From the Principal

Welcome back to a new year everyone. All of our students are excited by the prospect of catching up with old friends and making new ones, being challenged in a new grade, working with new teachers and enjoying the activities presented in their classes.

INFORMATION EVENINGS

Information evenings will be held on Tuesday 17 February. There will be a general school information session in the hall between the junior and senior sessions. More information will follow. The P & C AGM will follow these information sessions. Please join them in the Library at 7 pm.

Remember that you can make appointments with teachers by ringing the Front Office, and leaving a message for the teacher, emailing the teacher at admin@torrensps.act.edu.au or writing a letter to the teacher. Please remember that teachers are teaching during the day and may not be able to return your enquiry straight away or even the very day of the enquiry. However, they will be in touch.

Notes & payments due:

* Fri 13 Feb - Yr 5 Cooba camp notes
* Fri 20 Feb - Yr 5 Cooba camp payment

REMINDERS

1. Please arrange book packs and supplies as soon as possible so that students can participate fully in their programs.
2. Arrange pick up points for your children (preferably away from Ritchie Street as it gets incredibly busy) keeping in mind that the gates are locked at 4pm and the back gate near the canteen laneway is locked at 6pm.
3. Remember that mobile phones used by students during the day will be confiscated and held for parents to pick up at the Front Office. They can be left at the Front Office for safe keeping during the day if phones are required by students after school.
4. Permission notes must be returned by due dates to ensure that children can participate in activities. It must be remembered that notes are only the first part of the organisation for activities and excursions and teachers require both numbers and time to coordinate the programs.
5. Medical notes can be filled in and saved from the Torrens website, meaning you can just print them out for each excursion.
6. Don’t forget to check the school website regularly for newsletters, notes and upcoming dates.
7. Please assist teachers in settling students by dropping your children and leaving promptly. Some get distressed when parents stay at the fence or remain on the school grounds.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Communication is an important aspect of schools and their communities. Communication is a responsibility of all in the community and we encourage parents to make appointments to speak to staff. There are many means that the school and teachers use to communicate with parents and they are outlined on the next page.
1. Newsletters. These are published each Thursday; odd weeks are a fuller publication. These should be viewed on the school website each week. A copy is always available to read at the Front Office and if you do not have access to a computer, a hard copy can be arranged with the ladies at the Front Office.

2. Website. General information about the school is outlined here. Medical notes are available, regular updates regarding excursion notes and upcoming dates and events.

3. Class term information letters. These will be published each term by the end of week 2 and 6.

4. Information evenings.

5. Parent/teacher interviews.

6. Meetings arranged by parents and/or teachers as required.

7. Assemblies. These are run by different classes each week with reminders in the newsletters for the classes involved. Please note that the time for assemblies is Fridays at 12:15pm.

8. Learning journeys. These are held throughout the year.

9. School reports and interviews. These are sent out and conducted in terms 2 and 4.

Parents have opportunities to meet other parents and be involved in a variety of activities and decisions at the school by joining the P&C and School Board. The School Board has 2 parent vacancies this year. See note further in the newsletter.

Positive, respectful relationships between the community and the school/staff are ideal. Everyone is responsible for promoting respectful relationships that further develop the culture of Torrens Primary of caring and supporting one another – teamwork and tolerance. Together we can all achieve the very best education and opportunities for our students.

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION**

The school will be organised into 3 teams this year, preschools, junior, and senior. Rachel Matthews is Deputy Principal (Preschools), Louise Morton (senior) and Belinda Bacon (junior) are Executive Teachers. Teachers in the teams are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emma Thomas (K)</td>
<td>Belinda Kowalski/Genevieve Tischler (3)</td>
<td>Bronwyn Leahy (Torrens)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Knox (K)</td>
<td>Mary Rutledge (3)</td>
<td>Liz Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Pickering (K)</td>
<td>Allyson Gunning (3)</td>
<td>Kim Shelley (Chifley)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Tibballs (1)</td>
<td>Paul Robertson (4)</td>
<td>Vicky Hasler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare Zacharias (1)</td>
<td>Rachel Honner (4)</td>
<td>Symmone Turner (Pearce)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Maidement/ Jane Allan(1)</td>
<td>Jayne Holmes/Genevieve Tischler (5)</td>
<td>Carolyn O'Rourke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monique Harrison (2)</td>
<td>Colleen Lawless (5)</td>
<td>Heather Hanrahan (release)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Ludovici (2)</td>
<td>Peter Roddy (6)</td>
<td>Trish Jarzynski (release)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion Deena (2)</td>
<td>Danielle Geeves (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mich Allen (Science K-2 EALD)</td>
<td>Christine Hynes (Library K-6)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cissy Lu (Mandarin 3-6)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kirrilee Turner (Performing Arts K-6)</td>
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Sue Mueller
PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Tues 17 February 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.15 - 5.45</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Ms Pickering’s Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.45 - 6.15</td>
<td>Years 1 and 2</td>
<td>Year 1 – Mrs Maidement &amp; Ms Allan’s Room Year 2 – Ms Ludovici’s Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.15 - 6.30</td>
<td>All teachers go to the New Hall to be introduced to the parents. P &amp; C representatives will say a few words.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30 - 7.00</td>
<td>Years 3 and 4</td>
<td>Year 3 – Ms Gunning’s Room Year 4 – Ms Honner’s Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30 - 7.00</td>
<td>Years 5</td>
<td>Year 5 – Mrs Lawless &amp; Mrs Holmes’ Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 3.00</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>A detailed information pack will be sent to parents. Parents should ring the front office to make individual appointments with the Year 6 teachers on Tuesday from 3pm onwards should they wish to convey to teachers any special information about their child. Interviews will be held in the Year 6 rooms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All parents are invited to our information sessions Tuesday 17 February. Teachers will be sharing how the classrooms are run, the curriculum they will be teaching in 2015 and how parents can support their child’s learning.

