Dates to remember:

- Fri 5 June - SRC Pyjama Day
- Mon 8 June - Queen's Birthday holiday
- Tues 9 June - Yr 5 Combined Band Farrer PS
- Tues 9 June - Torrens Tea Time
- Tues 9 June - School Board 6pm
- Tues 9 June - P & C 7pm
- Mon 15 June - ICAS Writing
- Tues 16 June - ICAS Spelling
- Tues 23 - Thurs 25 June - Torrens/Panania Exchange

For further dates including a five year school term calendar, please go to our website & look at the School Calendar

Notes & payments due:

- Wed 10 June - Telescope payment
- Wed 10 June - Kidsmatter survey
- Fri 12 June - Bookclub orders
- Thurs 18 June - Yr 6 Torrens/Panania Exchange
- Fri 19 June - Band, SRC & Captains photo orders
- Wed 1 July - Yr 3 Birrigai Camp

Torrens Tea Time

I would like to invite all parents to a regular opportunity to chat with staff and members of the P & C Executive.

Our first Torrens Tea Time will be on Tuesday 9 June from 9.15-10.15 am in the Lit Hit Room near the junior playground and KT classroom.

Please join us for a refreshing cuppa! Sue Mueller

Band, SRC and Captains Photos

These are currently on display at the Front Office and can be purchased for $16 each. Order forms and envelopes are available at the Front Office. Please pay by CASH or CHEQUE (payable to “The Portrait Gallery”) only. Please order and pay for photos by Friday, 19 June.

Kids Matter Online Survey

As you may be aware, Torrens Primary is a Kids Matter School, which means that we are invested in the mental health and well-being of our students, parents, staff and the wider school community.

An important aspect of implementing Kids Matter in Torrens Primary is the consultation process with parents and carers. There is a short survey which asks about your perceptions of the school in relation to the school’s work in the area of mental health and well-being. We are asking that you take a few minutes to provide anonymous feedback to guide the schools next area of focus.

We would appreciate it if you could complete the survey by Wednesday 10th June. To begin click www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey

Thank you for your support, Belinda Kowalski - Survey Coordinator

SRC Pyjama Day

Friday 5 June

Wear your Pj’s to school and make a gold coin donation in support of the Nepal Earthquake.
Rostrum Speech Competition 2015

It is with great pleasure that we announce the winners of the Torrens Primary School Rostrum Competition for 2015.

Our winner this year is Harper S with her speech “If I could fix...” and our runner up is Alana B with her speech on “Light”. Congratulations to both girls on their excellent speeches.

Harper will represent Torrens Primary School in the Rostrum Quarter Finals at Farrer Primary on Monday, 15 June at 7pm. We wish her all the best in the upcoming competition.

Mrs Geeves, Mr Roddy and Year 6

Book Club

Issue 4 of book club is out now and due back on Friday 12 June 2015. Orders being paid by cheque must be returned to the Front Office by 9:30am as they will be processed first thing in the morning. Late orders and cash payments will not be accepted.

We strongly encourage parents to take advantage of the easy online LOOP ordering system if you are paying by credit card. You are not required to hand anything in to the school, however please keep a copy of the receipt number for your own records.

Please ensure:

* If you are paying by cheque, please make payable to ‘Scholastic Book Club’ with your name and address on the back of the cheque, together with the completed order form and submit to the front office. Please make sure your child’s name and class are at the top of the order form and that it is placed in a sealed envelope.

* If you wish to order as a gift for your child, please include your name and contact number with your order and we will contact you when the order arrives;

Thankyou,
Mel Godfrey

Star Gazing Night!!

World Record Breaking attempt with the Stromlo Observatory and The Australian National University.

Friday 21st August is set for a night of gazing into The Milky Way with people from all around Australia to break the simultaneous gazing world record.

Every eye that is peering into a telescope at 8.30pm during the school event will receive a participation certificate and will count towards the official record numbers.

A sausage sizzle fundraiser will be available on the night through the P & C (More details to come).

Telescope orders must be in by 10th June - $5 per telescope (order forms have been sent home and are available on the school website). A photo of the actual telescope will be included in next week's newsletter and more specific timings and details will be coming in the next few weeks.

The Star Gazing Committee.
Torrens Talent Quest 2015

Once again the talented Torrens students have wowed us with their performances at this years’ Talent Quest. With 55 students participating in the heats over the last 3 weeks we enjoyed a fantastic Talent Quest final on Tuesday.

Thank you to all the participants and their families for their hours of rehearsal time, encouragement and support. I would also like to thank all the adjudicators who gave up their lunch times to help out during the heats, our finals adjudicators and photographer, and the PA students for their expertise with the sound and microphones. What a team!!!

