What a busy, productive and successful eleven weeks Term 1 has been. We began on a high note at a combined swimming carnival with Wyndham and Tanja schools to celebrate my birthday – thank you everyone for going to all that trouble and organising such a special day for me - I was impressed, and I’m not easily impressed!

Our delightful kindies, Rainy and Oliver, now seem like they are old hands at this big school stuff and are a fantastic addition to our school. And speaking of new additions, Ezekiel and Jasmin have already impressed everyone - students and staff - with their caring and enthusiastic approach to everything they do – we’re so glad you’re here!

Our Year 6 students are outstanding! Alicia, Drew, Annalyse, Liam, Mabel and Saxon have taken on the responsibility of demonstrating to the younger students how students at Towamba PS should work, behave and play, I would like to extend a big thank you to you all – keep up the great work!

There was a lot going on this term, but I think everyone would agree that the event that stood out would have to be, without doubt, the International Food and Harmony Day. Small schools are truly great schools and only at a small school with such supportive parents, could this have been possible. Every child was involved in a unique hands-on experience and then every child was able to sample the fruits of their labour. The bad news is the kids want to do it again – every week!

Next term sees two really exciting programs starting. For the first time, Kindy Start, a transition to school program for future Kindergarten students, will be on every Friday for the rest of the year. Thanks to Maryanne Burns for making me aware of this concept. Those little dudes will be sooo ready for big school in 2015! The other really great initiative is the collaboration between the school and Campbell Page, to provide the space and the opportunity for a new Playgroup to be established. There hasn’t been one around here for a long time but that’s going to change – starting Tuesday, 6th May (Week 2) from 9:30-11:30 in the MPR and it’s open to anyone, not just from Towamba, who wants to bring their baby, toddler or pre-schooler along to play and at the same time, the adults can take some time to chat over a cuppa. Sounds like a good plan to me!

Louise Hopson will be Relieving Principal for the first three weeks of Term 2 while I am on leave. Melinda Ferris will also be seen about a bit more when she replaces Nicci Grant on K12, whilst Nicci is on sick leave.

When I return in Week 4 the school will have had a much needed coat of fresh paint and the office renovations will be complete – very exciting!

Kathryn Davis
Principal
Bioblitz at Panboola tomorrow (Year 5/6 only) - POSTPONED!!

Thank you again to our parent drivers. Arrangements were sent out last week.

Parents of those getting a ride with someone have already called the parent driver to make the arrangements for meeting times etc for tomorrow.

Students do not wear uniform but comfortable clothes suitable for bushwalking and wading.

SCLC

Thank you to the families returning their expressions of interest for being part of the SCLC Concert. We look forward to more indications of interest so that we can consider putting together a school item for the show. The ideas sound pretty exciting!

Please use the Expression of Interest (on p4) slip or just call the school on 6496 7159.

Cross country

Towamba School will be having our Cross Country on Friday 9 May (week 2 next term).

The cross country course includes laps of the school as well as up to the Towamba sportsground via Barney Street or Knight Street depending on the route length.

We need parents to come on the day and assist with checkpoints (pointing runners the correct way!), cheering them on, recording places and taking photos!

As it is only in Week 2, we would like to get an idea of parent volunteers – if you can come along on the day please send in the return slip on page 4 or just call on 64967159.

The cross country will be in the middle session after recess, so parents should arrive around 11.30 if possible. The Zone Cross Country is the following Friday at Wolumla for our selected student runners.

SCLC Music Camp

Mabel and Liam have both been selected to attend the SCLC Music Camp next month – only 80 were selected out of over 130 applicants so well done!

Paperwork was sent home on Monday, with completed paperwork and the camp fee (less the $50 Towamba subsidy) due in by Friday 9 May next term.

Term 2 Excursion

Exciting news! On Tuesday 20 May there will be a whole school excursion to Pambula so that our students can enjoy the spectacular Erth Dinosaur Petting Zoo, which is visiting regional areas for the first time.

