

Friday 20 March 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

NAPLAN Testing: This week the Years 3, 5 and 7 have been hard at work practising for the NAPLAN tests in May. Using last year's tests we have provided children with the opportunity to practise the genre of testing. The media has provided criticism of Queensland's results in these tests compared to other states. At Toowong our results have been consistently above national means. While we are proud of these results we believe that we can improve further. By allowing children the chance to practise how to do tests (especially for Year 3 as they have not been through this process before) and by analysing the results students would have achieved on last year's tests we can better prepare our students for this year. Well done to all teachers and students for their positive approach and flexibility in undertaking this task.

Active School Travel Results: Today the interclass trophy was given to 6/7A for their excellent active travelling! They had a 90% score in both morning and afternoon. Although 4/5DH scored 100% in the morning they lowered their day's average by only scoring 73% in the afternoon.

Harmony Day: Saturday 21 March is Harmony Day. This day is dedicated to promoting peace and understanding between people. Harmony Day seeks to engage all Australians in a celebration of the essentially cohesive and inclusive nature of our country and to promote the considerable benefits, both social and economic, of cultural diversity.

Literacy Training: This year our Year 4-7 teachers are undertaking the 5 day literacy training provided by Education Queensland. Year 1-3 teachers participated in this last year. This term Mrs Fletcher, Mr Miller, Mrs McIntyre and Ms Nicholas are attending these workshops. Later in the year the rest of our Year 4-7 teachers will complete the training. Last week Mrs Hobart and I also attended a literacy day for school leaders to assist teachers in extending their literacy practices in school. This will provide the basis for assisting teachers in further developing quality literacy programs for the benefits of our students.

Earth Hour: Next Friday 27 March Toowong State School will support Earth Hour by ensuring all power across the school (apart from fridge) is switched off over the weekend.

Regards: **Brendon Madden**

For Your Diary

Sat	21 March	Harmony Day
Wed	25 March	Year 3/4 to GoMA
Thurs	26 March	Year 6/7 to Ideas Festival
Fri	27 March	4 th Swimming Lesson
Fri	27 March	Parent Café after Assembly
Sat	28 March	Earth Hour 8.30 to 9.30pm
Fri	3 April	5 th Swimming Lesson
Fri	3 April	School Disco
Wed	8 April	Cross Country

Information Headquarter News

Parent Café: Our next parent café will be on Friday 27 March after assembly. If you are deaf and would like to come but need

an interpreter please let the school know so we can organise an interpreter.

Top Secret Info: There is a rumour circulating that someone very close to Zac Powers will be visiting the library in August...stay tuned for details.

At the Movies: Next week a movie will be screened in the library from 1.00 to 1.30 at lunchtime. We will be showing Happy Feet on Monday and Thursday and again the following Monday and possibly Thursday to finish it.

Bookclub: Bookclub orders should be back next week.

Leigh Hobart

Bilingual News

Auslan Classes: Want to learn Auslan? Classes for parents and other members of the community are held on Tuesday nights from 6 to 7.30pm. Please RSVP to me or the office or email mocon12@eq.edu.au for further questions.

Showcase: Every year, schools in Education Queensland can enter a competition that showcases programs or process that schools implement to a high standard. This year we have decided to enter the Bi/Bi program into the Showcase Awards under the category of Inclusive Education. The Showcase provides an exciting opportunity to promote our school within Ed Qld and our community. As part of our submission we need to include information about the program and outcomes and anecdotal observation from teacher, parents and community members.

Michelle O'Connor

DISCO

Students and families of Toowong State School

You are invited to our

Surfing Safari Disco

Come dressed in your favourite beach wear

When: Friday 3rd April 6-9 pm

Starting- 6pm - Prep - Yr 3
7pm - Yr 4 - Yr 7

Where: Prep Area

Entry Fee: \$3/person

(Pay on night) \$5/pair

\$8/family

Food and drink will be available for purchase on the night.

Netball

Congratulations to the Seniors and Intermediates for their wins in the first week of competition. Unfortunately last week's game was cancelled due to rain.

