

NEWS LETTER

TERM 4 | WEEK 4 | NOVEMBER 2015



CREATING OUR FUTURE

IMPORTANT DATES

MON	2/11 - 4/11	Year 12	Higher School Certificate Examinations
MON	2/11 - 13/11	Yr 7 - 10	EXAMINATIONS
TUES	3/11 - 4/11	Year 9	Uni Bound Residential Program
THURS	5/11	Year 10	Police Liaison Officer Visit
		Year 12	Senior Science Assessment Task 1 due
FRI	6/11	Year 12	Mathematics General Assessment Task 1 due
SAT	7/11		P&C 'Masters' BBQ
MON	9/11 - 17/11	Year 8	Science VALID Test
FRI	13/11	Year 12	Exploring Early Childhood Task due
TUES	17/11		2016 Yr 7 World Orientation Day
THURS	19/11	Year 11	RRisk Program
		Year 12	SLR First Aid Task due
		Year 12	Drama Studies Assessment due
FRI	20/11	Year 9	Excursion
		Year 12	PDHPE Assessment due
		Year 12	Ind.Tech Assessment due

Lego League Grant

At the end of term 3 Toormina High School submitted an application for a Robotics grant with Lego First and Google Australia. We were successful in obtaining a EV3 Lego Robotics kit and entry to the 2016 FIRST Australia Lego League.

This competition involves students all over the world competing in coding challenges involving problem solving using science, technology, engineering and maths skills.

Thanks to the excellent efforts of staff and students a YouTube video was part of the application. Special mention to Mrs Roberts and Mrs Wilson for their time in producing the video and Ella Burgun and Oriana Watts for their involvement in the making and writing of the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drLWNmqJReA>

Photo below shows Oriana Watts and science teacher, Sean Harrington with the Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot which has touch, colour and infrared sensors.

Jenny Bryant - Head Teacher Science





LOVEBITES 2015, comments from students.....

'We discussed various relationship issues and how to recognise them.'

'I learnt more about protecting myself.'

'I liked the fact that we learnt about relationships before we get in a serious relationship.'

'We learnt that most men are respectful, it is only a few that cause problems.'

'I liked learning new things and discovering ways you can get help and help others.'





Year 9 participated in the Toormina High School Love Bites Program in weeks 2, 3 and 4 of this term. This is the first year 9 group to partake in the program and their maturity and participation was excellent.

Love Bites is a respectful relationships program that focuses on identifying characteristics of a healthy relationship as opposed to an unhealthy relationship. Our year 9 students developed the skills to ascertain what a safe, equal and healthy relationship is; developed respectful conflict resolution skills; and problem-solving abilities.

The Love Bites program consisted of a morning session involving two interactive educational workshops on Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault. In the afternoon our year 9 students participated in an art workshop where they were able to express their ideas on a canvas. These paintings will be displayed around the school in the next few weeks.

A huge thanks is extended to our wonderful Mid North Coast Health workers and educators and Senior Constable Snow for presenting Love Bites. Thanks also to Laura McRae, Sheridan Watkins, Brad Poidevin, Matt Ryan and Cheryl Cutter.

Adrienne Gillingham, Love Bites Coordinator.

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Term 4 is proving to be a busy term with students and staff preparing for yearly examinations, excursions being planned and orientation days for Year 6 students in full swing. On Tuesday 27th October we had a wonderfully successful Year 6 into 7 Information Night with over a hundred parents and students present. On the night parents had an opportunity to meet Mrs Leanne Firkins, who will be Year 7 Year Advisor in 2016, as well as other welfare, teaching and executive staff. Equally important was the opportunity for parents and students to visit the 'stalls' which highlighted many of the important community connections we have at Toormina High School including the P&C, Headspace, the Uniform Shop, Busways, Galambilla and the Bongil Bongil Musicales. If you or your child missed this opportunity then feel free to contact the school with any questions you might have about your child's transition to high school. I look forward to working closely with the parents and students of Year 7, 2016.

Dr Joanne Bellette
Relieving Principal

Bongil Bongil SCHOOLYARD TWITCHATHON

Photos below show year 7 science students bird watching in the THS playground as part of the Bongil Bongil Schoolyard Twitchathon.



ZONTA

Each year Zonta International, Coffs Harbour, present an award for young women in public affairs.