The Dinosaur Petting Zoo is an experiential theatre performance which features a cast of large scale Australian dinosaur puppets brought to life by sophisticated design, electronics and theatrical presentation. You may have heard about it on tv or the internet.

These ancient amazingly life-like dinosaurs seem alive and mostly friendly (!) in this fun, educational and unique performance event that will delight children of all ages.

We will be travelling by bus. More information and costings next term.

(Unfortunately Liam and Mabel will be at Music Camp…)

School Photos

Thank you everyone – the rain held off for our photo shoot yesterday. Photos ordered will be back next term. The school also gets to use the portraits taken on the day for many uses. Year 6 students will receive their graduation photo at the end of the year.
Two new exciting groups in Towamba starting next term for younger children

Kindy Start
A transition program for 4 year olds. Every Friday for the rest of the year for the whole school day. Shorter sessions can be negotiated if necessary. No cost except for the special Kindy Start shirt. Kindy Start kids join in with the K12 class and will have a wonderful transition to starting school in 2015. Any further enquiries please contact the school. Info packs have gone out today to the families with 4 year olds. Kindy Start starts Friday 2 May.

A new playgroup for Towamba, based in the Multipurpose room at our school. It is open to any young children in the area, with parents/grandparents/carers warmly welcomed. More flyers are available from the school office if you wish to pass on this information to anybody else that you think might be interested. For more information contact Liz Huggert 0419 249 250 from Campbell Page or the school on 6496 7159. Playgroup starts Tuesday 6 May at 9.30am.

School Security
A reminder that schools are on inclosed land and there should be no unauthorised entry out of school hours. There are some visitors expected re office cabinetry and painting, but any other suspicious activity should be reported to the school security hotline 1300 880 021.

Bugwatch
On Friday 2 May (in the first week back), older students in Years 3-6 will be walking down to the river for our Autumn Bugwatch with Bob Harris from Bournda EEC.

Students are advised to bring gum boots, old shows or a towel to dry off wet feet, as there will be wading involved.

Staff will be refreshing their CPR with Bob after school on the same day.

MiloIn2Cricket
In Term 2 there will be two Mondays (5 May and 12 May) that will have some intensive cricket clinics run for our students. On each of the Mondays, each age group (K-3, 4-6) will have a morning and afternoon cricket skills workshop.

In addition, later in the term, we also have some AFL Skills workshops being run at the school!

P&C News

Easter BBQ
Thank you very much to the parents helping out with the BBQ today.

Term 2 Meeting
Mark our next P&C Meeting in your calendars:

Tuesday morning of week 3 (13th May).

Term 2 offers are welcome now for Friday lunch orders.
Call Lisa on 6496 7292.
Alternatively use the return slip on page 4 – some dates gone already!
Free to good home
Jack Russell puppies (one female, two male) are looking for owners!
Eight weeks old and very cute! Call Pod on 6496 7112
(Sorry– incorrect breed listed last time!)

SCLC Performing Arts Concert Term 3
Expression of Interest
My child/ren would like to be involved in the SCLC Performing Arts Concert and we will be able to organise transport when required for rehearsals and on the performance night itself.

☐ School item
☐ combined school choir

Student name:__________________________ Parent signed:__________________________

Term 2 Lunch Orders
Name:______________________Phone:_____________

YES I can help out with Friday lunch orders. I have ticked the date options that I am available below.
I am happy to volunteer for ____day/s this term

☐ Friday 2 May
☐ Friday 9 May
☐ Friday 16 May (Zone XC)
☐ Friday 23 May
☐ Friday 30 May
☐ Friday 6 June
☐ Friday 13 June (Athletics)
☐ Friday 20 June
☐ Friday 27 June

Karen

Or call Lisa 6496 7292

Towamba Cross Country
Friday 9 May
☐ Yes I can be at the school from 11.30 on Friday 9 May to assist with the school cross country.

Name:____________________________________

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:____________________