade structures for the start of the new school year. If you will not be at Tecoma in 2018 please notify the school office in writing as soon as possible.

What are the criteria that we use to make up class lists?

Factors influencing class structure are:

- the educational needs of the students;
- the projected number of students in each year level;
- the ratio of girls to boys;
- the number of teachers employed at the school; and
- resources and facilities.

Factors which are considered in the placement of students include:

- academic performance – judgments over time
- work habits eg ability to work independently
- behaviour
- gender
- social network /friendships
- social maturity
- special needs eg twins, siblings .

What is the process for placing students into classes?

Based on the criteria listed above, teaching staff and administration meet mid-term 4 to establish classes for the following school year. Teachers ensure each new class has:

- a balance of academic ability
- gender balance
- socially balanced groups

During this process, changes and adjustments are made over several weeks. Each change may trigger a chain reaction of other changes.

Proposed class lists are submitted to the myself and Assistant Principal Di Double for final ratification.

The new classes will be announced on Orientation Day, December 12th with the exception of next year's Prep classes who will be announced on Prep information night.

With this in mind, parents are now invited to write to me about any additional information that will help us in determining a placement for your child.

2018 GRADE PLACEMENT REQUESTS:

Parents are now invited to write to me about any concerns they may have for their child's educational needs for 2018. Please note, requests for particular teachers will not be considered as the best interests of all of the children and the effective management of the school must be taken into account.

Letters will be considered up until Thursday November 2 . Letters received after this date will not be accepted unless in exceptional circumstances. These letters are to be addressed directly to myself with all details and information provided kept in confidence.

While I have letters on file from previous years, I will only be taking into account letters I receive this year. Often friendship concerns become outdated as the children grow in maturity and have developed new friendships. However, if you have information from previous years that you feel I need to know that is relevant in regard to your child's placement, please include this in your letter.

As you may understand, the allocating of children to classrooms is a very complex task and one that requires patience and a great deal of thought and manipulation. Please assist us to make this process as smooth as possible by taking note of the requests as outlined. Please also be aware that requests are indeed requests and does not mean it will automatically happen. We have decided, on balance, in previous years to not grant some requests. This is done with all the information that we have at our disposal and every decision will be made for the betterment of all children.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns with 2018 grade placements in person, please contact the school office to arrange a time for a chat.

STEP INTO PREP TRANSITION PROGRAM:

We now have 2 sessions remaining of our Prep Transition Program.

There are 4 more dates that new prep parents need to keep in their calendar. They are:

The last transition session on Wednesday November 8th, 2017.

- Prep Parent Information Evening is on Wednesday 29th November at 7.00pm. Supper will be provided.
- Orientation day on Tuesday 12th December from 11.30 – 12.20 pm which will include activity sessions in their 2018 classes.

Later that day, we hold the Prep Buddies Picnic from 12.20 – 1.00pm where buddies will be announced and children are encouraged to bring along their favourite stuffed toy to show their older buddy.

PUPIL FREE DAY:

Last term at School Council, it was passed that Friday November 3, the Friday prior to the Melbourne Cup public holiday Tuesday will be a pupil free day. No children will be at school that day as staff will be conducting learning walks at other schools. Please lock this date in your calendar and I will constantly remind the community through the newsletter.

SOCIAL NIGHT:

Aside from 2 seats, our parent social night "MINUTE TO WIN IT" **has sold out**

The date is:

Saturday 21st October @ 7pm

If you want those last 2 seats, please contact the office!

Looking forward to a great, fun night!

THIS WEEK AT ASSEMBLY:

- we welcomed everyone back to term 4
- congratulated those tiger supporters on capturing the flag after 37 years
- welcomed back our returning staff who were on LSL and some families who had extended holidays.
- reminded students that hats must be worn in term 4.
- Heard some wonderful holiday achievements including some mudlarks, footballers, swimmers and cuboree participants!

See you around the school

Rohan Thompson

Sherbrooke Children's Centre

40th
Birthday

Saturday
October 14
10am – 2pm

Community members and
Sherbrooke Children's
Centre families past and
present are invited to join us
to help celebrate our
birthday!

- Centre open day
- Face Painting
- Roving Clown
- RSL Barbeque



Yarra
Ranges
Council

Sherbrooke Family & Children's Centre
1443 Burwood Hwy, Upwey



OFFICE NEWS



- Look out for the Term 4 Levies next week. Lots of exciting things happening!
- Uniform Shop is open Tuesday morning 8:45am to 9:15am and Wednesday afternoon 3:15pm to 3:45pm. We do ask that you stick to these times or order via Qkr or phone.

Have a safe and relaxing holiday,

MUSIC LESSONS AT TECOMA P.S.



PRIVATE TUTORS

Drums

Jordan Scotney 0408 881 395

Guitar

Juan Aravena 0402 688 836

Piano

Amanda Collins 0478 166 709

Violin

Lore Burns 0431 224 262

Singing

Rochelle (please ring Jordan for more information)

Physio

DANDENONG RANGES

Pilates Orthotics Remedial Massage

- Back/neck pain
- Sports injuries
- Headaches
- Overuse injuries

- Sprains/strains
- Falls & balance
- Post-surgical rehab
- Women's health

PRODUCTION DVD

You can still order Production DVD's online through:

<http://>



NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM.