Gypsy-Lee Musumeci pictured left with Zonta member and THS Deputy Principal, Kathy McDowell, has represented THS at the interview stage and we wish her luck in the public speaking section.

REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS!!!

HOMEWORK CENTRE IS OPEN EVERY THURSDAY, 3.30PM - 5PM, THS LIBRARY in TERM 4. An extra day will be available in 2016 if needed.

This is a wonderful asset and a great opportunity for students to receive extra tuition from teachers from a range of faculties, for further information, phone Gaye Devoy, 66533077.

Skoolbag is a FREE app for your smartphone, ipad or tablet which allows you to receive alerts and information instantly from our school.

We are encouraging everyone to please install Skoolbag. This is an easy, cost effective means of communication with THS. Simple instructions are on the THS website or contact us for help on 66533077.

2016 Years 7 - 10 EXCURSION, 5 DAY SKI PROGRAM IN JINDABYNE!

In 2016, Toormina High School is visiting the snow!

In response to student, parents and staff feedback we have decided to collapse our year excursions into a 'Junior School' (Years 7 – 10 2016) excursion which will enable us to offer a broader range of opportunities and locations for our students to visit. The 2016 excursion is a fantastic chance for students in the junior school to learn how to ski or snowboard with their peers in the NSW Snowy Mountains.

The excursion will take place from Sunday 21st August – Friday 26th August 2016 and involves a 5 Day Ski Program at Perisher.

The cost per student includes the following:

- 5 nights' **accommodation**
- All **meals** (6 dinners, 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches)
- 5 day **lift and lesson passes**
- Ski **equipment hire** including a neck warmer and drink bottle
- Supervision and professional graded lessons with experienced Perisher program staff
- Evening recreation activities
- Secure and private storage facilities at the snow fields
- Transport to and from ski tube terminal including entry and tickets

Lift, lesson and ski tube terminal passes purchased at Jindabyne would normally cost over \$700 alone without the additional cost of accommodation, meals, ski equipment hire etc.

The cost of the excursion will be \$1000 per student and we will look to begin fundraising in the New Year to cover the cost of transportation to and from THS.

As we have limited places available the first 100 students to return their permission notes and deposit in 2016 will be allocated seats on the bus with some priority being given to Year 10 2016 students. Beyond that a waiting list will be established.

We will be offering families payment plan options in order to meet the cost of this excursion beginning in January 2016 which will enable you to pay off the cost over a period of approximately 7 months.

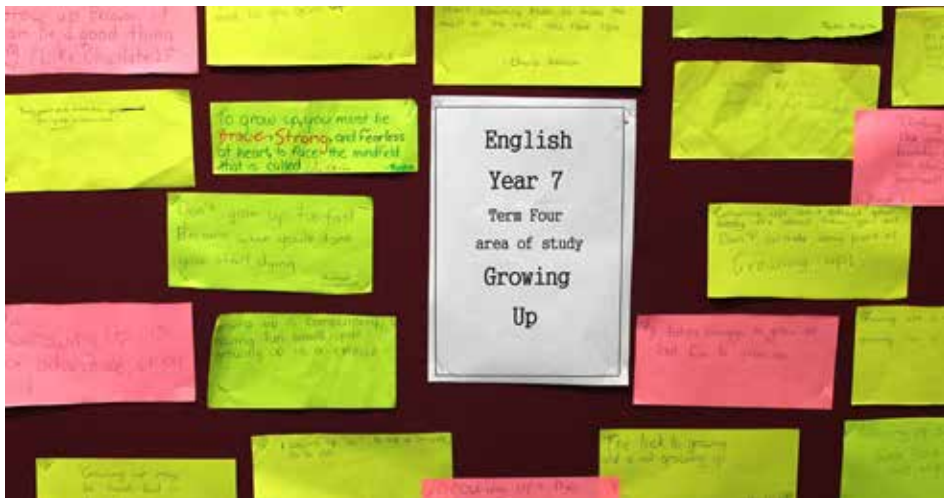
We are thrilled to offer this amazing opportunity to our students and look forward to a wonderful trip in 2016!

