

NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners

TERM 4 | WEEK 9 | December 2018



CONGRATULATIONS HSC students and teachers!

HSC BRILLIANCE!

Toormina High School has had a Higher School Certificate Music student selected for the prestigious Encore Concert at the Sydney Opera House! Congratulations to Drew Gilchrist and his music teacher, Kyle McGeary. Drew also scored 50/50 in Music Extension 1 and 94/100 in Music 2!

Congratulations to all our Higher School Certificate students with Band 6 results: **Hunter Bake-Smith, Drew Gilchrist, Jasmyn Newcombe, Nika Ryan, Tori Van Stijn and Luke Zerbel!**

We had 8 Band 6 results and 47 Band 5 results, congratulations to our hard working students and staff! We can add to this the 3 Band 6 results from the accelerated students from this cohort who received their results last year. Go Toormi!



North Coast Debating Team

In Week 8 Ellena Cheers-Flavell, year 9, headed to Sydney for the Junior State Debating Championships as part of the North Coast Team. The team placed 3rd in their pool, placing them 6th overall in the State. This is an incredible achievement and Ellena should be proud of her efforts.

Sally Johnson,
Debating Coordinator



Year 12 Graduation

The Toormina High School Support Unit held a celebration and presentation for their Year 12 students.

Our 2018 graduates, in photo with teacher, Neil Belling, are Aidan Van Houts, Adrian Smith and Brendan Harvey. Our two other year 12 students, are, Percy-James Avuri-Williams, who has a traineeship and Willy Irakoze were absent for photo. Our school community wishes these young men best wishes as they embark on their post school lives!



Colourful Transition

As part of the transition from primary to High School, year 6 students attended an Orientation day on Tuesday the 4th December, where they had a chance to experience the many opportunities that will be available to them in 2019. The day began with a presentation to parents and students in the hall with a THS indigenous dance group performance. Students enjoyed a variety of taster lessons as they learned about the expectations and routine involved in being a high school student. They were assisted by the year 9 peer support students who were amazing team leaders for the day. This support will continue in 2019 as year 7 makes their way through their first year of secondary studies. After a BBQ lunch, the year 6 students enjoyed taking part in the annual colour run.

Cherie O'Brien, Year Adviser



Year 9 & 10 Excursion

Wet N Wild and Moreton Island what an excursion! Where to start...the bus trips, the ferry trips, the 4 wheel driving, everything was fun.

Our first adventure at Wet N Wild was fabulous. We had our own area, which teachers took turns guarding, whilst everybody went riding. It was terrific. So much fun in one day. Friendships made and enhanced! Runaway Bay accommodation and breakfast was great, just the early start to a great day.

The ferry trip was also fun and relaxing, just what we needed (and they had good coffee).

Moreton Island was spectacular, crystal clear water and sparkling white sands. We won't mention the lost y9 adventure. The camp was comfortable and friendships grew. Many a game of cards was to be had when resting from swimming, snorkeling or adventuring. The food was good and plenty of it. We all needed a rest when we got home. Both year groups were wonderful on the excursion with camp staff commenting on their positive behaviours. All in all everyone had a great time overcoming challenges (like cold showers and very early mornings) and enjoying camp activities.

Leanne Firkins, Year Adviser



The senior class from the Support Unit attended the International Day of People with Disabilities celebrations in the city centre.

The students had an opportunity to participate in Zumba, watch some theatre performances and listen to some inspiring talks. They had a great time socialising with friends including former THS students.

**Gav Vanderkly,
Support Teacher**

Celebrations



Queensland Universities Excursion

THS Year 11 students, who are eligible for an ATAR and considering studying in Queensland after completing their HSC in 2019, enjoyed a 2 day excursion, with other Year 11 students from various schools along the Mid North Coast, visiting 5 Queensland universities. The students boarded the bus bright and early 4am Thursday 29 November and returned at 6.30pm the following evening exhausted, yet excited, from being exposed to what university life entails. During the 2 days representatives from each university informed our students about what their university has to offer, both academically and socially, to assist them in choosing the best study options most suitable for their career aspirations. The very busy schedule included visits to Bond University, Queensland University of Technology, University of Queensland, Griffith University Gold Coast and Southern Cross University Gold Coast. Staff and students had a sleep over at the Union College Accommodation situated within the University of Queensland which gave the students an amazing feel of university life.

A huge thanks goes to Mrs Robyn West, THSs Careers Adviser, who was responsible for organising this annual event alongside her colleagues from The Clarence Coffs Careers Advisers Network.

Adrienne Gillingham, Year 11 Adviser



Congratulations



Congratulations to year 7 student, Jade Lee, who recently took out a first place in Traditional Weapons and a fourth in the Kata section at the I.S.K.A. Australian titles! Jade has been learning karate since she was 8 years old and competed in Japan this year also.



On Saturday the 2nd of December, at his club carnival, THS student Ryan Seymour, obtained a qualifying time of 1.16.18 in the 100m breaststroke enabling him to compete in the Optus SNSW Senior State Age Championships at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Friday the 14th of December. Go Ryan!



