



TOONGABBIE
PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Term 4 Week 9, 2021

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

I start this newsletter with important information. As you are probably aware, industrial action has been called for by the Teachers' Federation on Tuesday 7 December. I have sent out with this newsletter information provided from the Department of Education. As a result of the strike our school will be providing minimal supervision of students on Tuesday. This means the cohort arrangements that have been in place this term will not be in operation. However, our school will still operate in a COVID-safe manner in accordance with NSW Health guidelines.

It's been another busy fortnight at TPS. Reports are now being finalised and will be sent out to parents via email on Thursday 9 December. The school does not hold formal whole school parent/teacher interviews in the last week, but parents are welcome to contact the teacher if they have any concerns or questions. A process is in place to share information between your child's teacher and their teacher for 2022 to ensure continuity of learning. The reports this year will not have grades due to the lengthy period of remote learning. They will provide information on achievements and future directions.

This week we held elections for our student leaders for 2022. The students did a great job presenting their speeches and I congratulate all who participated. The students who were successful in gaining a leadership position are; Daniel Burki, Max Clifton, Xavier Parsons, Max Sinclair, Adithya Anand, Akshayaa Mahes, Ebony Tai, Emily Puckey, Saisha Mehta and Ellie Oldfield. The school captains and vice-captains for 2022 will be announced at the Stage 3 Presentation Assembly on Wednesday.

We have only nine days of school remaining for students. The next two weeks will be a busy time. We have our final

P&C Meeting on Monday night at 7pm, Presentation Day (for students only) on Wednesday, Surf School for Year 6 on Friday, the following week we have Yr 6 Graduation and Farewell on Tuesday, Party Day Wednesday. The final day for students is Thursday 16 December. Staff will be at school on Friday 17 December for a school development day. This day will be used for staff professional development.

On a completely different note, we have installed a new security gate at the front of the school. Our aim is to make our school safer for our students. The gate will be locked from 9am-3pm and visitors are required to press a button to alert our office staff. The gate will open and close slowly by itself. Please do not force the gate. We intend to have similar security for entry from Binalong Rd carpark in a few weeks.

Finally, I look forward to our first P&C meeting on site for a long time. This will take place on Monday at 7pm. Please read all about the meeting in the P&C news.

Have a great weekend and don't forget to vote. Our school hall will be open on Saturday.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2022

- Staff Development Day Friday 28 January
- Staff Development Day Monday 31 January
- Students Years 1 to 6 return to school on Tuesday 1 February
- Kindergarten Best Start Assessments - Tuesday 1 February, Wednesday 2 February
- Kindergarten first full day on Monday 7 February

Deputy Principal's Report

COVID Symptoms and absences

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms. The school will make arrangements for any students showing any symptoms to be collected. NSW Health have requested that schools encourage anyone who has even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the COVID-19 clinics. Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore or scratchy throat
- Shortness of breath
- Runny Nose
- Loss of smell/taste

Other reported symptoms include fatigue, acute blocked nose, muscle pain, joint pain, headache, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, loss of appetite, unexplained chest pain and conjunctivitis. Students with flu-like symptoms will need to provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result before being permitted to return to school. We ask that you please forward results to the office at school. Please DO NOT send to the class teacher. When completing an absence note we kindly ask that you please be specific in terms of reasons, if only 'unwell' or 'sick' is noted the school will need to contact you for further information. Parents are also reminded that students should not return until symptom free, regardless of whether they require a COVID test or not.

Bike, Road and Carpark Safety

Students who ride to and from school are reminded of the importance of keeping safe whilst on their bikes. If your child rides to and from school, please reiterate the message of remaining alert, careful and to slow down on blind corners and intersections. If you drive your child to and from school, please think twice about completing u-turns near the school zone. It goes without saying that the safety and welfare of our students is our top priority. A key danger that young children face is from cars. A further reminder that the carpark may only be used by school staff and contractors between 8am and 4pm daily. Thank you for helping keep our students safe. Parramatta Council has let us know council rangers may be patrolling the school zones. Teachers are continuing this conversation regularly with students.

Library News

Premier's Reading Challenge

TPS recently received our platinum and gold PRC certificates. Gold certificates recognise 4 years completion of the Challenge and platinum certificates recognise 7 years. Mr Brown and I had the pleasure of visiting classes and presenting certificates to the students. Congratulations and well done to the following students on a wonderful achievement –

Platinum certificates: Sahana Arudselvan and Yash and Krish Boochoa

Gold certificates: Cameron Baker, Ava Bencic, Ishika Brahmabhatt, Ashleigh Burke, Atticus Chan, Annalie Dabinett, Shonchari Dasgupta, James Higgins, Lucy Keegan, Meeraja Mathiyalagan, William Morris, Jai Krisnan Nathan, Chamaya Senevirathna, Haris Sivasatheesan and Rohan Torsvik Kane.

Renata Redman, TL

P & C Report

Toongabbie Public School P&C Association News

Please be advised that the next P&C General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Monday 6th December 2021.

It is our hope that this meeting will be able to occur on school grounds, however this will be confirmed to those registered to attend on the day. If we are not able to hold our meeting in-person, the meeting will proceed on zoom.

If you would like to attend this meeting, we will require you to complete the google form to register your attendance. Please be aware that for an on-site meeting, you need to be fully vaccinated to attend. You will be required to check-in using the QR Code and be willing to provide proof of vaccination if requested. If you are unwell on the day of the meeting, even with the mildest of symptoms, we ask that you stay at home.

