PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE
Toongabbie Public School has traditionally held a Performing Arts Showcase every second year. At the end of last year the staff did an audit of Performing Arts opportunities and we found that we were catering for students’ needs through our comprehensive number of extra curricular activities. These include our Band Program (the largest number of students involved in several years), our dance program, choir program, music program (teaching keyboards and ukulele), participation in The Hills Performing Arts Festival, School Spectacular and weekly class items. This year we have decided to focus on these programs and not commit to a whole school showcase. It is planned that we will still put on a performance highlighting these programs during Education Week in Week 4, Term 7.

TELL THEM FROM ME
Our school is taking part in an exciting new program. To get the clearest picture of what our school community is thinking we have decided to ask students, teachers and parents what they think. Our first stop will be the students. The ‘Tell Them From Me’ student survey will provide me and the school executive with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at our school, from the perspective of our students. The student surveys are completed online in school hours. Questions are multiple choice style and the survey will take 15 to 20 minutes on average and no more than 35 minutes for most students. All answers are completely confidential. Students can skip any questions that they do not feel comfortable answering. Data collected from the survey responses are compiled into reports for school leaders which are usually available within three days of the survey closing.

P&C
The March meeting will be held on Monday March 9 th commencing at 7.30pm in the staffroom. I encourage all parents to come along and get involved. At this month’s meeting I will present the draft document outlining the plan for our school. We will also discuss the introduction of grey pants for girls as part of our winter uniform.

Craig Brown PRINCIPAL

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
GETTING TO KNOW STAFF
We have an executive team that provides leadership and coordination to each stage team. If you have any issues, you should in most cases contact your class teacher and make an appointment. If the matter requires further attention please contact the Assistant Principal of that stage. Beyond this you may wish to make an appointment with myself or the Principal, Mr Brown on 9631 3079.

Kindergarten Mrs Sullivan, Years 1 & 2 Mrs Bownds, Years 3 & 4 Mrs Perkins and Years 5 & 6 Mrs Hosking

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
Mrs Helen Young is our school counsellor and is at the school on Thursdays and Fridays each week of the school term. Concerns regarding your child should be directed in the first instance to your child’s classroom teacher. Your child’s teacher may then discuss the matter with the learning support team. All matters are dealt with by the Learning Support Team in a confidential manner and are addressed and dealt with according to priorities and strict guidelines.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS
There are no teaching staff available to ensure the safety of children in the playground prior to 8.30am. The school’s supervision roster starts from 8.30am each morning. Parents remain legally responsible for their child prior to the 8.30am bell. Late collection of students can also be a concern. School finishes at 3.00pm. Teachers often have meetings after school and cannot supervise children. Please help us to maintain a safe school environment.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL
A lot has been written in media regarding school attendance of late. No one would disagree with the argument that regular school attendance is necessary for students to reach their full potential. Please take a moment to read what the department has to say about this. http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/languagesupport/sch_attendance/parent_brochure/par_english.pdf

Bruce Francis DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

P&C SCHOOL DISCO
The first disco for the year will be held on Friday March 20. The disco times are K-2 from 5.30pm – 7.00pm and the 3-6 disco 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Tickets will be $5. They can be purchased on the night or bought at school. Tickets will be sold from March 18 during recess and lunch time outside the canteen area.

ABSENCES
If your child is going to be away from school please only call the office if they will be away for 3 days or more. If it is for one or two days just send a note explaining the reason on their return.
HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY INFORMATION

* Pendle Hill High is our nearest high school. It is holding an Open Day on Monday March 9. Please go along and see what great things are happening.
* Blacktown Boys’ High School is holding an Information Afternoon on. All welcome. For more information phone 9622 1558 or go to www.blacktownb.h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School, is holding an Open Day on Tuesday March 17. Check out their website for further information on www.northmead-h.schools.nsw.edu.au.
The Hills Sports High School will be holding an Open Day on Wednesday March 11 from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. All Year 6 students and their parents are welcome to attend.

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL TESTING
Good luck to our students sitting the selective high school placement test on Thursday March 12.

