

TORRENS PRIMARY SCHOOL **Ritchie Street TORRENS ACT 2607**
Phone: (02) 6142 0777 Email: admin@torrenspss.act.edu.au Web: www.torrenspss.act.edu.au



Dates to remember:

- * **Fri 14 Dec** - Assembly: Yr 5, Awards & Student Leadership 2019 **12pm sharp**
- * **Tues 18 Dec** - Yr K-5 End of Year Excursion to Cotter
- * **Thurs 20 Dec** - Yr 6 Graduation Assembly **2pm sharp**
- * **Thurs 20 Dec** - Yr 6 Graduation Dinner Dance 6.30pm
- * **Fri 21 Dec** - Yr 6 Hoyts and iPlay
- * **Fri 21 Dec** - Last day of Term 4 2018
- * **Wed 27 Feb - Fri 1 Mar** - Yr 5 Cooba Camp 2019

More dates and latest news can be found at:
www.torrenspss.act.edu.au

Things due:

- * **Fri 14 Dec** - Gifts for Giving Tree
- * **Sun 16 Dec** - for free delivery of 2019 OfficeMax stationery orders
- * **Fri 21 Dec** - Yr 5 2019 Cooba Camp expression of interest

School Dates

Start of Term 1 2019:

- Monday, 4 February (Kindy, Stripes and Chifley Preschools)**
- Tuesday, 5 February (Year 1-6 students)**
- Wednesday, 6 February (Pearce and Spots Preschools)**

From the Principal

End of year concerts The children are very pleased with their performances this year. Parents have been passing on to us very positive comments. Having one theme for all the senior students was inspired. Kirrilee did indeed 'rock our socks off!'. Thanks to Kirrilee once again for her brilliant coordination, and all teachers for assisting. Thanks also to the SRC for coordinating the cake stall fundraisers.

Reports are being sent home tomorrow. Please make an appointment with your child's teacher if you would like further discussion regarding their progress.

Thank you and goodbye I would like to give a very big thank you and goodbye to Jayne Holmes, Ally Gunning, Belinda Fenson and Monique Forward for their outstanding work at Torrens Primary. Jayne and Ally were both at Torrens Primary School long before I arrived and have made significant contributions to our school and students. Both are passionate about teaching and bring that to their classrooms, creating environments where students thrive on learning. Jayne has co-lead SRC for many years, organising fundraisers, *iBean Cafe* and giving students a voice. Ally does wonders with photography and has been our media person on staff. She is the clever one who updates the slideshows on the TV in the foyer! She also brings a wealth of art knowledge to the school through her teaching and Art Club. Ally has used her musical experience to lead a school band each year, organising combined band performances and Bandstravs. Both are staunch supporters of Wakakirri and play a key part in our success.

Belinda has been our specialist PE teacher. Belinda's knowledge and skills have moved the whole school forward in physical education. Not only does she enthuse our students, but she models to teachers on a regular basis which will allow us to continue her work into next year. Belinda has been working over two schools which has proven challenging, so she has chosen to work at just one school next year, but promises to return to help us organise our carnivals in 2019!

Monique joined us as a new Educator four years ago after completing an impressive pre-service placement with Alicia Hourigan. We 'head hunted' Monique as a skilled early childhood teacher and have watched her grow and make a huge impact on her students. Monique leads our lunch time yoga clubs for both senior and junior students, and she coordinated *Just 50 Words* this year.

Please join me in wishing them all the best in their future endeavours as they leave Torrens Primary to teach at four other lucky public schools in Canberra!

Have a sensational summer holiday! We look forward to seeing you back safe and sound in 2019.

Rachel Matthews - Principal

Salvation Army Giving Tree

The school is once again organising a Giving Tree for the Salvation Army this year. If you would like to donate goods to the Salvation Army to distribute to less fortunate people at Christmas, please bring in unwrapped gifts or non perishable food items (well within their use by date).

The Salvation Army would like new toys only. Gifts for older children would be especially well received, particularly sports items, movie tickets or store gift cards.

Donations may be left under the Christmas tree in the reception area up until tomorrow (Friday, 14 December).

Thank you



LEAVING TORRENS? Planning for 2019 is well under way. If you have not already done so, please advise the Front Office if your child/ren will not be returning to Torrens Primary School in 2019 (excluding Year 6 students).



Christmas greetings! We invite you to celebrate and discover the birth of Jesus with a local church this Christmas.

St George's
Anglican Church
67 Pethbridge St
PEARCE

MON 24th
6.00pm
Family Carols

TUE 25th
9.30am
Traditional Service
with Holy Communion

Canberra Austral-Asian
Christian Church
36 Ringrose Cres
ISAACS

TUE 25th
9.15am
Contemporary Service



Before & After School Care - 2019 Enrolments

Woden Community Service operates a Before and After School Care Program at school. Hours are from 7.30 - 9.15am and 3.15pm - 6pm. To enrol, phone 6147 3318 or send an email to enrolments@wcs.org.au

2019 Stationary Orders

Please note that if you order your 2019 Stationary supplies through OfficeMax, items will be delivered to *your* home or place of work. Please **do not** nominate Torrens Primary School as the delivery address for your order. Remember the school's ordering code is: **9XZ3Q**



School Board Elections - 2019

The Torrens Primary School Board has three parent vacancies for 2019. These vacancies are all for two-year terms.

Nominations open **Monday, 4 February 2019 at 11.00am** and close **Monday, 18 February 2019 at 11.00am**.

Under the *Education Act (2004)*, the Board has the following responsibilities:

- deciding on school policies, within Directorate guidelines;
- approval of the school budget;
- overall direction of the school curriculum and development of the School Plan; and
- presenting an annual report to the Directorate and community

Nomination forms will be available from the Front Office from Monday, 4 February 2019.

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Reading your child's report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder ... always does her best ... lacks concentration ... easily distracted ... a pleasure to teach ... Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1 Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child's abilities. A quick check of your child's last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2 Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so

avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends' children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3 Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

- **Focus on strengths.** Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.
- **Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

- **Broaden your focus away** from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.
- **Take note of student self-assessment.** Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.
- **Discuss the report with your son or daughter** talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

Michael Grose 



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parenting Ideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