Hello Tecoma Community,

Last term was an extremely busy time in the music room, well not so much in the music room but to do with Music!

What a great time we have all had, I am very proud of all the children, their efforts and achievements. It was an amazing term.

I hope you have all enjoyed the performances!

To finish off the term the choir sang at the Federation Bells in the city. We had been rehearsing with two other schools, once a month for 4 months. It was a performance for World Independence Day.

THE GREAT TECOMA LAPATHON

On **Thursday 2nd November** we will be holding a major fundraiser for the school in the form of "**The Great Tecoma Lapathon**". All money raised will be going towards the targeted figure of \$25,000 to upgrade our Grade 3-6 playground.

All children will participate in the walk/run, which will be held at the school.

- **Grades 1 and 6 from 10:15 – 11:00am**
- **Preps and Grade 5 from 11:30am – 12:15pm**
- **Grade 2, 3 and 4 from 12:15 – 1:00pm**

One lap around our fitness track is approximately 200 metres.



WORDS FROM MRS DOUBLE

WELCOME BACK!

I hope you all had a refreshing holiday and were able to spend some quality time with your family. Geoff and I managed to sneak a couple of nights away to Cape Nelson Lighthouse, near Portland. I was able to tick off one of my bucket list items by staying in a Caretakers Cottage at a lighthouse....quite an experience! Unfortunately the flu did get the better of me, so I was not well enough to climb it, so we will have to go back and visit another time, when I am fit and well again! While I coughed and spluttered I sent the boys away to Paynesville (to mess about in the boat), which they totally loved.

What's happening this term?

Last term, all staff were involved in their unit planning days, where they planned the curriculum that your children will be taking part in this term.

By now you should have received your year level Term Newsletter, outlining, in more detail, what your child will be focusing on.

I thought, though, that I would give you a brief overview of the Inquiry Units that each area of the school will be exploring:

Foundation (Prep) – ‘Fairy Tales – Once Upon a Time...’ where the students will focus on: Recognising the different characters in fairy tales by their characteristics: physical, emotional and decision making

- To recognise the ‘moral’ of a story
- To be able to retell and change the outcomes of some fairy tales, by having the main characters making better choices
- Through fairy tales and Bounceback activities students can relate to being courageous and applying it to their own lives.

Grade 1&2's – ‘Communication – Are you Game?’ In this unit the students will be looking at

- what skills are required to get along with others,
- how to effectively communicate with others to achieve a goal,
- why rules are important and what skills we need to interact and integrate successfully with others,
- and how we learn to deal with disappointment and successes of others and ourselves, including recognising, empathising and managing different emotions.

Grade 3&4's – ‘Flight’ – In this unit students will gain a greater understanding of:

- the principles of flight
- how flying machines work
- how forms of flight have developed over time
- who our famous aviators are.

Grade 5&6's – ‘Democracy in Australia’ –Students will look at:

- how democracy affects our daily life
- why we need values
- what would happen if there were no rules
- what the roles and responsibilities of the various levels of government are
- how laws are developed and reinforced in Australia
- and what it means to be an Australian citizen.

If you would like to contribute, in any way, and you are not sure who to see, please pop in and see me at the office and I'll point you in the right direction.

Thank you.

Mental Health Week

This week is Mental Health Week.

Mental Health is not just the absence of mental illness, but a positive sense of wellbeing. It is the ability to be able to cope with life's problems and to engage with other people and the environment in a satisfying way.

Did you know that one in five Australian's will experience a mental illness or serious mood disorder during their lives? Every one of us is affected by the cost – emotionally, socially and financially.



The Mental Health Foundation has identified seven things which we can do to keep ourselves mentally healthy:

1. We all relax in different ways. Work out how you relax and do it regularly, not just when you need it. Remember that good sleep is very important.
2. Try to spend time with good company; friends, neighbours, family, work colleagues and school friends.
3. Spend time regularly with yourself, away from all your demands. Look after yourself by thinking of things you might enjoy such as reading a book, taking a walk and listening to some music.
4. Imagine some simple changes to your routines, which may increase your positive feelings. Get out of bed early, meet some new people or read a daily newspaper.
5. If you are worrying about something, try to understand your thoughts and the reasons for them by writing the problem down and talking to someone about the problem.
6. Set some realistic goals for yourself and once achieved set new ones.
7. Exercise regularly, ideally about 20 minutes each day, and eat healthy nourishing food.

Kids Disco

Next Friday, 20th October, the Parent Network will be running our Kids Disco. A notice was sent out on Tuesday with the times, the cost, etc. We know it will be a great night, as we have a new, highly recommended DJ on board!

Have a lovely week.