This week we are playing:

Juniors	vs Ironside
Intermediates	bye
Seniors	vs Corinda 2

Next week:

Juniors	vs Corinda 2
Intermediates	vs Christ the King
Seniors	vs Corinda 1

Leigh Hobart

Tuckshop News

We could still use a few more helpers with homebake. If you have a favourite healthy recipe you may like to share with the children please give it a try. I also need a few more helpers so the same people don't need to do it so often. Next term we will be introducing Spaghetti Bolognese and deleting Savoury Mince Rolls. Below is next fortnight's roster. *Bonnie Brown*

Tues Homebake: 10 Mar: Bronwyn, Miranda

Tues Helper: Thuy

Thurs Homebake: 12 Mar: Vacancy

Thurs Helper: Karen

Tues Homebake: 17 Mar: Melissa, Vacancy

Tues Helper: Thuy

Thurs Homebake: 19 Mar: Vacancy

Thurs Helper: Thuy

Prep

Nerida Swetman

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered their time to help in the class. This week we have been learning about some of the people in the community who help us and investigating some of the tools they use to do their job. Children have also been involved in a variety of activities to develop their understanding of positional terms such as over, under, around and between. Activities have included reading and acting out stories, small world play, songs and the Perceptual Motor Program.

P/1CS

Michelle Coleman/Amanda Stewart

We only have 3 weeks of school left! We have started preparing for our special visitors. These visitors will be arriving in 6 school days. They are little, yellow and fluffy although some will be hard but very delicate. Can you guess who our visitors will be? Can everyone please make sure that the language Experience Readers are returned the next day? We don't make enough for every child and need to share!

1/2B

Elitia Brennan

We have continued to focus on Toys. We have each brought in a toy so we can have a look at what it is made of. We are going to put them into different categories. We have walked around the school to see what different things are made of such as metal, plastic, wood or something else. A number of children in the class have not had their hats. Could you please ensure that your child brings a full brim hat to school each day?

2/3OK

Bronwyn Kelly/Elaine O'Dea

We have been "up to our eyeballs" in assessment this week! (Spot the idiom!) Year 3 children have been practising for national testing in numeracy and literacy which will happen in May. This has made some of us "flip our lids!" As you are aware we have been continuing to look at idioms and their meanings and we had some fun drawing what they might mean, for example, "full of beans". The children are keen to share idioms which they have heard and then we try to work out what they actually mean. We are also looking at homographs and this has been particularly interesting in Auslan. Ask your child about all the different signs and meanings for the words 'call' and 'how'. They are very clever. Have a good weekend!

3/4MN Mary Anne McIntyre/Tracey-Lee Nicholas

This week Grade 3 have been practising how to sit for tests in preparation for the NAPLAN tests later this year. Grade 4 have enjoyed some special time with Mr Miller and his Grade 4's. We are now up to our third week of swimming and look forward to it every Friday. Well done to the children who remember all their gear each week.

4/5D

Emma Dixon/Olivetta Harris

This week we have been doing lots of rotations for Science and learning more about Flight. We have done experiments like making hot-air balloons and making hang-gliders. We've also made kites out of different materials. Next week we test them out to see which type works the best. We have also been practising to do NAPLAN tests every day so we have been very busy. The tests were okay for some and easy for others.

by Debapama

4/5FM

Elizabeth Fletcher/Cameron Miller

We made hot-air balloons using a string, plastic bag, decorations, paper clips and a hair dryer. Hold the plastic bag and fill it with the hair dryer. When it is full you let go and it will go up. The paper clips make it come back down because of the weight. We also made helicopters using paper, a ruler, a paper clip and pencil. We measured and cut out the shape on paper then added a paper clip to the top edge. We cut a slit in the bottom and then dropped it from a high balcony. It spun around and flew! It was fun to make and try these experiments.

by Ruby and Chloe

6/7A

Keiran Abel

We have been learning about Newton's 1st, 2nd and 3rd Laws. We built a bottle rocket to show the 3rd law. It was awesome, but made a bit of a mess. We have also been practising for the NAPLAN tests in May. Our new school captains Georgia, Matthew, Cataia and Barney have recently gone off to a special Leadership Day. They had lots of fun and each received a golden badge. A reminder that we have swimming, netball and soccer each Friday so don't forget your gear.

by Hamish G and Eli

6/7BN

Saleigh Noble/Leah Barnett

This week we have been preparing for the NAPLAN/QCAT tests in May with practise tests. We are looking forward to going on our excursion on Thursday 26 May with 6/7A to the State Library for the Ideas Festival "Think Tank Do".

by Amrta and Nikki

SCHOOL FOR PARENTS

What is in a word?

Some school terms can be confusing for parents. For example, what is the difference between literacy and English?

According to the Literate Futures Report (p.9) literacy is the "flexible and sustainable master of a repertoire of practices with the texts of traditional and new communications technologies via spoken language, print and multimedia, and the ability to use these practices in cultural and social contexts".

Literacy can be learned across different subjects e.g. an information report in Science or using a table to represent information in SOSE.

English is distinct in that it is the study of the English language. Learning in English includes studying literature, spelling, grammar, handwriting, writing narratives, and learning to read.