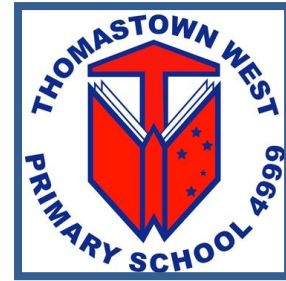


# Thomastown West Primary School



## NEWSLETTER

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### NEWSLETTER NO. 35

*FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL:*

Hi everyone,

Well, 2016 is fast coming to a close. This is our final newsletter for the year.

We have finally reached the last week of the school year after a very busy productive and successful Term 4! I know the students and the teachers are all ready for their break.

**The last day of the school year is tomorrow 20<sup>th</sup> December. Students will be dismissed at 1:15pm.**

#### **Farewell Mr Bell!**

Congratulations to Mr Leon Bell! He has been appointed at Thornbury Primary School as the substantive Principal.

Sadly for Thomastown West, this means Mr Bell will not be returning. He will be missed! Thank you for joining us last Friday morning to farewell such an amazing Principal! Mr Bell's visionary leadership contributed enormously to the standards we set for our great school and he has motivated us all to be the best we can be while **T**ogether we **W**ork on **P**athways to **S**uccess!

As a result my contract has been extended until the end of Term 1. The TWPS Principal position will be advertised in Term 1 and I will certainly be applying! The Senior Educational Improvement Leader (SEIL) will be attending the first School Council meeting in 2016 to explain the official process of Principal selection.

### MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2016

#### **GOOD BYE and GOOD LUCK**

Anabelle Dransfield has been with TWPS since Term 2. Anabelle is due to return to her substantive school, Lalor Gardens. Anabelle quickly fit into the TWPS team with her caring nature, passion for learning and her vast experience. Lalor Gardens PS is very lucky to have such a talented teacher returning in 2017. Anabelle will be greatly missed by all at TWPS!

Belinda Farrington an Education Support member of staff who has been a Teacher's Aide at TWPS for 2 years. Belinda is a quiet achiever who has been an asset to our school. She will certainly be missed by students, their families and staff. Belinda is leaving us to take up a position at Lynall Hall Community School.

Adele Cimorelli is also an Education Support member of staff who has been a Teacher's Aide at TWPS for 18 months. Unfortunately Adele's contract has come to an end. Adele has been a great support to room 19. She too will be missed by students, their families and staff.

I'd like to sincerely thank Anabelle, Belinda and Adele for their enthusiasm, commitment and contribution to Thomastown West this year and wish them well with their future endeavours.

#### **Student Reports**

Student Semester 2 Reports were sent home Friday. Please take the time to read these with your child, celebrate their achievements and talk with them about their future learning goals.

## 2017 Staffing Profile Update

	Names	Room
Prep	Jess Buffalino	2
Prep	Sue Hrovat	3
Grade 1	Portia Milan	1
Grade 1	Silvana Skender	4
Grade 2	Val Orsillo/ Alicia Bartholomew	5
Grade 2	Gina Arena/Kathy Davies	6
3/4 A	Effie Santiglia	9
3/4 B	Penny Koullinos	10
3/4 C	Heather Baniowski	11
3/4 D	NEW Graduate teacher*	12
5/6 A	Mark Benatmane	16
5/6 B	Fil Raif	17
5/6 C	Connie Gaeta/Violeta Colakovski	18
5/6 D	Lenora Deniese	19
5/6 E	Tiz Rocca/Sally Nejkoski	20
<b>Specialists</b>		
PE	Selma Raif	
Art	Margot Sheean	
MUSIC	Oscar Rosa	
STEM	Pam Wright (Assistant Principal)	

As we predicted, there have been quite a few changes with the 2017 staffing profile. **On the first day of school in 2017, we request that children go to the room they were allocated in 2016.** Then, if needed, we will allocate new rooms.

The result of Mrs Santiglia returning to the classroom and Mrs Wright having a 2 day teaching component, means that TWPS can hopefully\* have our fourth 3/4 class **without waiting** for more enrolments next year. Many Assistant Principals have teaching roles. This is a fantastic opportunity to take advantage of Mrs Wright's STEM expertise **and** begin implementing elements from the 2016 TWPS

School Review and Victoria's 'Education State' initiatives.



