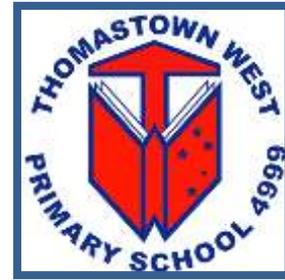


Thomastown West Primary School



NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER NO. 3

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

This week I had the honour of spending the afternoon with Dr George Otero. Dr Otero is from Santa Fe, New Mexico in the USA. He is an expert on working with schools and working better with school communities.

Dr Otero visits Australia regularly and this was the first meeting in a special partnership between Thomastown West and the Relational Learning Centre in America.

Dr Otero toured the school, spoke to students, teachers and parents on Thursday. He was very impressed with what our school does and how we work together.

We hope to gather further training and ideas for our school over 2016.

Student Safety

Last Tuesday I had several reports from members of the community about unsafe behaviour from our students on Main St. Classes finish at 2:30pm but parents cannot make arrangements to look after children, they must remain at school in our Homework club until 3:15. Our homework club is fully supervised and is a good opportunity for students to complete work or get special assistance. Students are not to be wondering around between 2:30 and 3:15. We want all our children to be safe.

I also have had a couple of students leave the school and not go directly home or to a meeting point with parents. I have had a number of worried parents at our school and staff having to search the local streets for children. In all cases, the children had gone to a friend's house or made other arrangements to go

FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2016

home without telling anyone. Please remind you child to only go home or to a meeting point arranged by you. If for some reason you cannot meet your child, tell them to come back to school and stay with us until someone arrives.

After School Activities

We have a number of After School Activities commencing over the next few days:

Club E (by invitation) starts Monday Feb 22nd 3:30-4:30

Cool Learning Club (by Invitation) starts Tuesday Feb 23rd 2:30-3:30

Inter School Sports Training (5/ 6 students) Thursdays 3:15-4:15pm

If you need any more information, please contact the office or your child's teacher.

Have a great weekend everyone

Leon Bell

Principal

***"Every accomplishment starts with a decision to try."* - Anon**



STAR OF THE WEEK

Grade 1	Room 4	Kowsar Haibe	Grade 3/4	Room 16	Faalaa Sagaga
Grade 1	Room 6	Naum & Lucas	Grade 3/4	Room 17	Bertina Lay
Grade 2	Room 1	Isra Asarat	Grade 3/4	Room 18	Lilly El Zoobi
Grade 2	Room 5	Dong Quach	Grade 3/4	Room 19	Aaren Tei Ona
Grade 5/6	Room 10	Carli Brown	Grade 3/4	Room 20	Jannart Mohamed
Grade 5/6	Room 11	Zahraa Salman			
Grade 5/6	Room 12	Owen Onyanga			

It is not OK to be away...or to be late to school!

BREAKFAST CLUB



A reminder to everyone that Breakfast Club is continuing to run in 2016. Breakfast Club runs between 8am-8.30am in the Multi-purpose room where students are able to receive a FREE breakfast. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so make sure your children have always had breakfast before they come to school or send them to breakfast club!

Cup of Life

I would like to congratulate Room 1 on winning the Cup of Life for last week. Well done to all students in Room 1!!!!

Keep up the good work everyone and remind your friends and family the importance of attending school everyday.

Everyday counts...

Coming to school on time Everyday!

One of the most important things we can do to ensure that our children have bright futures is to make sure they go to school every day- and get there on time. Research has shown clear links between regular school attendance and high academic achievement. Conversely, there is research correlating regular absence of students with greater risk of dropping out of school and long-term unemployment.

When children attend school inconsistently they miss out on learning the core concepts of the curriculum and are therefore often unable to apply these concepts in further work. Everyday counts.

On average, Australian students miss between 12-15 days of school per year. That adds up to a whole year's worth

of school over the school-life of a child. Common reasons for students not attending school outside of genuine illness include; celebrating their or a sibling's birthday; too tired because they went to bed too late; going shopping with parents or friends; staying at home because extended family are visiting. Children only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time (or should) sleeping! We need to therefore maximise every day to get the most out of our children. This means turning up for school everyday!