Congratulations to our 14 Years Cricket team, who, although defeated in the semi final of the North Coast cricket competition, did it with style and great sportsmanship. Well done to this team who represent Toormina High School admirably.

Kyah Schwartz
PDHPE Teacher

In 2019, we will be introducing a new merit system to recognise and reward students participating in a range of aspects of school life. Further information will be provided in the new year.

THS Merit System

A very important part in the development of a safe and positive environment for our school community is the recognition of the efforts students make to help themselves and others during their time at Toormina High School.

To provide recognition for these efforts, a whole school Merit System will be implemented. The system aims to recognise and acknowledge students who make a contribution to their own education and the broader school community.

Students can receive VIVO points based on the behaviours outlined on the PBL matrix.

Students can also receive VIVO points for the Merit criteria (outlined below).

All students entering the school each year are placed on Maroon level.

Students will be recognised for achieving Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum or Diamond at each term's formal assemblies in the Hall.

Students will also receive recognition of achieving first, second or third in a subject once per semester at the Major Awards Assembly.

Level	Criteria	Recognition
Maroon	All students start on this level	Verbal praise
Bronze	You have accumulated 5 VIVO merit entries across any category	Presented with a certificate You will receive special recognition at formal assembly. You can spend or save your VIVO shop points
Silver	You have accumulated 7 VIVO merit entries across 3 different categories	Presented with a certificate You will receive special recognition at a formal assembly You can spend or save your VIVO shop points
Gold	You have accumulated 15 VIVO merit entries across 5 different categories	Presented with a certificate You will receive special recognition at a formal assembly You can spend or save your VIVO shop points
Platinum	You have accumulated 20 VIVO merit entries across 7 different categories	Presented with a certificate You will receive special recognition at a formal assembly You will receive an invite to a VIP event. You can spend or save your VIVO shop points
Diamond	You have accumulated more than 30 VIVO merit entries across 7 different categories and be nominated by the PBL team and endorsed by the executive.	Presented with a certificate and medallion You will receive special recognition at the major awards assembly. You and your parents will be invited to morning tea after the assembly.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR for LEARNING REWARDS AFTERNOON was full of fun activities; Masterchef, making slime and bath bombs, Christmas craft, Special Olympics plus many more!



Dance Rites

A number of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were given the opportunity to travel to Sydney to watch the 'Dance Rites' competition. Students were able to witness the powerful coming together of traditional customs and contemporary culture, with hundreds of First Nations dancers from around Australia and performers from around the world. Students also attended the NAISDA Dance College End of Year Show, 'StoryPlace' which honoured Indigenous women and the female creative force inherent in our landscape, art and stories and alive within the spirit of our young women today.

A massive thank you to Aunt Gloria who facilitated this experience for our students.

Kate Williams, PDHPE Teacher



Please 'like' and 'share' our Facebook posts, this is a free, easy form of promotion and communication for THS. The school facebook page has our logo and there is a separate library page. Also, please ensure you have the Skoolbag app on your phone as this allows us to communicate with you immediately and is also FREE.

We use both of these forms of communication in the event of an evacuation to provide information directly to parents.

Amazing Excursion

A few weeks ago Ms Elliott, Ms Thomas and I had the privilege of taking 33 year 7 students on a 4 day camp to Camp Kokoda situated in the Gold Coast hinterland. The focus of the camp was to forge friendships and build resilience. The students arrived with a garbage bag full of goods which they emptied into a backpack. They would travel with the pack for the remainder of the camp. The year was split into two groups and we were on our way. The students had to choose what food items they would need for the day and travel with those goods to the campsite. At the campsite students set tents up and stored their food items under the shelter. The students learnt how to start wood fires without matches, how to track for help and how to tell the time without a watch.

Both groups participated in a range of activities including, abseiling, zip lining, giant swing, sugar glider, low ropes and canoeing. The students conquered their fears and found out things they didn't know about themselves through these experiences. During the challenging moments the students demonstrated incredible mental toughness. This had an effect on the instructors, one who has served in the Australian Defence Force for 10 years broke down in front of the group when talking about the impact our group had on him in just the four days together. This is a testament to the amazing students we have at our school. In my time teaching i have not been away on a better excursion and i hope our students will get the chance to go there again.

Thanks to my amazing year group whose behaviour and attitude was exemplary, and to both Miss Elliott and Ms Thomas.

Adam Berrada, Year 7 Adviser



Philosothon is concerned with big questions, questions at the edge of science and reason. Each school selects between 5-8 students to represent the school and together they explore philosophical and ethical issues orally. During teams discuss four issues and the aim is to collectively come to a conclusion about the issue. The event differs from debating in that students are scored highly if they build on each other's arguments. Students can also change their mind during the course of the discussion. University based lecturers in Philosophy award points on the basis of students critical thinking, collaboration and creativity. THS recently participated and performed admirably. Congratulations team.



Religious Education

Parents/caregivers in public schools have the right to have their children receive instruction in their preferred religious persuasion, where authorised teachers of that persuasion are available.

