



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to everyone! I hope you had a terrific Christmas break and that your New Year has started off on a great footing. I hope the drought hasn't had too much of an impact on the community. Certainly, the plants here at the school seem to have survived very well thanks to our intrepid band of volunteer waterers! Thank you so much to those families, the school grounds look a treat to start the year.

### WELCOME

Last week we welcomed many new faces to the Tyabb community in the form of 52 Prep students. After only a very few tears (not from the children) they began, what we are certain will be, a wonderful seven years at Tyabb. They have all visited my office to say hello and they've had a wonderful first week, full of excitement and expectation.

We also welcome a number of new students and families across other grade levels. We hope you find Tyabb all that you wished it would be. I am sure that I have met most of the new families but if not, please come and introduce yourselves. I have been around to all of the grades and our newies all seem to have settled in beautifully. We welcome the families of Jeremiah Whelan (1D), Ruby (1M) and Jemima (4/5J) Howe, Nico Casela (2D), Jack (2H) and Madeleine (4R) Trickey, Adam Dunn (3S), Jack Sims (3S), Hannah and Matthew Richardson (5GW) and Jessica Lanigan (4/5J). We welcome you all to what is a very welcoming school community. I am certain that you will enjoy your time at Tyabb Primary School.

### STAFFING CHANGES

It has also been terrific to see our new staff begin the year so amazingly well too. This year we welcome Susan Childs, who comes to us all the way from the UK as part of the International Teaching Fellowship Exchange Program. Susan is teaching in Year 3 and has had a terrific start to the year. It's a very exciting opportunity for our school, and for the Year 3 children in particular, and we are all looking forward to sharing a little of Australia with Susan during 2008.

We also welcome Mandy Koerner back to Tyabb. I say back to Tyabb, because Mandy attended Tyabb as a student when she was a little tacker. Mandy has already had a great association with our school during her university training and we are so very pleased she was able to join the staff here. Mandy is in the Prep area and just loves her little group of school beginners!

Finally, we welcome our new Assistant Principal, Kerry Quigley. Kerry joins us from Mt Eliza PS. She has had a hectic but exciting start to the new year and her new role. Kerry is on a steep learning curve as she learns all about her new role and a new school community. I'm sure she will have all the staff, parent and student names down pat by the end of this week!

### HEAT POLICY REMINDER

As you know, all of our classrooms are air-conditioned. However, we have formulated a policy to cater for days of extreme heat. *It has been decided that, should the temperature reach 37 deg or over at lunchtime (local temperature), then children will be kept inside and supervision arrangements as for a wet day timetable will be implemented. If parents feel that children are better off at home on a very hot afternoon, then you are welcome to call at the office before 12.50 pm to pick them up.*

### SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Materials announcing the School Council elections have been sent home today. If you are thinking of nominating and would like some more information, please give me a call at school and we can have a chat. It is a crucial part of our school operation. Please note that some of our current councillors may not renominate so this could be an ideal time for you to consider your School Council involvement. Nomination forms are due in by 4 pm next Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### GRADE 6 CAMP

On Monday we farewelled the Grade six children on their camp to Woorabinda. They are having a great time at Woorabinda School Camp. I have spent the last couple of days with them and they are taking on my Year 6 theme of "no regrets" with typical Tyabb enthusiasm and fun. I have been to Woorabinda many

times myself and I know that they will return home with many stories of a week full of challenge, learning and fun.

### FRUIT AND VEG FOLLOW-UP

We have made some great gains in reducing the amount of rubbish in our school as well as in increasing the level of healthy eating amongst our students. We had great success during our Fruit and Veg week last year but we have noticed that many have fallen back into old habits with high fat, high salt and high sugar convenience foods. These are not only unhealthy but, as a rule, have far greater levels of wrappings and rubbish. This is especially the case at morning recess where snacks are more often than not pre-packaged biscuits, chips and so on. In order to build on the momentum created from Fruit and Veg week we are trying some strategies to encourage both minimal use of packaging and maximum use of fruit and vegetables and other healthy snacks.

- We will continue to encourage "Wrapper Free Lunches and Snacks"
- No lunch wrappers will be allowed in classroom bins. They will be sent home in lunch boxes.
- Children will not be allowed to take any wrappers into the playground for snacks. All snacks must be eaten in the classroom or unwrapped prior to taking them out.
- We have successfully gained funding from the Department of Education to run "Free Fruit Fridays" in the school. **Children in Grades Prep – 2 will be sampling a variety of fruits delivered fresh every week (commencing tomorrow) to further encourage healthy eating habits.**

We all want to reduce waste and we all want to encourage healthier eating for our children. With these strategies, we can do both. I look forward to your support for this program.

### PRINCIPAL'S REMINDERS IN REPLAY

Before I close, I will throw in a few reminders that always seem to crop up as issues.