Come to the New Hall at 6.15pm where all the teachers will be introduced. Stay and have a drink and meet other parents. The P & C will be there, along with a second hand uniform stall and a school banking stall. The information sessions will be followed by the P & C AGM at 7pm. Please stay and join us for the P & C AGM in the library.

Rachel Matthews
Deputy Principal
**School Board Elections**

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

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

The Torrens Primary School Board has **two** parent vacancies for 2015. The vacancies are for two years.

Nominations open Monday 2 February 2015 at 11.00am and close Monday 16 February 2015 at 11.00am

*Nomination forms are available at the Front Office*

Assistant Returning Officer
Deanne Hetherington

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**School Banking 2015**

School banking is held for all classes (K-6) on Friday mornings and will resume in week 2 (Friday 13th February 2015). All children are welcome to participate in the program.

**For all new bankers**, you will need to open a Youthsaver (Dollarmite) account with the Commonwealth Bank to participate in the program. For information regarding how to open an account, please refer below.

School Banking is a great fundraiser for the school. The school receives $5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.

**Opening a School Banking Account at the Commonwealth Bank**

Accounts for school banking can be opened at any Commonwealth Bank branch.

Just go into any branch and ask to open a Youthsaver account for School Banking.

Remember to **take identification for yourself and your child** (such as driver’s license and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book on the spot and be able to start banking on the next business day – it’s that easy!

If you are a Commonwealth Bank customer with NetBank you have the option to open the account online as well.

**Does your child already have a Youthsaver account but is new to Torrens Primary School or hasn't done school banking before?**

If your child has an existing Youthsaver account with the Commonwealth Bank and wants to register with School Banking - all they need to do is bring their deposit book on the scheduled student banking day (Friday) with a small deposit.
From the Library

This year the library program will again focus on promoting reading through the provision of quality literature designed to extend student’s enjoyment of reading and reading skills. Additionally, the development of student’s ability to use information effectively will also continue to be a focus of library lessons.

Scheduled library lessons this Term are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>4H 4R 6G 6R</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3G 3KT 3R 5L 5HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1Z 1T 1AM 2H 2D 2L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>KK KP KT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It would be a great help if parents could remind their children, especially those in the younger grades, to bring their library books on those days. Kinder to Grade 3 students require a library bag to ensure books are not lost around the school or damaged by that leaking drink bottle! It would also be helpful if bags were labelled with your child’s name.

There are numerous ways that parents may show their children that reading is an enjoyable, interesting and rewarding activity and in doing so make a valuable contribution to their child’s reading development. Ways you may like to encourage reading in the home is by:

- Reading aloud to your child to encourage the enjoyment of books and reading
- Listening to your child read daily in a relaxed environment
- Not correcting your child’s reading too quickly but rather suggesting strategies such as having another try, encouraging the use of visual clues through for example, illustrations
- Reading with your child a variety of children’s books including non-fiction
- Taking time to look at illustrations and discuss new words and their meaning with your child
- Discussing the book with your child before reading, for example by asking questions such as what type of book is this; what do you think this book will be about?
- Giving books as presents to highlight the value of books
- Reading together as a family
- Discovering the local library as a fun place for family visits

Together with the promotion of reading, the library program will again focus on the development of information literacy or research skills to equip students to become lifelong learners or information literate. To be this, students must not only be able to recognise what specific information is needed in answering research questions but also be able to locate, evaluate and use this information effectively. Successful learners are those students who have learned how to learn. This is a far removed from the past where learning concentrated largely on rote memorisation.