Arriving at school on time is also very important! Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child/ren may be missing more than you realise if they are regularly late. Research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle in (as they always do), valuable learning time is lost.

At times children of all ages can be very persuasive when it comes to taking days off school. "But mum I don't feel like going to school" or "That's not fair because my cousins are coming over." The answer and routine has to be NO! As parents you must make the commitment that your child/ren make the most out of their time at school.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when children should be away, however these should be a rarity rather than the norm. In is situations we ask that you would follow school procedure by contacting the school with relevant information.

Sending our child/ren to school each day and on time also prepares them for the 'real world' of the workforce where it is expected that they turn up each day, on time and ready for work. The workforce is unforgiving to those who are absent without genuine reason.

If you would like to speak to myself in relation to any of the above information please to not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Take care,

Tim Brown



Hi Everyone,



Family tone is usually impacted by the emotions and mood of parents and sometimes, children.

Anger creates tension especially when it simmers just below the surface. Kids go into their shells when anger is near, because they feel unsafe. Fear accompanies parent anger.

Grumpiness makes kids switch off parents. It's also contagious, spreading around a family like wild-fire.

Scepticism leads to cynicism and a hardening of the empathy arteries. Scepticism is sneezed, spreading germs everywhere.

Gratitude spreads quickly, lifting everyone who receives it. Family tone quickly lightens when gratitude is expressed.

Calm falls on a family like blanket instantly increasing family security and contentment. It too spreads but quietly.

Enthusiasm lifts the spirit, making everything seem possible. Most children are naturally attracted to enthusiasm, as it offers hope and inspiration.

Emotions or mood?

Emotions are short, more intense bursts of feeling. Moods are emotions that linger longer but are less intense. Nothing's wrong with negative emotions. In fact, feeling sad is just as normal and healthy as feeling happy. Some negative emotions become toxic if they aren't curbed or contained, impacting heavily on the long-term family tone. They become the family's default mood.

Feeling challenged or reassured? Children's emotions also impact heavily on the mood in families, but one of your basic tasks as a parent is to do your best to lift yourself above the emotions of children and spread a healthy mood.

Michael

Grose, Educational Psychologist -
www.parentingideas.com.au



Playgroup – FREE TO EVERYONE – Thursdays, 10 am & Fridays at 9 am in the HUB at the school The children enjoy free play, story and music time. PLEASE COME ALONG WITH YOUR BABY OR TODDLER OR PRE-SCHOOL CHILD AND JOIN IN THE FUN. Just come!

COMMUNITY NEWS - Important information, including parenting classes, courses, Please look at the window on the end of the prep/1/2 building as you enter the school. I regularly display important notices about things you need to know or that may be of interest to you.

“Emotions spread faster than any disease. A smile or a panic will spread through a group of people far quicker than any virus could.”

- Seth Godin



If I can help you and your family in anyway, please contact the office.

Robyn Mulholland (Student Wellbeing Team)

PARENT MANAGED HEADLICE PROGRAM

At TWPS we have a Parent Managed Headlice Program (PMHP.) That is, a group of committed parents, trained by Julie Reeves from the Whittlesea Council who do head lice checks each term. At TWPS we have a community approach to the eradication of headlice.

Twice each term the students are screened by our trained and committed team. They can offer all parents, support and follow up advice.

Since the beginning of this program, the number of head lice cases have more than halved as a result of regular check ups .

The Program goals include:

- Reduce the frustration & misinformation associated with head lice.
- Decrease the concerns regarding head lice within the school community.
- Protect families from misusing potentially harmful insecticide treatments.
- Promote regular home based screening.

Volunteers are now being sought. If you think this is a way you can become involved in the school & want to be part of the team, please complete the section below & return to the office.

The commitment to this program involves:

- A training session (organised by the school)
- 2 Fridays each term from 2pm-3pm
- A working with children's check (organised by the school)



Contact **Karen Cooke 94654317**, if you would like further information regarding this program.

I am interested in being part of the **Parent Managed Head Lice Program** (PMHLP) at Thomastown West Primary School.

Name.....

Child's Name &Room



REGISTER NOW!

\$25
PRIVATE LESSONS

MUSIC LESSONS

- GUITAR / BASS
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