HARMONY DAY
Harmony Day will be held Thursday March 19. On this day students can come dressed in the colour orange. The teachers will be discussing ideas with students next week and it can be as simple as some orange crepe paper made into wristbands or head bands. This in not compulsory and we don’t want parents rushing out to buy orange clothing; we just want to raise awareness. The message of Harmony day is ‘Everyone Belongs’ it is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. This is a message worth celebrating. Our wonderful EALD teacher, Mrs Neasey, is coordinating activities on this day.

NATIONAL TESTING – NAPLAN
Our Year 3 and 5 students will undergo national testing in Literacy, Writing and Mathematics this year. Test dates are: May 12, 13 & 14.

PEDLARS’ PARADE
The K-2 Pedlars Parade is an important and exciting event that is held each year around Easter. This year it will be held on Thursday April 2. This event is now in its 50th year! On this day there will also be a cake stall, sweet stall and lucky dips. The time is now right to start planning your tray. The countdown starts today!

EASTER RAFFLE
The Parent Auxiliary will be holding an Easter raffle at the Pedlars’ Parade. In order to have a number of prizes, we are asking for donations of Easter Eggs, baskets or items suitable for prizes. These items may be left at the office. We appreciate your assistance with this venture.
Jacki Hogan -CONVENOR

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
Book club brochures will be distributed next week. Orders are due to your child’s class teacher on Thursday March 19. If paying by cash, please enclose the correct amount. Alternatively, please use the credit card options or cheque.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE
This year’s challenge opened this week. Students in years 3 to 6 can now log their reading record online. Please visit the PRC website at: https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home/html
Renata Redman TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

ICE CREAM CUP DAY
The Canteen will be holding an Ice Cream Cup day on Friday 13 March, at recess for only 50c. Come along and enjoy a lovely ice cream.

READYSTEADYGOKIDS
A multi-sport program for 2 ½ – 7 year olds.
Mondays 3.15 – 4.00pm – 4 – 6 year olds class
4.00pm to 4.45pm 5 – 7 year olds class
Toongabbie Public School Hall
FREE Trial available
Phone 1300 766892 for further enquiries

PIANO TEACHER
An Accredited and experienced piano teacher presents students for AMEB practical and theory exams. Home studio is located at 8 Eildon Street, CONSTITUTION HILL. For further information please phone Indra on 9636 3735.
STAGE 3 PARENTS - CAMP NOTES & DEPOSITS
Notes and deposits are due back at school on Monday March 30. Please note once numbers are sent it is hard to change. If you have any questions or would like something clarified, please contact the school and I will return your call.
Tara Hosking STAGE 3 COORDINATOR

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR
The School Crossing Supervisor is responsible for providing controlled school crossing services at designated school crossing sites to contribute to improved safety to people on NSW roads.
If you would like to be a School Crossing Supervisor, please contact 1300 728543 for further information.

UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY
An Astronomy Night will be held on Saturday March 14 from 8pm to 10pm. They will be looking at Comets and the Icy Outer Solar System. On Saturday March 28 from 8pm – 10pm there will be a special Kids and Dads night including grandfathers and grandkids. The cost of this evening is $18 for adults and $12 for children and concession, or $50 for a family. Bookings are essential and can be made by emailing www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What’s On, or phone 02 47360135.

CASSIA COMMUNITY CENTRE is celebrating 25 years of funding from the NSW Department of Family & Community Services and we want you to come celebrate with us at our free event.
The event will be held on Friday March 13 at Cassia, Community Centre, 18 Billabong St, Pendle Hill from 10am to 12.30pm. This is a free event with entertainment, food, tea & coffee, face painting and information stalls. All welcome.

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

MARCH
9 Pendle Hill High School Open Day
   P&C Meeting
10 Crazy Talk Incursion 4/3N & 4P
12 Selective High Schools Test
   Canteen Ice Cream Day
16 Sydney West Swimming Carnival
19 Harmony Day
20 School Disco
   Buzz Assemblies / Band Captains’ & Library Monitors’ Badge Presentation
   Coffee with the Principal
24 Parent Teacher Interviews
25 School X-Country
26 CPR training Yr6
27 Concert Band to Royal Easter Show
   Citizenship Assembly
28 Election BBQ
30 Milo T20 Bash for Yrs. 5 & 6
31 Field of Mars Excursion 2K, Year 1 students from K/1SD, 2B

APRIL
2 Pedlar’s Parade
   Last Day of Term 1
21 Students return to school-Term 2
24 ANZAC Ceremony