In achieving this, emphasis is placed on developing skills such as understanding how libraries are organised, retrieving information from catalogues, the importance of keyword note taking and organising relevant information into various presentation forms. Lessons may be as simple as looking at the parts of a non-fiction book such as the index, table of contents etc, for younger students through to the development of skills such as skimming information and critically evaluating information for older students.

Parents may also play a significant role in helping their children become lifelong learners by:

- Promoting a feeling that discovering information is fun by again, for example by visiting the library together to find information related to your child’s interests.
- Praising your child’s efforts in terms of the processes involved in the research, rather than just in terms of the finished product
- Stressing the importance of keyword note taking, rather than copying. This is especially important when accessing information electronically.
- Encouraging your child to use a variety of resources, both print and electronic.

Remember that parents are always welcome in the library and look forward to a productive year working with your children.

Happy reading,
Christine Hynes
Teacher Librarian
Health Break

New Torrens Initiative for 2015

THE ROTTEN APPLE SYNDROME

As parents we are only too familiar with the rotten apple or worse the mouldy orange that hides at the bottom of the school bag waiting to be discovered at the end of term.

Diligently we send our children off to school every day with healthy food only to be discouraged when it comes home again a little bruised and battered. Ever hopeful we do the same thing day after day. This is what Einstein defined as insanity:

"Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results!"

Many parents have been saved from this dreadful fate by the innovative ‘HEALTH BREAK’ program which has been introduced at many schools.

Health Break ensures that children eat at least one piece of fruit or vegetable per day to assist their health.

EACH MORNING TEACHERS WILL ALLOW STUDENTS TO EAT FOOD THAT HAS BEEN ‘PICKED’ OR ‘PLUCKED’ WHILE THEY WORK.

The Health Break is not only a time to introduce children to fresh fruit and ‘vegies’, it is also an opportunity to encourage the habit of drinking water. Research indicates that children rarely drink enough water and often forget to drink unless reminded.

Don’t forget to pack a “Health Break” in the school bag every day.
Health Break

What do I need to do?

Pack easy-to-eat seasonal fruit such as a small apple, a container with hulled strawberries, grapes, blueberries or banana

OR

Vegetables such as carrot or celery sticks, cherry tomatoes or snow peas

(Make sure the fruit or veg are not sticky or messy so they can keep working while they eat).

AND A DRINK WATER BOTTLE

(WE NOW HAVE NEW WATER DISPENSERS IN THE SCHOOL TO GIVE YOUR CHILD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ICE COLD WATER DAILY).
From the Library

After numerous years of tireless work our Book Club coordinator Shiree Yap has handed the role over to Mel Godfrey. A huge thank you to Shiree for all her past efforts and to Mel in assuming this voluntary work! As outlined in Mel’s Book Club note, this year will see some changes in how Book Club operates. These are designed to make it easier for both parents and for its administration. Last year as a result of your generous support of Book Club many extra resources were added to our library collection and to the classrooms and is yet another way of encouraging a love of reading.
Christine Hynes

Book Club

Please note that this year cash is unable to be accepted

Welcome to another year of Scholastic Book Club!

Issue 1 of book club is out now and due back on Friday 20 February. Please remember, all orders must be in by 9:30am as orders will be processed first thing in the morning. Late orders will not be accepted.

Please ensure:

* Orders are returned to the Front Office by the due date
* The order is placed in a sealed envelope with your child’s name and class on the front of the envelope
* Your child’s name and class are on the top of each order form completed;
* Cheque’s are made payable to ‘Scholastic Book Club’, with your name and address on the back of the cheque;
* When paying by credit card please make sure you have paid by phone or online and recorded the receipt number issued by Scholastic on the order coupon, before returning your order to school.
* If you wish to order for a gift please include your name and contact number with your order and I will contact you when the order arrives.

Thank you,
Mel Godfrey
As we start a new school year, we would like to remind schools, parents and students about our bus services and how to best prepare for bus travel in the new year.

**School Bus Services**
Details of all school and regular bus services are now available for parents and students to begin planning their journeys. We ask that parents and students familiarise themselves with the most suitable routes, times and stop locations. School bus services are available to school students only, however, parents with young children may apply to travel on these services for a few weeks to help their child get used to bus travel.

**MyWay Cards**
We are urging parents and students to check MyWay cards and top up if required. MyWay cards can be topped automatically using the handy autoload service, online, over the phone via the ACTION and MyWay information line (13 17 10), or in person at Canberra Connect and MyWay recharge agents.

**Bus Fare Increase**
A bus fare increase came into effect on 3 January 2015. Single trip school student MyWay fares are now $1.10 and cash fares are now $2.30. Parents and students can find more information on the Transport for Canberra website or by calling 13 17 10.

**Network Changes**
No significant changes have been made to the current schools network since the most recent changes on Monday 1 September 2014. Any changes are published on the School Services section of the ACTION website. All feedback received regarding the new network has been taken on board for future planning and scheduling.