### STEM education and skills are vital

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) covers a wide range of knowledge and skills, which are increasingly in demand in a knowledge-based economy and a rapidly changing world.

The Education State states: “Quality learning opportunities in STEM disciplines will ensure Victoria has a strong supply of world-class professionals with the specialised skills necessary to compete in the global knowledge economy. Victoria’s economy and labour market are shifting towards higher-skilled, knowledge-and service-based industries, new and emerging technologies, and the opening up of global markets.”

Development of STEM skills at all stages of life will also inspire curiosity and creativity and drive innovation and growth throughout our economy. Through an exciting and engaging STEM education, learners of all ages can acquire skills that will give them an edge – so they can be smarter and more innovative, and use new and emerging technologies to solve problems and extend their knowledge and understanding.

Employers are seeking a workforce that thinks critically and creatively, and solves complex problems. Whatever their future careers, a strong base of STEM knowledge and skills will equip all learners to engage in dynamic modern workplaces and society.

For Victorian schools, STEM is a fundamental part of the Victorian Curriculum. This includes the learning areas of Mathematics, Science, Design and Technologies, and Digital Technologies, as well as cross-curricular capabilities such as ethical, critical and creative thinking.

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank the wonderful and dedicated staff of our school. I know how the community appreciate the staff and thank you for the way so many of you have shown this by giving the staff positive feedback. I am very proud of every one of them, for their dedication to your children's learning and the wonderful way they work together to create a happy working and learning environment for everyone. It is a pleasure for Mr Bell, Mrs Wright and I to be the leaders of Thomastown West Primary School!

I would also like to say a special thank you to our fabulous Assistant Principal, Pam Wright. Pam has been a great support to me since I returned in week 3. We have been busy developing a productive and positive partnership as we plan for 2017! I am really looking forward to us working together next year.

We are also welcoming a number of new families to our school for the first time in 2017; many because they have heard great reports about our wonderful school. I know you will also welcome them to our community.

We say goodbye to some families this year who are moving schools – in Victoria, some Interstate and others to some of the new schools which are closer to their homes. We wish you all well for the future.

At TWPS we are fortunate to have an outstanding School Council who is led by Ben Brown. Our School Council is very supportive and work diligently for our school. We also have a large number of parents who belong to these bodies and many others who help around the school in classrooms, on excursions, camps, in the library and in the canteen. Thank you all for a wonderful 2016 – we couldn't do what we do without you.

Our non-teaching staff provides a fine layer of support to all programs and activities at the school. Our Education Support (ES) staff is multi-talented and often juggles many requirements and tasks at the same time. To our business manager, office assistants, integration aides, grounds managers and technicians, **we could not cope without you!** Many, many thanks for your attention to detail and your extraordinary support shown.

Special thanks go to our Out-of-school hours' childcare team under the excellent co-ordination of Deseree Bustos. The children attending After Care really enjoy the informal atmosphere and the high level of caring supervision provided.

Congratulations also to the SRC Council convened by Tiz Rocca and Mark Benatmane and supported by our fabulous community.

## Grade 6 Graduation

The official Graduation ceremony for Grade 6 was held last Thursday night. **What a very special occasion!** The children went to considerable effort with their presentation and looked very impressive indeed.

Mr Bell was able to attend the beginning of the ceremony before he had to leave for Thornbury's Graduation. I know that his visit and speech was very much appreciated by Grade 6 and their families.

A memorable moment from the evening was when our 2016 School Captains presented their reflective speeches. Both Zain and Mariam were articulate, succinct and spoke from the heart. Our Captains have set the leadership and student voice benchmark very high this year. Congratulations to them both!

Sincere thanks go to the Year 6 teachers for their efforts in working with the children to prepare for graduation and throughout the year. In addition, Mr Oscar Rosa provided great support in preparing the musical items with the children. Special thanks to Tiz Rocca and Sally Nejkoski for their coordination of the entire evening and the teachers who helped out during the night. Our School Council President, Ben Brown also attended and saved the day when he was able to retrieve the balloons from the ceiling. Great work Ben!

Finally, I extend congratulations to all our Year 6 students for a successful year of learning, fun and engagement at TWPS. For many this is the culmination of 7 years working, learning, exploring and developing together. Many special and long lasting friendships have been formed and I encourage the children to work hard to maintain these friendships. Furthermore I wish all Year 6s the very best at secondary school, I know that they will have some challenges ahead; however they



are well equipped to manage them. I encourage the children to aim for excellence, persist with their learning and to have fun! I look forward to hearing about their journey at secondary school.