A special religious education program is run by authorised volunteers of approved religious persuasions. Below is the list of approved special religious education programs provided at the school for 2018. Additional details of SRE programs on offer at the school can be obtained from SRE providers. Contact details of SRE program coordinators can be provided by the school if required.

Approved SRE Provider: Australian Christian Churches, Coffs Harbour Region. Link to curriculum for use in SRE classes. <https://www.nswacc.org.au/ministries/sre/>

Approved as SRE Provider for:

Anglican Church of Australia, Australian Christian Churches, Baptists Union of New South Wales, Victory Life International, Christian Brethren Assemblies, C3 Church, Churches of Christ, Anglican Brotherhood Church, Foursquare Church of the Fourth Gospel, Brethren Church of Australia, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Salvation Army and Uniting Church of Australia.

Students continue in the same arrangement each year, unless a parent/caregiver has requested a change in writing. **At any time, you have the right to change your SRE nomination or to withdraw your child from the nominated lessons. A note to the Principal will affect this change.**

If you wish to withdraw your child from special religious education, students will remain in their original timetabled classes and will engage in private study under the supervision of their timetabled teacher.

Other useful links: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/approved-sre-providers>

Presentation



The Support Unit held a presentation in the library for the Room 21 class. Congratulations to Support Teacher, Bridget Thornton, who celebrated the achievements of the students with a fantastic slideshow of work and photos from this year.

IMPORTANT DATES

THURS	13/12	Year 10	Formal Dinner
THURS	13/12		Support Unit Christmas Coffee Shop, 10am - 2pm, all welcome!
MON	17/12 - 21/12		WEEK B
TUES	18/12		Major Awards Assembly, 10am - 12pm
WED	19/12		Staff Professional Learning, 3 - 4pm
WED	19/12		Student's last day 2018
TUES	29/1		Pupil Free Staff Development Day
WED	30/1	Year 7	Year 7 first day 2019
THURS	31/1	Year 11 & 12	Year 11 & 12 first day 2019
FRI	1/2	Years 8,9 & 10	Year 8, 9 & 10 first day 2019



THS FARM

We now have ducklings to add to the Toormina High School menagerie! It is not just the students who like all our farmyard animals! Photo shows staff member, Jodie McCormick, with one of the babies.

Work at the biggest event in NSW

NSW State election

23 March 2019

Get paid to help deliver democracy.

We offer a variety of roles based on your interests and experience.

You must be on the electoral roll to work at the election.

Apply now at elections.nsw.gov.au



2019

UNIFORM SHOP Hours

21/1/19 Monday CLOSED

22/1/19 Tuesday 9am - 3pm

23/1/19 Wednesday 9am - 3pm

24/1/19 Thursday 9am - 3pm

25/1/19 Friday 9am - 3pm

28/1/19 Monday CLOSED

29/1/19 Tuesday 9am - 3pm

30/1/19 Wednesday 8am - 11am

31/1/19 Thursday 8am - 11am

1/2/19 Friday 8am - 11am

EVERY MONDAY during term
8am - 4pm

Any enquiries Karina 0468 436 217

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner have published a series of newsletter articles to support parents/carers to understand many of the issues faced by their children/ward when online.



Office of the
eSafety Commissioner

Avoiding online spam, scams and phishing

If it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

The online world provides you and your child with incredible access to communications and information. However, there are also a number of things that you must be aware of to avoid being taken advantage of.

- * Scams are ways of obtaining information or money through false means.
- * Spam is an unsolicited commercial electronic message.
- * Phishing is the use of email or SMS to encourage individuals to reveal financial details like credit card numbers, account names and passwords or other personal information. Phishing messages can look like genuine messages from a real bank, telecommunications provider, online retailer or credit card company. Discuss these actions with your child to avoid this illegal activity.
- * Avoid giving out personal information like your email address or mobile phone number publicly. Check the terms and conditions of anything you sign up for. You may be consenting to receive commercial messages.
- * Do not accept friend requests or respond to text messages from people you don't know.
- * Remember that banking institutions will never contact customers by email seeking specific account details. Call your bank directly if you have any concerns about a contact claiming to be your bank.
- * Ensure that you only disclose financial information on websites that you trust and that have secure payment facilities. Look for a URL that begins with 'https' and padlock symbols once you get to the payment page to check it is likely to be secure.

If your child has been affected by spam, scams or phishing, they can report scams to ACCC Scam Watch, as well as visiting the esafety website.
eSaefety.gov.au

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please notify the school on 66 533 077 of any changes to your student's contact details, address, medical issues, emergency contact person, etc.

Students who have changed address and are eligible for free bus travel should update their details at

<https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#.updateDetails>



Would a \$1,000 scholarship help with your studies?

FACS Scholarships

Will you be studying in Year 10, 11 or 12 in 2019?

You may be eligible if:

- you are living in or waiting for social housing
- you receive another type of housing help from FACS
- you are living in out-of-home care.

**Applications are open from
17 December 2018 to 18 January 2019.**



Find out more at
www.facs.nsw.gov.au/facs-scholarships