**New student MyWay Card Holders**
We would like to offer you free MyWay card holders and information guides for new school students, ideally those of primary school age who may be using the bus on their own for the first time. The card holder is designed to hold a MyWay card and has a secure clip device for attaching to a belt or bag. As a MyWay card can be of significant value, the MyWay card holder is a great way to keep students cards secure. Inside sits a MyWay information leaflet targeted at parents, which is a great introduction to MyWay and understanding the ticketing system. We can send you out a package consisting of the card holders, clips and MyWay information guide. If you are interested, please respond to actionmarketing@act.gov.au with the quantities required and the preferred contact and delivery details.

**Canteen news**
The Torrens Primary School canteen is open for business.

For the Canteen menu and online ordering, please use the links on the home page of the Torrens Primary School website at www.torrensps.act.edu.au
Permission Slip

I give permission for my child to attend SUPA Club

Child's name: ........................................
Class: ........................................ Date of Birth: ............
Address: ........................................

Home Ph: ........................................
Work Ph: ........................................
Parent/Guardian: ........................................
Signature: ........................................

Does your child have any special needs: ........................................

Have their photo taken during Supa Club Yes/No

For further information contact

Ana Day
Schools and Camps Coordinator
Scripture Union ACT
SUPA@act.gov.au
6251 3677

What is Scripture Union?

Scripture Union or SU is an inter-denominational, worldwide Christian movement that has been working since 1867 in more than 130 countries. SU has been working in ACT schools for over 30 years.

SU works in partnership with churches to make God's good news known to children, young people and families.

What is a SUPA Club?

- SUPA Club (Scripture Union Primary Age) are Christian clubs for kids operating in primary schools throughout Australia. They are part of the work of a worldwide inter-denominational movement called Scripture Union.
- SUPA Club can be run as a breakfast, lunch or after school program.
- SUPA Clubs operate in schools with the permission of the principal and they are staffed by volunteers from the local community and churches.

What happens at SUPA Club?

- It is an exciting time with fun games, interesting craft, singing, drama, stimulating stories from the Bible, and the occasional treat. It gives children an opportunity to investigate some of life's challenging questions.

Do children need permission to attend SUPA Club?

- Yes. Children must have permission from a parent or guardian and should bring the attached note, signed, to school, either to the front office or SUPA Club on the day.

Who are the leaders?

- The leaders are all members of local churches who believe that everyone should have the opportunity to investigate Christianity for themselves.
- Scripture Union ACT oversees the running of the club. All volunteers are required to complete a screening process, which includes a police check and Childsafe training before commencing helping with a SUPA Club.
Welcome to a new school year!

Hello to our parents and carers and especially our new families! The P&C welcomes all parents and carers so why not come to our first meeting of the year on Tuesday 17 February from 7pm in the school library. You’ll hear about the P&C’s plans for this year and how to get involved. Principal Sue Mueller and the teacher representative will provide updates on school happenings and policies.

Like to receive notices from the P&C? Email torrenspnc@gmail.com

The countdown has begun…

Only 7 weeks until the 2015 Torrens Primary Twilight Fair – save the date – Saturday 28 March 1-6pm

We welcome donations to the craft, book, plant and produce, and second hand goods stalls.

We will be shortly calling for help on the day.

It’s also not too late if you or someone you know owns a business to sponsor the Fair – a great way to support the school and your child.

Have a question or you can help out? Email the P&C torrenspnc@gmail.com

Coming your way soon…

Tickets for the 2015 Torrens Primary Twilight Fair major raffle now on sale!

Your family will receive one book of 20 tickets – only $2 each!!! With such great prizes on offer and something for everyone we hope you find these easy to sell and you come back for more!

What you need to do? EASY – sell your tickets and collect the money; return the stubs and money together with your child’s name and class to the front office.

Do you or someone you know work in a business that could also sell some? Let us know and we will get you some extra books.

Need more or have a question? Email the P&C torrenspnc@gmail.com

Key dates

* General P&C meeting Tues 17 Feb 2015 7pm
* Second hand uniform shop Fri 13 Feb 2015 (Week 2)
* AGM Tue 17 Mar 2015 7pm
Help your child ACHIEVE!

There's no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children's learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child's teacher to maximise your child's chances of school success.

1. **Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve**
   Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

2. **Keep your expectations reasonable and positive**
   If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child's school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. **Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home**
   One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. **Send kids to school ready to learn and on time**
   Maximise your child's chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It's estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. **Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes**
   Life's not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. **Skill children to work with others**
   Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. **Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties**
   Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. **Participate in class & school activities**
   There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. **Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience**
   Your child's teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. **Talk up what happens at school**
    Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child's teachers.