What a fantastic beginning to the year we have had. The students are now settled in to classes and slowly but surely our routines are taking shape. Most of our textbooks have now arrived and we can begin structured lessons in a more formal manner. Already we have shared some excellent opportunities and witnessed our students testing their capabilities. The swimming carnival was a great example of the ‘have a go’ attitude which we want to encourage, and many of the students pushed themselves beyond their previous best efforts. Good luck to those who will be attending Candelo again this Friday for the Far South Coast Small Schools Swimming Carnival.

We also held our first cooking session last Thursday and using the apples growing around the school Nicci and the students, along with Katherine Cooper and Tiarne Boundy cooked delicious apple crumble, while learning mathematical principles about volume, capacity and mass. It was a great day and we look forward to seeing what’s next on the menu.

I would like to thank all of our parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and other caregivers for joining in with our activities so far this year. The school staff have some amazing plans and opportunities which we will be revealing over the coming weeks, but many of our plans will require support. We want our school to be a place where everyone feels welcomed and valued for the role they play in the education of our students so please feel free to come and see what we are up to. As I have told the students, education is not a secret and therefore everyone involved in the academic growth of our students should be aware of where they are succeeding and where they may need support.

On a final note, our P&C AGM and first meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, February 24th, from 2pm onwards (Week 5). It would be great to see as many people as possible joining in as all of our school community members are valuable and vital elements to the success of our school.

Regards,

Peter
Swimming carnivals
Good luck to the students representing Towamba at the Far South Coast Small Schools Swimming Carnival, tomorrow at Candelo Pool.
Students should be at the pool before 9.30am– look for the red Towamba flag!
A program is attached to this newsletter for the swimmers.
Ms Hopson will be attending the day as well but will be recording so parents/carers need to supervise their own children.
Make sure you bring sunscreen and a hat, and bring food and water. Candelo parents are running a cake stall with tea and coffee facilities as well as the limited kiosk options for lunch.
Pool entry of $3 is payable on arrival at the pool.
In case of extreme weather, cancellation announcements will be on ABC and Power FM at 7am.

Responsible Pet Ownership
Students in K12 will be visited next Monday by Pet Educator Gai Spiers with her dog Xena.
It is a fun afternoon learning about how to approach a dog safely and other interesting information.
Please let us know if your child has any phobia or allergy issues.

Scripture
Mr Brian Dixon visited the school today for the first of the 2015 Scripture classes that he facilitates. All students participate unless they bring in a written note from their parents to say otherwise. Please remember that a new written request is required each year.

Updates
Please return all updates that have been sent home with the last two newsletters.
We need to do this at the start of each year. Your early attention to this is greatly appreciated.

Book Club
Attached are the current catalogues from Scholastic Book Club. The pack includes each agegroup, regardless of your child’s age.
If you would like to make an order, please return by Monday.
Please note there are now several ways to pay for orders.

New 2015 Wildcards
Our winning designs this year were drawn by Sam, George, Ty, Uluka, Louise and Alexis.
Students can earn wildcards for behaviour, attitude, results and more. Collect 4 wildcards and you can hand in your cards for a Golden Magpie Egg award. Four eggs and you qualify for a nest. Collectors of the most nests get a trophy at the end of the year, with the winner in each group also going onto the honour board. Thank you to the 2015 wildcard artists!

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Playgroup started this week!
Come join with other parents with young children for a play, chat and a relaxing morning every Tuesday in the Multi Purpose Room from 9.30am. Bring a piece of fruit to share.
Liz from Campbell Page will be rejoining us at playgroup next week.
P&C News

P&C Meeting
Our first meeting will also include an Annual General Meeting, and at this stage is probably going to be on Tuesday 24 February at 2pm.

Mr Claxton is looking forward to attending and sharing his plans and visions for Towamba School this year and in the future. Come along and make yourself known.

Stay tuned for confirmation of the date and times. Steph Skelton maintains a P&C email list and if you would like to be added to that to stay in the loop, send her an email on steph_skelton@hotmail.com.

Community News

TOWAMBA KIDS ARE AMAZING – BUS BBQ CELEBRATION
The Towamba community is thankful that our kids and the driver are safe after the school bus accident on the 29th of January. Following a medical episode the driver lost control of the bus, with it running up an embankment and rolling onto its side. The situation could have been so much worse at almost any other part of Towamba road. Our kids were praised for their maturity and concern for each other and the welfare of the driver. Their commonsense approach to the situation they found themselves in is to be admired. Special mention has been made of Greg Comparini for his assistance to other students and the driver until paramedics arrived. Well done to you all.

To celebrate our good fortune we are holding a BBQ at the hall on this Sunday 15th Feb @ 12pm.
Please bring the family, (a handball, a tennis racquet or a soccer ball), BBQ basics provided. Please bring your own extras and a salad/sweet to share.
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: ______________

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Pambula United Football Club 2015 “Soccer Registration”

We are providing two (2) formal registration days at the Pambula Recreation (Soccer) ground in February this year. Socks and shorts will also be available for purchase on these days. We anticipate more penguin players again this year so please put the following dates on your calendar.

Registration days for “New” and “Current” Penguins players:

- Wednesday 18th February 2015, 4pm – 6pm in the clubhouse
- Wednesday 25th February 2015, 4pm – 6pm in the clubhouse.

Registration costs are based on age division being played:

Preferred method of payment is Cash or Cheque.
- Under 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 = $75
- Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 = $95
- Senior Full Time Student = $110
- 1st Grade / Reserve / Ladies = $165

Southern Valley Folk Club presents NICK SAXON tonight!

Venue: Gardaya’s place, Pericoe Rd, Towamba 7pm

Cost $10

These intimate concerts are always a treat. Bring along something to sit on and refreshments.

Tea and coffee will be available.

Nick is not only a very talented singer/songwriter/ instrumentalist but has also travelled extensively with his music and as a television presenter with National Geographic. The only way you will be disappointed is if you miss the concert! More information call 6496 7196.