Quotes of the week:



STUDENT OF THE WEEK



GRADE	NAME	REASON
Prep K	Daniel W	<p>It is wonderful to see you enjoying your first week in Prep so much Daniel. You are putting in a wonderful effort with your work and making many new friends.</p> <p>A big, warm welcome to Prep K Daniel! :-)</p>
Prep S	Kade L	<p>Kade has been working really hard at forming his letters on dotted thirds. I am so amazed by the effort he has put in and it's great to see his hard work paying off.</p> <p>Way to go Kade!!</p>
Prep S	Petra J	<p>Petra wrote an amazing recount about the production. She used a sizzling start to describe her experience. Petra wrote, "My heart was beating like a leopard running faster than a bullet". Your writing blew me away Petra, well done!</p>
Prep W	Kali C	<p>Kali used a lot of effort when creating her own train ticket at the end of last term. She carefully wrote that she would like to take a train to the ice and snow and used lots of detail in her drawings. Congratulations Kali, keep up the great work!</p>
1R	Lara T	<p>Lara, you did a fantastic job during our writing session. You took your time to make sure you formed your letters correctly and tried your personal best.. Well done Lara!</p>
1V	Karthik C	<p>For settling in to life at Tecoma Primary with ease! Karthik your friendly nature and great attitude to learning new things is wonderful and we can't wait to get to know you even better!</p>
1V	Leo G	<p>For working hard on your reading and making very good progress! Leo uses good reading strategies like sounding out and flipping the sound to work out unknown words! Great work Leo!</p>
2C	Millie W	<p>Millie has come back from holidays full of energy and ready to learn. Your positive attitude and friendly manner is a pleasure to have in the class Millie. I am looking forward to seeing you do your best this term!</p>
2N	Charli P	<p>Charli can be very proud of her work ethic. She always tries her best, makes sure she asks for help to clarify and most importantly, never gives in. Charli's willingness to constantly give her all is something she can be extremely proud of.</p>
3GP	Blake V	<p>Blake is a loyal friend. He quickly offers a helping hand. His sense of fairness ensures he is well respected by his peers.</p>
3W	Audrey T	<p>Audrey was 'on fire' during our narrative writing session and quickly created a detailed plan about "The House on the Hill". Her draft started where the action was and included some 'near solutions' to her problem.</p> <p>Great work Audrey.</p>



STUDENT OF THE WEEK



GRADE	NAME	REASON
4D	Emily B	For working cooperatively and productively with her partner, whilst conducting our first Mystery Powders science experiment. Congratulations Emily.
4D	Niamh W	For working cooperatively and productively with her partner, whilst conducting our first Mystery Powders science experiment. Congratulations Niamh.
4V	Ayla C	For displaying her stunning science skills through her observations of salt. Ayla, you used descriptive words and lots of detail to explain what you noticed in the experiments. Fantastic work Ayla!
5G	Charles Y	Charles has begun Term 4 with a positive attitude towards learning. With enthusiasm, he conducted a Chance and Probability experiment in Maths. He worked well in class to complete all of the required tasks, producing a well labelled column graph to reflect his results. Keep up your great attitude Charles!
5G	Chloe M	Chloe is a wonderful friend to all those around her. She respects her classmates and her teachers always considering their needs. On top of this, she is such a dedicated learner who ensures all work completed is of her very best. You are a well valued member of 5G Chloe! Well done!!
5M	Sasha S	Over the past term, Sasha has really developed a more proactive approach to his learning. He asks questions if he isn't sure of what he needs to do and shows initiative towards each activity. Sasha is a friendly, easy going member of our class. Keep it up.
6L	Arran J	Arran has made a great start to term 4. He has a positive attitude and puts his best efforts into his work. Keep it up Arran.
6L	Timmi H	Timmi's invention idea was to develop toothpaste that was available in 100's of flavours, from bacon to chocolate ice-cream flavour. She wrote a good persuasive text about why her invention was needed and developed a slogan and advertising poster and video. She presented her invention well, included a slogan, user manual and money back guarantee. Awesome work Timmi.
6F	Zoe O	Zoe has worked diligently on our new topic of Democracy and Government this week. She has asked intelligent questions, sought answers and helped fellow classmates. What a terrific start to Term 4 , Zoe!!
Japanese	Maddy B	Maddy-san (Ms. Maddy) has been doing her very best during Japanese lessons. She also makes it a habit to take a note while listening to the teacher. Fantastic!



Tecoma Primary School



The Great Tecoma Lapathon

Our school is holding "The Great Tecoma Lapathon" on Thursday 2nd November

- Grades 1 and 6 from 10:15 - 11:00am
- Preps and Grade 5 from 11:30am - 12:15pm
- Grade 2, 3 and 4 from 12:15 - 1:00pm

We are seeking your assistance for sponsorship. The children will walk for 40 minutes and each lap is approximately 200 metres. You may sponsor a child per lap or provide a donation. We expect the children to complete between 10 and 15 laps in the 40 min.

The school thanks you for your sponsorship, the proceeds of which will go towards upgrading our Grade 3-6 playground.

NAME OF SPONSOR	PER LAP	AMOUNT DUE	OR DONATION	PAID
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