We are already looking forward to Talent Quest. 2016. So start rehearsing today!

Congratulations to the Winners of the Drama section:

Lauren W, Hailey L and Grace C-J.

Congratulations to the Winner of the Singing Section:

Ruby McN

Congratulations to the Winner of the Instrumental section:

Oliver M

Congratulations to the Winner of the Dance section:

Harper S

Stay tuned for photos of the 2015 Talent Quest finale in next week’s newsletter.

Kirrilee Turner
Parents’
Corner
Every parent and carer is part of the P&C!

P & C Meeting
The next P & C meeting will be held on Tuesday June 9, 7pm - 9pm in the library. Nibbles and drinks will be provided. Please come and show your support for the P & C. It is also a great opportunity to meet and catch up with other parents!

Did you know that the P & C:

• operates the canteen, second-hand uniform shop, book club and school banking
• encourages volunteers for many school activities, such as reading and excursions
• maintains effective communication between families and the school
• provides an opportunity for parents and carers to be involved in the school and find out what is happening, and what our children are learning

It would be great to see you at the meeting on the 9th! Just press the doorbell near the front door of the school and someone will let you in.

Can you help the P & C?
The P & C is developing an email list so that you can see what volunteer jobs are available. Emails will be sent to this list letting you know what events are coming up and details of these events, so that you can choose what you would like to volunteer for if you are available.

If you would like to receive these emails, please send an email to the P & C email address (torrenspnc@gmail.com) with 'volunteer emails' in the subject line, noting when you can volunteer, no matter how little time you have to offer.

Understanding Learning Difficulties - Free Workshop
Thursday June 25 from 5:30-7:30pm
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, 51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling
Registration: email brooke.jermyn@act.gov.au or call 62057943 by June 19.

This free workshop aims to equip parents and carers with the information they need to better support children with learning difficulties both at home and through effective communication with schools. It will be presented by educational psychologist Mandy Nayton. All ACT public school parents are welcome.

Rebel Sport Rewards - are you a member?
Do you have a Rebel Sport Rewards card? Join the Rewards Program at Rebel Sport, quoting Torrens Primary and every time you buy something in the store, our school gets money put towards a credit which the P&C can use to purchase sporting goods for the students!
Cultural diversity: Suggestions for families

Parenting across cultures has particular challenges. Sometimes children and their parents or carers have different ideas about how to balance the values and expectations of two cultures. When children have a sense of belonging to both cultures it supports positive mental health and wellbeing. The following suggestions may assist you and your children to achieve a positive sense of belonging in both cultures.

Celebrate your own culture

Developing a positive sense of cultural identity supports children’s self-esteem and their sense of belonging. By telling stories and sharing customs you can help children to connect with their cultural heritage. It is important to talk to children in ways that are appropriate for their age and interest. Knowing and taking pride in their own heritage can help children feel comfortable and secure with their identity.

Build social networks

Friendships and social networks are important both for children and for families, helping them to feel part of the community. Making connections with local people is important for feeling welcomed and building a sense of belonging in Australian society. Your connections may be with your own cultural group or you may prefer to build your connections with another cultural group. Your child’s school can be a great meeting point for parents and carers where long-term friendships develop.

Get to know your child’s school

Becoming involved in your child’s school is a great way for families to feel connected to their community. There are often opportunities to participate in school events which may help you to get to know your child’s school and the school community. Forming relationships with school staff can also help you to feel like you belong. For instance, having a good relationship with your child’s teachers will allow you to ask questions about your child’s progress, and share your cultural background with them. When families and teaching staff develop relationships, they are more likely to understand each other’s perspectives, talk through concerns and support children together.
Learn about parenting in Australia

Some parenting practices may be quite different in different cultures. Finding out about parenting practices and expectations in Australia, including things like legal requirements of parents and supports available, can help you work out the best ways to manage problems that may arise. Many families from culturally diverse backgrounds find that blending the best parenting ideas and practices from both cultures is very helpful.

Be flexible

Children can feel confused when the values and behaviours expected at home seem to be different from what happens with their friends. It is helpful to be flexible when deciding on rules and expectations so you can take into account any difficulties your children may be facing. Listening to your children and talking openly about the concerns they may have regarding different expectations for school and home means that solutions can be found through understanding and compromise.

Be patient

Adjusting to a new life after migration has lots of challenges for both families and children. Establishing a secure and caring home environment helps to provide children with a sense of stability. Finding people who understand you and can support you as you settle in is really important. It is also often very important to access the help that is available through government agencies, community organisations and English language programs.

Seek support

Getting help in your own language can be especially important at times of stress or when dealing with complex issues. Many community organisations around Australia provide specific support and advice from a cultural perspective. Some organisations offer regular meetings or short courses to help with parenting or other family issues.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au