A few photos of Graduation Night.



## School Fees & Book Packs

As I wrote in the last few newsletters, the school fees notice was sent home with the school reports.

I urge you to finalise your payment at your earliest convenience. This will ensure the school year will commence calmly for your children. Stationery orders have been finalised for 2017.

The office will be opened from Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>, Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. Payments could be made then. A school Book Pack will only be received by the students upon payment or an arrangement made for a payment plan. Payment plans are available and can be organised through myself.



**Wishing you a safe and happy holiday!**

Parents, I know this can mean a very busy time for you with the children home but, **enjoy this time as they will soon be grown up** and not wanting to be around you as much. This large Christmas break is an excellent time to spend as a family, sharing life experiences and adding to the wealth of worthwhile learning experiences that your children can use to assist them at school. Having a broad depth of life experiences is excellent as it allows students to apply their prior knowledge to new situations and to make sense of the world. **Enjoy this time together and remember to discuss events as this builds student's oral language skills and general knowledge.**

**Education Matters, Teachers Make a Difference & Every Day Counts!**

**kindest regards,**

Sandi Young  
Acting Principal

A child without  
education, is like a  
bird without wings.  
~Tibetan proverb

# STAR OF THE WEEK

Prep	Room 2	Charles	Grade 3/4	Room 16	Tiarna
Prep	Room 3	Alexander	Grade 3/4	Room 17	Nabaa
Grade 1	Room 4	Hudson	Grade 3/4	Room 18	Ahmed
			Grade 3/4	Room 20	Aden, Zayn & Amanni
Grade 2	Room 5	Dong & Hala			
Music		May			
			Grade 5/6	Room 12	Annabella

## Cup of Life

Last week Room 17 were announced as the Term 4 winners of Cup of Life. As Room 17 had won for the second term in a row, I thought they should receive something extra special! In light of this on Friday last week Room 17 travelled to Oz Ten Pin Epping for a great fun time of bowling and a delicious lunch! It was a well-deserved reward for an outstanding effort by all students in Room 17! Well done to everyone.

## Remember every day counts...

### Activities during the holidays

With the holidays fast approaching its important to consider what are your kids going to do during this time? If left to their own devices they will most likely end up watching HUGE amounts of TV and spent HUGE amounts of time on technology such as computer, PlayStation, Xbox, iPod etc.

There are lots of things kids can do over the school holidays that will be both enjoyable, relaxing and increase their health and wellbeing. Simple things like going to the park, catching up with family, attending Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre (TRAC). Other activities can be spending time with family and friends, Going to the library and reading some great books visiting a museum and/or exhibition of their interest. Teach your kids how to cook. Actually

plan some family time where **EVERYONE** is there and complete games and activities together. Visit a Zoo or nature park or go to the city or visit the beach. You don't need to spend lots of money in order to have lots of fun.

### *The following are some local suggestions of things to do...*

GYM Sports Epping- is an artistic Gymnastics and Gym sports program for kids. There are great holidays programs to explore. For more info visit [www.gymacademy.com.au](http://www.gymacademy.com.au).

YMCA- The YMCA provide holiday programs for kids. For more info visit [www.victoria.ymca.org.au](http://www.victoria.ymca.org.au)

For more ideas visit [www.kidspot.com.au/thingstodo/vic-melbourne/school-holidays](http://www.kidspot.com.au/thingstodo/vic-melbourne/school-holidays)

### Farewell

As most of you know by now this will be my last year at Thomastown West. Next year I have a new job at Dallas Brooks Community Primary School. I have loved working at this school over the past six years with teachers, students and their families. I am sad to leave however am excited about working in a new school with new challenges. I wish everyone a safe and happy break and hope that 2017 is your best year yet!

Take Care,  
Tim Brown.



Hi Everyone



I'd like to express my sincere thanks to you for allowing me to be part of this special Thomastown

West Primary community once again this year, and allowing me to work with you and your children.

**CHRISTMAS** - Whether your family celebrate Christmas or not, I hope your family experiences some of the love, joy and peace that Christmas symbolises as you spend special times with family and friends.



