It’s hard to believe that we are already half way through first term. Our classroom routines and expectations are now firmly in place and the students have settled in extremely well. I would like to thank the staff at Towamba PS for their incredibly hard work, setting up our school for this year. Nancy, Louise, Nicci, Lucy, Kim and Steve have put in many hours of their own time to ensure that the year ahead is going to be incredible. I would also like to extend this thanks to our many parents who have continually offered their services to help ensure that Towamba PS runs like clockwork.

As with every week in schools, this one has been busy with many new and exciting things revealed to both students and the community. First and probably most importantly we have two new students attending this week for our KindyStart program, which commences on Friday, and we can’t wait to welcome Jett and Lindsay to our incredible school. Secondly I would like to thank Eli Wiebe for appearing on Monday as our celebrity guest chef. Eli is an ex Towamba PS student who is currently undergoing his apprenticeship at the Zanzibar restaurant in Merimbula. Under his expert instruction the students cooked French toast with Nutella, raspberry coulis and cinnamon dressed poached apple, with the produce all gathered from our school garden. As an eager taste tester I can assure everyone that it tasted great! If anyone else has any other ideas for a cooking session please come forward with your ideas. Tomorrow our school is participating in Clean Up Australia Day and while Towamba is an incredibly tidy town to begin with, we will be out and about picking up any bits and pieces which have been missed.

It was wonderful to attend our first P&C meeting for the year on Tuesday and witness first-hand the incredible commitment and passion which the community have for our little school. For my part I was able to put forward some of the staff’s visions and ideas for the future and it was wonderful to be met with the high level of support and enthusiasm provided by the committee. While we have several smaller excursions planned for each term, we also have two major ideas which, with P&C and community support, we will be pursuing. The first will be a whole school snow excursion and the second, for eight talented and committed students, will be attendance at the Sydney Opera House to perform in the combined recorders section of the Festival of Instrumental Music in August. We will also be opening up a woodwork/craft workshop for students to learn some practical skills and have a bit of fun. All in all it’s shaping up to be a busy, yet rewarding year for everyone here at Towamba.

Regards,

Peter

Attached to this newsletter:
- P&C minutes
Clean Up Australia Day at School

Tomorrow our school is doing our bit for Clean Up Australia Day.

We have been supplied with several pairs of gloves but would greatly appreciate students bringing in appropriate gloves from home if you have them.

Students will be patrolling the school grounds and also along the Towamba roadsides up to the sportsground area.

Parents are welcome to join us too if you wish– we will be commencing at around 11.45am. Please bring spare rubbish bags and protective gloves.

Clean Up Australia is celebrating 25 years this year!

Parent morning tea

Please come and join us for the first of our regular morning teas at the school- a relaxed social gathering to be held about twice a term, in the MultiPurpose Room.

Tuesday 17 March will be our first morning tea.

Bring a plate of something to share, tea and coffee will be supplied. All parents and carers are welcome. Parents with younger children might also join in with the playgroup if they wish.

Recorders

Students in the 3-6 classroom have been learning to play the recorder, a nostalgic activity for many parents from their school days as well I am sure!

The plan is to have eight students from our school playing in the Combined Recorder Group at the Sydney Opera House in August so practice well!

Mr Claxton attended a preparatory session in Sydney last week to plan for this, and more information will be sent home soon to students in the 3-6 class.

Learning more about Oysters  Wednesday 18 March

This year we are planning more combined activities with Wyndham School, as we both have low numbers, and it is great to be able to do things together with our closest school.

The first combined activity planned is an excursion out to Pambula Lake for the Captain Sponge Magical Oyster Excursion. This day will build on the Grow your Own Oyster program last year and foster the sharing of information between the students of both schools.

The day also includes a boat trip exploring the local area including geology, birdlife and cultural history. More information on this soon. Travel will be by bus.

Sports Gala Day at Wyndham  Friday 20 March

Another planned combined activity with Wyndham is a Sports Gala Day on Friday 20 March at Wyndham Oval.

This will be a fun day of activities for all students, including our KindyStart kids. More information soon.

The FSC Small Schools Athletics Carnival next term (5 June) is also hosted at Wyndham this year– our turn again in 2016!

Taiko Workshop

On Thursday 26 March we will have Kiyomi from EZJapanese visiting our school to bring us the Taiko Interactive Workshop.

Taiko means drum in Japanese and is great exercise as well as making music. It is a simple and energetic activity that all ages can enjoy. More information next newsletter.
National Young Leaders Day
Preliminary information is attached for Sam and Lachlan as Mr Claxton finalises arrangements to travel with our two Year 6 boys to Sydney next month for the Halogen Foundation Young Leaders Day.

Students from Bemboka are also attending and the group of students will be staying at the YHA Sydney Central to travel to the conference at the Qantas Credit Union Arena (formerly the Sydney Entertainment Centre) along with thousands of others.

What an experience it will be!

KindyStart
KindyStart 2015 starts tomorrow! We look forward to welcoming Lindsay and Jett to our school every Friday in the K12 class.

Children can join the KindyStart group as soon as they turn 4 so if you know anyone else who might be interested later in the year please contact the school for an information leaflet, and a registration form. We are also building a list of future enrolments towards the Year 2020 so any additional names would be greatly appreciated!

Year 7 next year at Eden Marine High School - BBQ
A Parent Information Night was held this week at the High School.

Eden Marine High School will be holding a YR7 2016 Parents/Students BBQ at the school on Wednesday March 4th from 5.30-7.00pm.

Parents who were unable to attend information sessions this week are welcome to attend to ask questions re enrolment at EMHS.

Expressions of Interest for Year 7 2016 will be sent home next month.

School Newsletter
Each week the school newsletter is also placed up at Towamba Hall on the noticeboard, for the information of the community. We are looking for a new volunteer to take this on. It would be a quick bike ride or stroll up to the hall each week to place it in the plastic sleeves already set up. Maybe it could be part of a fitness routine as well as a good deed for the week?! Let us know if you would like to volunteer for this.

Cooking with Eli
Former student Eli Wiebe, who is now an apprentice chef at the well known Zanzibar Restaurant in Merimbula came back to Towamba school this week. Working with the students, he created a delicious special dish using local produce and supplies. The dish was Sourdough French toast, topped with a spread of Nutella and a freshly poached apple, embellished with a Towamba School raspberry coulis. Sensational!

Photos are on the back page as well as on the school website.

P&C News

P&C Meeting
Thank you to all of those that attended the P&C meeting and AGM. We had a great turnout for a small school. Please find attached the minutes from both meetings. They are a little unpolished as we had 2 different people taking the notes, so it was a little tricky to write up from the brief points. Please notify me if I have recorded something incorrectly or incompletely. If you would like to be on the email list please send me an email and I shall add you. It is often the easiest way to communicate to most people between school newsletters. steph_skelton@hotmail.com

Also following the meeting Maureen has reconsidered her fundraising position due to upcoming extended absences. We thank her for all her involvement and fundraising efforts for the past several years, especially concerning the school 150th celebrations, and the thousands of raffle tickets she has sold.
Playgroup at Towamba

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.

Plans are being made for playgroup in 2015 so get involved!

Towamba handball

Latest news: handprints are now in place on the Towamba handball court

Great colourful new handballs up for grabs as prizes for any handball competition run by the kids.

Candelo Village Festival

Early bird tickets now on sale until March 13

Adults $50/Conc $40

Children under 12 FREE with paying adult

Cooking with Eli on Monday

More photos on the school website

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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