Laura McRae - Head Teacher Welfare



WHITE CARD COURSE

Recently these students attained a White Card, or Construction Induction Card, congratulations to: Indii-Rose Doyle, Charles Thomson, Jason Donovan, Geoffrey Devoy, Tahlia Trimboli, Kye Reid, Tom Koppman, Blake Adams, Brock Larnach, Aaron Hollier, Jayden McNally, Josh Larnach, Lachlan Styles, Damien Dickson, Travis Lee, Joshua Carter, Innocent Mbuto and Jack Briggshaw.



Ms Mullan's Year 7 English class have been exploring the concept of 'Growing Up' and have some of their thoughts on a notice board in the English area.

To grow up, you must be **brave, Strong,** and Fearless at heart, to face the mindfield that is called **Life...** -Torsho

Don't Be Afraid to Grow up Because it can Be a good thing. (♥) (Like Chocolate) ♀

Mistakes are a part of life, you will make more and more as you grow up.

✓ Growing up is AMAZING! Just Hold on Tight and enjoy the Ride! ♥

Growing Up is an adventure, enjoy it. -

✓ It takes courage to grow old but fun to grow up.

Growing up is like going down a road, try to stay on track and don't go down the wrong road.

Bullying Forum

Recently I attended a forum which focuses on the policies and procedures schools have in place to support students and address issues of bullying. At Toormina High School our Code of Conduct clearly outlines behaviours so students feel safe and that they have a right to learn without disruption or intimidation from others. The Bullying No Way! website has provided some great advice about how to talk to your child about bullying:

The definition of bullying is given as: Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons.

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include: mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance); not liking someone or a single act of social rejection; one-off acts of meanness or spite; or isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

However, these conflicts still need to be addressed and resolved. It is suggested that parent's should:

1. Listen calmly to get the fully story.
2. Reassure your child that they are not to blame.
3. Ask your child about what they want to do about it and how you can help.
4. Visit <http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au> to find some strategies
5. Contact your student's Year Adviser.
6. Check-in regularly with your child.

Source: www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

Laura McRae

Head Teacher Welfare

2015 Year Advisers:

Year 7 - Sheridan
Johnston (nee Watkins)

Year 8 - Adrienne
Gillingham

Year 9 - Joe Anderson

Year 10 - Matt Francis

Year 11 - Matt Ryan

MATHEMATICS COMPETITION



Toormina High School students from year 7 to year 11 sat the ICAS Mathematics Competition earlier this year. Many of our students did very well in the competition receiving Merit, Credit and Distinction Awards. The Principal's Award went to Luke Zerbe in Year 9.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the competition. Students who received awards above participation were: Tiana-Anne Scrimshaw and Ryan Gilchrist.

Pictured : Luke Zerbe, Hunter Bake Smith, Mycah Richards, Matthew Donnan, Thomas Anderson, Johan Newman, Danielle Tate, Luke Field, Tye Shipman and Zachary Brooke.

Absent from photo Ryan Gilchrist, Luke Field and Brennan Munday.

Renee Dawson - Mathematics Teacher

We give a GONSKI!

The staff at Toormina High School have gone 'green' this week to celebrate the excellent educational outcomes students are achieving, thanks to the support of available Gonski 'A Fair Go For All' resources. The NSW Teachers Federation Representative Daniel Laing has been astounded by the impact that these Gonski resources are having on Toormina High School students. "Each year we are seeing more Gonski resources available and consequently an overwhelming improvement to their educational needs. Our students are benefiting from the investment of Gonski funding and we are celebrating the amazing things that are happening here by wearing green, akin to the green 'I give a Gonski' logo.

We have at Toormina High School, an excellent team of dedicated staff that have developed new and innovative learning Gonski programs. With parent and community support we are achieving great outcomes for our students at Toormina High School".

Mr Laing highlights The Aboriginal Boys Horticultural Program and The English as an Additional Language or Dialect Learn to Swim Program as being just two examples of Gonski funded programs that are ground breaking initiatives at Toormina High School. Both of these programs target the importance of student wellbeing, the expansion of our rich diversity and assist us in delivering education to a high standard.

The Toormina High School community wish to take this opportunity to thank local State and Federal coalition members for the respective support for Gonski funding and the many new learning programs it is able to fund. Gonski Week started on Monday 26 October and concluded on World Teacher Day on Friday 30 October.