*Have a safe and enjoyable holiday time!!*



**Robyn Mulholland**  
- Student Well-being



## TWPS BOOK AWARDS 2016

Congratulations to all our wonderful students who entered our annual book awards! Great effort everyone!

### **PREP WINNERS:**

Presentation Award:      **Prep 2**  
Non Fiction Award:      **Prep 3**

### **GRADE 1 WINNERS:**

May N. 'The Runaway Pizza'  
Tina B. 'Stone Soup'

### ***Highly Commended***

Luke K. 'My Favourite New Toy'  
Harmony S. 'The Runaway Pizza'  
Jackson P. 'Unforgettable Memories'  
Tifa R. 'My New Favourite Toy'  
Alex N. 'My New Favourite Toy'  
Kowsar H. 'My New Favourite Toy'

### **GRADE 2 WINNERS:**

Jeyda S. 'The Lost Bear'  
Ridda A 'The Lost Bear'

### ***Highly Commended***

Amna H. 'The Lost Bear'  
Epati S. 'The Lost Bear'  
Jasmine S. 'The Lost Bear'  
Alissa T. 'The Lost Bear'  
Dean R. 'The Lost Bear'  
Ahmed M. 'The Lost Bear'  
Mohamad S S. 'The Lost Bear'

### **GRADE 3 WINNERS:**



**Peng G.** 'The Mansion Across The Street'  
**Lilly El Z.** 'The Trouble with Magic Powers'

**Highly Commended**

**Jeylin S.** 'The Mental Asylum'  
**Henry N.** 'Rahu the Lightning Dragon'  
**Samaa S.** 'The Story of the Lost Princess'  
**Zahraa A.** 'My Awful Day'

**Nadeen M.** 'The Skeleton Creek Mystery'

**Jack J.** 'The Deadly Dragon'

**GRADE 4 WINNERS:**

**Najad H.** 'The Pixies' Necklace'

**Samuel Y.** 'The Angry Yeti'

**Highly Commended**

**Ella J.** 'The Day I Got Lost'

**Ilina C.** 'The Magical Mystery'

**Bassima T.** 'The Powerful Crystal'

**Dave B.** 'Inside the TV'

**Sude Y.** 'Saving the Lions'

**Bekim S.** 'The Key to Peculiar Worlds'

**Jannart M.** 'The Hungry Bear'

**Emma F.** 'The Melbourne Star'

**Sariah U.** 'The Magical Forest'

**TWPS. ILLUSTRATOR'S AWARD**

**Ilina C. and Sofia W.**

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday!

Happy Reading

Mrs. Bridges

**GRADE 5 WINNERS:**

**Carli B.** 'Excyplia'

**Stephanie F.** 'Sherlock Bones'

**Highly Commended**

**Yazan F.** 'A Book Inside'

**Keeley S.** 'Fairytale with a Twist'

**Eva A.** 'The Kidnap'

**Ahmad A.** 'No Escape'

**Chiara M.** 'Night of Horrors'

**Ubayd M.** 'Different Kinds of Dragons'

**Vange D.** 'Calculator'

**GRADE 6 WINNERS:**

**Yuan W.** 'The Cryptic Adventure'

**Zahraa S.** 'Conquering Stages'

**Highly Commended**

**Mariam D.** 'Cerise'

**Sofia W.** 'What a Way to Wake Up'

**Monica P.** 'Calamity'

**Mohammad S.** 'The Diary of a Knight'

**Anabella C.** 'Through the Looking Glass'

**Luke K.** 'The Earthquake that Hit'

**Zamira S.** 'The Terrifying Diary'

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday!

Happy Reading

Mrs. Bridges



## 2017 TERM DATES

**Term 1:** Monday 30th January - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Week 1	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January <u>and</u> Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Teachers commence (Student free days)
Week 1	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Grades 1 – 6 Students commence
Week 2	Monday 6th February	Prep students commence on at 8.45am and finish at 12.15pm this week
Week 3 and 4	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February- Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Prep students finish at 1.15pm
Week 5	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Prep students now attend full time 8.45am – 3.15pm

**Term 2:** Tuesday 18 April – Friday 30 June

**Term 3:** Monday 17 July – Friday 22 September

**Term 4:** Monday 9 October – Friday 22 December

## 2017 Parent/Teacher Sessions

### **SAVE THE DATE**

- Term 1: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 **Parent Information Session**
- Term 2: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 **Parent/Teacher Interviews**