**Hats:** Don't forget that Tyabb is a "SunSmart" school. The official school broad-brimmed Trigger hats are compulsory for all children until the end of April. Baseball caps are not an ideal form of sun protection, and are not acceptable. The Trigger hats look terrific, are very trendy but also very "SunSmart".

**Medication:** We CANNOT give medication of any kind, without your written permission. If you need your child medicated during the day, whether on a short term or long term basis, you must fill out a medication form, available from the office. The information that you send should have full information as to dosages, times, indications for use and permission for the medication to be administered. This information should be given to the office along with all medication in suitable containers. If the medication is for ongoing issues such as ADHD or asthma, a full management plan should be given to the school on the appropriate form.

**Early morning and after school supervision:** I am always concerned with the number of children who are in the school grounds before 8.45 am each morning. We have a well-staffed and closely supervised Before School Care program and there are teachers on duty from 8.45 am onwards. Beyond this we cannot take responsibility for children left in the playground in the morning unsupervised. This applies equally after 3.45 pm in the afternoon.

**Parking and traffic:** Please be patient and considerate when picking up and dropping off at school, especially at this time of the year. We understand that it is a difficult situation here, especially after school, as it is at most schools around Victoria. We are continuing to work with Council and DEECD to try to alleviate some of the traffic issues around the school but these things take time and money, both of which are in short supply. In the meantime, plan, be patient and understand that, if we are all considerate and careful, our children are safer and everyone can get a fair go.

**Uniforms:** The wearing of school uniform is compulsory at Tyabb Primary School. The uniform policy is very clear and School Council approved. It is there for reasons of uniformity of appearance, convenience for parents and security for children. Please ensure that your children are wearing the prescribed uniforms at all times. On those odd occasions when the drier has broken down or the dog has eaten the only clean shirt, please send a note along. There are many "variations" appearing in children's uniforms and that is disappointing. The

uniform is attractive, comfortable, functional and good value for money. We don't want a whole lot of variations appearing. Changes to the school uniform are suggested by the PFA and approved by School Council. Should you have any suggestions, please put it in writing to me and we can consider it. In the meantime, I ask for all parents to support our efforts to maintain this important part of our school culture. We are proud of our uniform and we hope that the children feel the same.

#### FORMS TO FILL IN

Next week you will receive a number of forms to be filled in. It is most important that these forms are filled in correctly and fully. Each child will receive a Welfare and Discipline form (blue), a Media Permission form (pink), a Local Excursions form (green) and an Internet Acceptable Use policy (yellow). These should be returned to your child's classroom teacher.

All of the forms are very similar to previous years. Please fill in the forms as diligently and accurately as possible.

New Student Enrolment Information forms will also be sent home with all children next week due to some changes by DEECD this year. We ask that parents please complete all areas of the form as these will totally replace old forms on hand ('as previous' is not acceptable). Please return the Student Information forms as soon as possible to the office. We emphasise the importance of up to date information in case of illness, accident or emergency. New Asthma Management forms have also been sent home for updating for those children listed as having asthma (even if only occasional).

Have a great week everyone.

*Greg Lacey*  
Principal

#### SUNSMART ALERT!

It's a good time to remind all parents that our SunSmart policy applies from the 1<sup>st</sup> September until the 30<sup>th</sup> April. That means that **hats are compulsory now!** When UV Index levels reach 3 and above, UV radiation can damage skin and lead to skin cancer. *Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to a child's lifetime risk of skin cancer.*

To protect yourself and your children, use a combination of 5 sun protection measures - **The Outside 5** - throughout the day:

1. *Slip* on sun-protective clothing - that covers as much skin as possible.
2. *Slop* on SPF30+ sunscreen - make sure it is broad spectrum and water resistant. Put it on 20 minutes before you

go outdoors and every two hours afterwards. Sunscreen should never be used to extend the time you spend in the sun.

3. *Slap* on a hat - that protects your face, head, neck and ears.

4. *Seek* shade.

5. *Slide* on some sunglasses - make sure they meet Australian Standards.

Take particular care between 10 am and 2 pm (11 am and 3 pm daylight saving time) when UV levels reach their peak.

#### The SunSmart UV Alert

The SunSmart UV Alert, issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, indicates the UV radiation index levels forecast for the day. It is reported in 183 Australian daily newspapers and some radio weather forecasts, and indicates the times sun protection is required. The Telstra Pocketnews weather service also provides the SunSmart UV Alert. You can also find it on the Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) <<http://www.bom.gov.au>>, (do a search for 'UV Alert').

The UV Alert is a great visual reminder that at this time of year, UV Index levels increase throughout the day - even when the weather is still cool or cloudy.

Remember heat is not an indication of UV radiation - don't assume a cool or cloudy day means low UV Index levels.