THS staff members from front left: Gillian Kelly, Alina Hill, Kathy McDowell, Janelle Bailey, Daniel Lang, Kathy Adesso and Linda Berry.

Hello,

P&C held a meeting on Wednesday 21st October. I am very happy to report that we had 3 parents attend over and above the committee. We were able to hold a meeting!! It was a very productive meeting. We had a representative from the Teachers Federation attend as well as executive staff. It is always good to hear from these people to know what is happening in our school. We had discussions regarding school uniform (see Uniform Shop News) and the **Masters BBQ being held 7/11/15** (please contact me if you can give an hour or 2 to help) and a new policy regarding mobile phones at school.

If you would like to see what we do as a P&C I encourage you to read the minutes of the meeting which will be available on the website. Our next meeting will be a social gathering for Christmas. Time, date and place to be advised. **Parents very welcome.**
Michele Bake

Uniform Shop News

Just a quick update on the junior and senior girls skirts....at last!!

Our skirts are being made as I write this and should be sent to us in December. Depending on delivery dates the skirts will be available either at the end of the term or during the shop trading times before school goes back in 2016.

These times are Tuesday 19th January to Friday 22nd January 2016 and Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January 2016. Shop will be open 9am till 3pm on these days. Once school goes back times will be 8am to 5pm on each Monday.

Please keep an eye out for more Uniform News!

Michele Bake
0468 436 217

CANCER COUNCIL WALK

Giina,

We did it. It was long, it was hot and there are some hills I wish never to revisit, we had a detour due to active police operations at Observatory Hill (bullet proof vests etc), I lost my Garmin Vivo fit somewhere between Kent St and ANZAC Bridge, had a chat with Jeff Fenech, bought cold things from children along the way from children either for pocket money or raising money for orphanages etc. and Amanda has severe sunburn (again) and more blisters than toes on her feet, but we did it! We had a photo with Cancer Council Bear after completing the walk and having our passbook stamped as completed.

Yaarri yarraang

Penny Grace - LOTE Teacher



SPIRIT OF TOORMINA AWARD

Congratulations for showing a fantastic attitude that embodies the Toormina High School philosophy of caring, sharing and participating.

Chris Rogers
Shannon Dolling
Matisse Herdegen
Nadine Hughes
Orion Parkes
Georgie Blaikie
Aidan Loveday
Brock Larnach
Joshua Larnach
Blake Adams
Caylum Ames
Patrick Connor
Tom Koppman

BBQ MASTERS

Year 11 Adviser, Matt Ryan and Assistant Year Adviser, Karina Menzies with the help of year 11 students, Nathan Pollitt, Jesse Kirkman and Tunai Tarrant ran a 'Masters' BBQ recently to raise funds towards the cost of next year's formal.



RRISK Program

Risk-taking is an essential part of learning and personal development for young people. Teenagers need to explore their own limits and abilities, as well as boundaries set by adults. They also need to express themselves as individuals. It's all part of their path to becoming independent young adults, with their own identities. Unfortunately, the risk involved in different activities and settings can often be poorly judged by young people and they are over represented in every category of risk taking resulting in injury and trauma.

The RRISK Program aims to reduce risk-taking behaviour associated with alcohol and drug use, driving and partying amongst year 11 students and our students will be participating on Thursday 19th November at CHEC. Further details will be provided to parents closer to the date.

Source: http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/risktaking_teenagers.html



YEAR 6 INFORMATION NIGHT

Toormina High School welcomed the parents of the incoming Year 7 Cohort last week.

The parents received an information pack, heard from our executive staff and met our P&C representatives. There were information stalls from Headspace, bus companies, Galambila, the canteen, SRC and parents could even have prefects install the Skoolbag app on their phones. Thanks to all the staff involved in the organisation.



YEAR 10 STUDY COASTAL MANAGEMENT AT SAWTELL

Year 10 held a very successful excursion to Sawtell recently as part of their studies on Coastal Management.

Photo on left shows Michael Qoudling sharing his wisdom with a group of students.

Photo by Taitum Browne, year 10

YEAR 8 EXCURSION REMINDER!

Please return your 4 notes as soon as possible.
Adrienne Gillingham, Year Adviser.

PARENTS

Should your student need to be transported to hospital from the school please be assured that any costs incurred are covered by THS insurance. If you receive an invoice from the NSW Ambulance Service please contact the school.