I’m really pleased to announce a new transition to school experience starting next term.

We’re calling the day, “Kindy Start @ Towamba PS” and it’s available to students who will be enrolling in Kindergarten at our school in 2015.

Each Friday, starting the first week of next term and continuing throughout the year, the “Kindy Start” students will join K-2 in music where they will have the opportunity to be part of such experiences as Musica Viva, group singing and percussion lessons. They can also practice fundamental movement skills e.g. throwing, catching, running, jumping, skipping, as part of K-2 Sport. In addition, the children will listen to stories, socialise, and learn skills that will give them a heads-up when they do start school full-time next year. And…it’s also lunch order day!!

Except for a special shirt (in school colours) that we are designing at the moment and which will cost around $15, there will be no charge.

I hope, if successful this year, “Kindy Start @ Towamba PS”, will be a permanent fixture for children who have turned four and are starting Kindergarten at Towamba the following year.

Kathryn Davis
Principal

Thank you to all the students for making my birthday on Monday a very special day!

Nancy
International Food & Harmony Day  Monday 24 March

Tickets are now on sale for the International Food and Harmony Day luncheon. $5 at the school office.

Everybody is welcome to come and join in the feast, which students and parent and other adult helpers will be preparing in the morning. If you want to eat then you need to buy a ticket!

We are still after a couple more parents or community members who would like to come in and work with a small group of kids making an international dish to be shared by all for lunch.

Cooking leaders would need to purchase ingredients and submit receipts for reimbursement. If you would like to be involved in this fun day please use the EOI form overleaf.

Bioblitz at Panboola

Students in Year 5 and 6 will be participating in this exciting educational event on Friday 11th April, along with many other students, scientists, naturalists and interested members of the public. Our school participated in the inaugural Bioblitz at Bermagui in 2012. The Bioblitz is a collaborative challenge to discover as many species of wildlife in the chosen locality as possible.

The permission and transport note and program are attached to this newsletter. Please return by the end of the month.

SCLC Music Camp

A reminder that information packs and application forms for the fourth SCLC Music Camp to be held Sunday 18 May to Wednesday 21 May at Kianinny Resort are available from the school office for those interested.

The overall camp cost is $250– with the school happy to subsidise students who would like to attend by $50. There is also a subsidised fee of $180 for siblings. It is best suited for older students in Years 5/6.

There are only 80 spots for students so Expressions of Interest should be returned as soon as possible, and definitely before the March 27 deadline.

SCMDC Marine Debris Workshop Wednesday 2 April

Marine Debris – What’s the harm? A hands-on, scientific look at what marine debris is and the impacts that debris can have on our marine environment. All students K-6 will be involved in this workshop run at our school by the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre.

There will a small fee of $5 per family for this incursion (see page 4)

End of Term Assembly and Easter Hat Parade  Thursday 10 April

Mark your calendar and plan to come down and join us as we celebrate the term’s activities at the End of Term assembly, showcase some creative Easter Hats and other Easter activities.

The P&C will be running a BBQ lunch– more details soon.

UNSW Assessments

Optional participation in the ICAS International Competitions and Assessments for Schools tests, run through the University of NSW is available to our students with financial support from the school. Application forms and test options were attached to the Week 5 newsletter.

If you would like to participate in these tests, please return the application form by the end of the month.

So far we have 2 students interested in tests including English, Maths, Writing and Computer Skills.
**Next term we already have quite a few events booked in:**

**Friday 2 May Bugwatch**— remember to bring old shoes or gumboots or bring a towel to dry your feet after wading in the river.

**Wednesday 21 May Taronga Zoomobile**— we haven’t had this for a couple of years— a good hands on look at various native animals, plus a Bournda puppet show as well.

**Tuesday 27 May** is a huge day— we have Wyndham students joining us for Life Education that day, as well as our first Musica Viva Performance of the year, with the group Jacana.

### NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy tests involves students right across Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, and provides important information for teacher programming.

The NAPLAN dates this year are:

- **Tuesday 13 May** Language Conventions and Writing Tests
- **Wednesday 14 May** Reading Test
- **Thursday 15 May** Numeracy Test

Students will have practiced with the format of NAPLAN tests and be familiar with what is required.

### Homework Survey

Thank you to the families returning the Homework Surveys so promptly.

It is of great assistance to the teaching staff, as we now know what format of homework suits our families best.

### Some dates for Year 6 students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 2 April</td>
<td>Information Session at Eden Marine High School for 2015 Year 7 families (5.30-6.30pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/20 Aug</td>
<td>KLA Days at EMHS for Year 6 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/28 Aug</td>
<td>KLA Days at EMHS for Year 6 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3W8</td>
<td>Literacy &amp; Numeracy Assessments at Towamba PS for class placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Nov</td>
<td>Small Schools Orientation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Dec</td>
<td>Orientation Day for all 2015 Year 7 students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### School Radio

First students to be doing a school radio program will be Mabel and Liam on Tuesday 6 May. Take the time to think about what you could feature or include in your program— maybe record an interview with someone or some live music to feature on your show?

### School Photos

Wednesday 9 April 9.30am in the morning. Make sure your child is at school that day— order envelopes home soon.

### P&C News

**Still to come:**

- Working Bee to oil the MPR deck
- P&C BBQ Thursday 10 April

We also received a lovely thank you card from Mt Victoria P&C for our donation— it brought tears to their eyes!
Friday Tennis
A reminder that the school provides Mark Edwards with a list of student names who have returned notes with parental permission to walk up unsupervised to tennis, and student commitment to tennis.

No 2014 note– no tennis.

Coming up at the start of Term 2
Stewart House Donation Drive

Marine Debris Workshop  Wednesday 2 April
Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre will be running this hands on workshop at our school as part of the outreach program. In the past we have had the financial support from the ANU for the total cost of these high quality workshops. However this is not available this year so we are requesting each family support this incursion at our school with just $5 per family. Your support is greatly appreciated.

FAMILY NAME: _____________________________________________________________

☐ Enclosed : $5
☐ I have paid online and my receipt number is……………………………………………………………

Expression of Interest– International Food & Harmony Day  Monday 24 March
Parent/community member name: _____________________________________________ Phone: ________________

My suggested menu item

Equipment needed

☐ I will buy required ingredients & submit receipts for reimbursement

ABSENCE & Partial Absence NOTE
My child ____________________________________________ was absent from school on the date/s ____________________________________________

OR will be arriving late/departing early at (time) ____________________________________________

due to ____________________________________________

Signed ________________________________ Parent/Carer. Date: ________________