#### Vitamin D

The Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Program, The Australasian College of Dermatologists and Osteoporosis Australia all agree that we need to achieve a healthy balance in the amount of UV radiation we receive to avoid an increase in the risk of skin cancer and to maintain adequate vitamin D levels.

Most people receive enough vitamin D simply by going about their day-to-day activities so you don't need to make a special effort to go outside to increase your 'dose' of vitamin D.

To get enough vitamin D from September to April, you only need 5 minutes of sun exposure to the face, arms and hands before 10 am and 5 minutes of exposure after 3 pm, on most days of the week.

#### FORWARD DATES

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<b>FEB.</b>	
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	PFA meeting - 7.30 pm in staffroom
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	OSHC meeting - 7.30 pm staffroom
Thurs. 21 <sup>st</sup>	District Swimming Carnival - Gr 4 - 6
25 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	Water Safety Week - Grades 5 and 6
<b>MARCH</b>	
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Public holiday
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Preps commence full time
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Term 1
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Good Friday
<b>APRIL</b>	
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	School resumes for Term 2

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

If you hold a Pensioner Concession or Health Care / Benefit Card current on the first day of term (29<sup>th</sup> January, 2008) you will be eligible for the above allowance for your child/ren. The E.M.A. is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children and is paid in two instalments for the year. **Please call at the office before Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> February** with your concession card, to complete an application form if you are eligible and have not already done so. It is up to the individual claimant to complete the required paperwork as we are not aware of whether families are eligible or not - family circumstances can also change from time to time. **Application forms must be submitted to the school by Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.**

**NO LATE CLAIMS CAN BE ACCEPTED  
BY THE SCHOOL.**

## THE SPORTS ARENA

- **DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL**  
21<sup>st</sup> February at Crib Point Pool
- **WATER SAFETY WEEK**  
Grade 5 and 6 students  
25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February at  
Mother's Beach, Mornington

Keep on keeping on,  
*Kathie Toft*

## CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

To be eligible to receive the Conveyance Allowance students must live more than 4.8 km by the **shortest practicable route** from the **nearest** school. If you feel you are eligible please call at the office for a claim form. This application must be lodged by Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.

## FROM THE AP'S DESK

Welcome back to the 2008 school year! It is lovely to be part of Tyabb Primary School and everyone has made me feel so welcome, especially the students! So many have come up for a chat, to tell me things about the school, about their holidays and some just to make sure I am okay! I have come from Mt Eliza Primary School, so not very far, and this is my first appointment as an Assistant Principal. I was at Mt Eliza for many years and taught

nearly every grade level in the school. This will be my first time without a grade – to stop the withdrawal symptoms I plan to spend as much time as I can in the grades here! I have four sons, Stuart 19 who is an apprentice builder, Tom 18 who is travelling to Europe this year before starting university next year, Nick 15 in Year 10 and Chris 14, my stepson, in year 9. It is a very male oriented household I live in!

I am really excited to be part of Tyabb P.S. and look forward to meeting the school community as the year progresses. The school certainly has a terrific feel to it – the staff are wonderful and have planned a very exciting curriculum for your children during the year.

Many people helped to keep the school looking great over the holidays. A big thank you to the parents who assisted with watering over the break. Thanks to Dean Underwood for assembling our Keys to Life firmly into the ground near the oak tree – hopefully they will be solid enough to deter any vandals now! Thanks also to Neil from Somerville Garden Maintenance for mowing and whipper-snipping the grounds so they were ready for the first day back and also to Sue Collis and Peter Cartwright for their ongoing maintenance of the school. When you read this I will be at Camp Woorabinda with the Year 6 students – a great way for me to get to know them quickly!

Please come and introduce yourself when you see me around the school – I would love to meet the families of Tyabb Primary School.

*Kerry Quigley*  
Assistant Principal

**BOOK CLUB** – order forms have been sent home today. If you wish to place an order please return the form and money by next Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February.

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Welcome back everyone. I hope you are all refreshed and ready for another Tyabb year and I hope you are all thinking seriously about helping with the PFA for this year too.

Our first meeting for 2008 will be next Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February in the staff room (via the office door) at 7.30 pm. This meeting we will be to elect new office bearers for the PFA. All positions are

vacant - President, Secretary and Treasurer. Please come along (perhaps bring another parent who might like to become involved) and support our very hard working Parents and Friends Association. You don't have to take on a position - just come along to show your support and find out what's happening in our school.

Hope to see you there,  
Narelle Harvey  
PFA President

## MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental music lessons will commence next week for those children who are enrolled in the program.