Register to attend here by noon on Monday 6th December at <https://forms.gle/ENpuCjfffc1ZVvYA>

This will be our final meeting for 2021. On the agenda at this meeting, we will be hearing the final monthly reports from the school executive, our P&C sub-committees and Canteen as well as discussing some forward planning for 2022.

Please also be aware, that our P&C Annual General Meeting will be held early in Term 1, 2022. The date for this meeting will be advised in the final newsletter for this year.

At the AGM there will be the election of the 2022 P&C Executive and relevant sub-committee positions, there may be opportunities for members to vote on issues relating to how the P&C operates.

To be able to nominate or be nominated for a P&C Executive position or a position within a sub-committee, and to have voting rights at a P&C meeting, community members are required to be a financial member of the P&C Association. The 2021 membership fee is \$1 and must be paid while in attendance at a meeting, at the conclusion of that meeting, you will be declared a financial member and gain voting rights at the next meeting you attend.

Please note, that by paying your membership fee and becoming a financial member of the P&C you are committing to attend a minimum of 6 P&C general meetings throughout the year. Non-financial community members are also welcomed to attend the P&C meetings, however, will not be permitted to vote should a vote be required.

The P&C Membership is an annual fee and renewable conclusion of the AGM.

Positions Vacant within the P&C for 2022 -WE NEED YOU!

The TPS P&C members are a friendly and dedicated group of community members who are all committed to being involved in their child's education while they are at TPS, it is an opportunity to learn more about what is happening behind the scenes at the school and become involved in the decision-making processes as well as assisting in a variety of capacities in the P&C's fundraising and social activities. We welcome all interested parents and carers to our meetings and encourage new ideas and perspectives. The P&C is also a great way to form some new social connections within the school community and we would love to see an increase in membership in 2022 and are hopeful that there might be some new volunteers within the community who would be interested in stepping into a position within the P&C.

At the 2022 AGM, all P&C committee member positions are up for re-election.

In 2021 we have been operating without a P&C **Secretary** but hope that someone may be interested in coming forward to join the executive in this role for 2022.

We will also be seeking a new **Treasurer** for next year. After 16 years in this role, our current Treasurer has advised that she will not be available in the new year to fulfill these duties. For this role, MYOB experience is essential, there will however be some training available for this role for whoever is willing to take it on.

We would also like to re-establish the **Parent Auxiliary Committee** in 2022. This committee's main tasks include the organisation for the organisation of the Mother's Day & Father's Day stall and the Pedlars' Parade. The Parent Auxiliary hold their meetings within school hours. We will be seeking 3-4 parents/carers to hold the office bearer positions within this committee.

If you are interested in becoming involved in any of these roles and would like further information about what each of these positions entail, please complete the RSVP form for the December P&C Meeting and indicate that you would like to speak with one of our current committee members about these roles.

Job descriptions for all P&C roles will also be made available on the school website asap.

Band News

TPS Band 2022:

We are currently recruiting for our school band for next year. If your child is interested or you want to find out more about choosing the right instrument, School Bands have released this video. The students should have seen it in their classes at school but here it is again, for parents and interested students to watch. <https://www.schoolbands.com.au/choosing-the-right-instrument/>

Even though the DoE released last week "Further restrictions on music have also been lifted, with instruments that rely on breath and singing, and chanting allowed to go ahead outdoors, within cohorts, and in line with other COVID-safe school settings from

Monday (29 November)", school band won't be able to occur in 2021 due to the cohort rules but we are hopeful for a fresh and fun restart come Term 1, 2022.

If you have any questions or require any more information on the band program at TPS, please send an email to: toongabbiepsband@gmail.com

Beth Smith – Band Convenor

Canteen News

Just a reminder to parents that the Canteen may run out of some stock in the next last weeks of school.

The Canteen last day is Thursday December 16th

I would like to wish all our year six all the best for high school.

Rhonda Fogg – Canteen Manager

Can you volunteer in the school canteen?

Volunteers are now allowed back to help in the canteen. If you would like to have a look at what is involved in this before you register to join the 2022 volunteer roster, please give the canteen a call to arrange a day to come in this term.

What does a canteen volunteer do? Our volunteers can participate in a variety of tasks to assist our canteen manager with the preparation and delivery of lunch orders. From Making sandwiches and burgers, stocking fridges, serving over the counter (when permitted) distribution of lunch orders, to basic food prep tasks, we have tasks to suit everyone!

You can volunteer for an hour to a full day on a rotating roster or as required, we would like to have your help in whatever capacity and for as long or short a time as you have available.

****Please note**** All volunteers must sign in at the school office using the QR code and be willing to show proof of vaccination if requested. Please do not attend the canteen to volunteer if you are unwell, even with mild symptoms.

If you would like to be added to the 2022 canteen roster, please complete this form and you will be contacted to discuss availability. Canteen Volunteer Registration at <https://forms.gle/iLC3C2ZNk/WCTBB66>

Second Hand Uniform Stall News

Just a reminder that the 2nd hand uniform shop is only operating by email requests at the moment. All items are \$3 each.

For kindy 2023 there are quite a few small summer dresses and size 3 and size 4 grey shorts as well as small sports uniforms.

There is a variety of clothes and sizes available. Please email uniforms@elksys.com.au with your requests and they will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and donations.

Bronwyn Elkin - 2nd Hand Uniform Co-Ordinator