**Mondays** -Woodwind (Trish Douglass)  
-Keyboard/Piano (Rose Murphy))  
**Tuesdays** -Guitar (Mark Berry)  
**Wednes** -Keyboard/Piano (Julia Furneaux)  
-Violin/Cello (Sally Ross)  
**Fridays** -Keyboard/Piano (Rose Murphy)

A notice with details of time and venue for lessons will be sent home in the next few weeks when the timetable is set. Please make sure your child brings their instrument and any books required on the appropriate day (see above).

## HELP WANTED

We require donations of a garden bench seat or outdoor setting (small table and couple of Chairs) and some flowering plants to create a 'harmony garden' for one of our families who is going through a tough time healthwise.

A group of parents are developing a colourful and peaceful garden for the family to enjoy. We would appreciate any donations. Thank you.

## OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Welcome back to all. A special welcome to families new to the service. We look forward to a very special year. The children enjoyed pancakes at Before School Care for breakfast on Tuesday. We also made some to share on Tuesday afternoon.

We've spent time outside playing cricket and several younger children are enjoying playing in the sandpit with the trucks.

Surveys from the N.C.A.C. (National Childcare Accreditation Council Inc) will be distributed next week. We would appreciate your support in filling them in and returning them promptly.

We have a great program and need your continued support.

### COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2008  
at 7.30 pm in the staffroom.**

**Only one meeting per term.  
All are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing some new members.**

**ACCOUNTS** : Accounts are sent out fortnightly beginning next week and regular payment is expected. Thank you.

### ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Children attending OSHC are welcome to participate in these activities. The consent/permission form is available from the office. Enrolments must be finalised this week.

*Deidre, Marlene,  
Jeannie and Sharron*

### ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The activities commence next Monday and Wednesday for those children enrolled. The Monday session is completely full. A note will be sent home tomorrow with those children who have gained a place.

### Did you know??

An old mobile phone battery contains enough cadmium to contaminate 600 000 litres of water. Check Mobile Muster <http://www.mobilemuster.com.au/?Page=691> for safe recycling options.

### STUDENT ABSENCES

A phone call is acceptable if your child is absent for one day, however, if the absence is more than one day a note must be sent with your child when they return. Prior notification of holidays (in writing) would be appreciated.  
Thank you.

## PREP STUDENTS - SCHOOL ENTRANT HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE (SEHQ)

The Primary School Nursing Program offers a health assessment to children in their first year of school. In every Prep child's Back to School bag this year there was a questionnaire. If your child is in Prep, they will have brought a bag home with a questionnaire. It's for you to fill in about your child, if they are attending Prep for the first time. The questionnaire covers information about their health, including dental health, speech and language, hearing, vision, general development and behaviour and emotional well being. Please complete the questionnaire and return it to school. A school nurse will be in touch with you when she sees your child and the school will be in touch with you when the school nurse arranges her main school visit. If you have any further questions you can contact the Primary School Nursing Program in your region – listed on the back of the School Entrant Health Questionnaire.

### ART NEWS

Welcome back in 2008. It will be another busy, productive and creative year in the art room. I encourage you to come along and join in your child's art lesson if you have some time. I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the help of those parents who came in last year whenever they were able. I extend the offer to any new parents who might like to join in the fun with their child instead of, or as well as, any classroom help. A gentle reminder that ALL CHILDREN require an art smock to protect their clothing from unavoidable spills. There were a couple of leftover smocks from last year if you would like to check for yours in the art room.

I have organised an art excursion for this term and plan an activity of some sort that is art related each term. In March we will be going to see the sand sculptures currently exhibiting at the Frankston foreshore. The cost of the day will be \$10 (including bus fare and exhibition entry). A separate notice will be sent home next week.

Term two will see the return of the fabulous Footsteps Dance Company that was such an outstanding success last year. I am sure your child



will be keen to build on what they learnt last time as well as learning some new dances. For new parents, this course was held weekly in 50 minute sessions and provided so much fun for children and staff, learning dance steps in a social, physical and creative way. The presenter was highly motivating and a real hit with the children. The sessions end with a disco for different age groups where they get to showcase their talents and new found social and physical skills. We have many photos available on our school intranet if you ask your child's teacher I am sure they will be only too happy to show you. Final costings are being organised and will also come home before the end of term. It is expected that all children will attend these events, but in case of financial difficulty please contact the office for payment options.

The theme in art this term is the sea, with many different skills and techniques being taught along the same topic. Watch for some gorgeous art work appearing in the office and classrooms and in the art room as it is completed. I am currently seeking shells as donations in the art room. If you have any good quality shells that you no longer want they will be gratefully accepted (please don't send me those stinky old ones you collected last weekend- my own children are not so old that I don't remember what THAT is like!)

As always I hope your child enjoys art and is able to learn some terrific new skills this year. Pop in if you have time and don't mind getting a little messy (I'll let you wear an apron!)

Sharon Wright

