

CHRISTMAS 2015

Every year we celebrate Christmas in our newsletter.
This year our theme was...

AWKWARD FACULTY PHOTOS!



The science faculty did photos of 'before & after' - NERDY FUN!





Above are the THS Library staff, who feel they need help!

The mathematics, LOTE & Aboriginal Education team have gone 'old school' with Santa hats.





The English Faculty made a human Christmas tree (or a simile of one)!



Learning Support got their holidays mixed up?! And PE below went for the Mardi Gras theme!





NEWS LETTER

CHRISTMAS 2015



The Support Unit chose 'onesies'! And carried it off brilliantly (maybe)!



The Executive Team expressed their style, wit & sophistication by dressing as a Christmas tree!

NEWS LETTER

The Admin staff are their usual joyous selves!





The cleaning staff have 'Cousin Itt' joining their team next year!



The TAS faculty chose a classic Christmas theme.



Careers & Crest Mentoring don't seem to know what is happening?!?

2015 PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY SPEECH by Dr Joanne Bellette

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to Toormina High School's Presentation Assembly for 2015. I'd like to offer a particularly warm welcome to our guest speaker Rebecca Pryce and our distinguished guests including Mayor Denise Knight, Senior Constable Snow, Mr Michael Gibb, and representatives from Legacy, Novaskill, Bonville Sawtell Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Sawtell who have graciously agreed to join us today in recognising our students' achievements. I must also make mention of the principals here today who represent their school from within our local Bongil Bongil Community of Schools - Mr Bradley Lyne from Boambee Public School, Mr Peter Rundell from Crossmaglen Public School, Ms Alison Turner from the Coffs Harbour Learning Centre, Mr Michael Cheers from Sawtell Public School, Mr Peter Miles from Toormina Public School and Ms Sally Ryan from William Bayldon. Welcome and thank you for taking the time to help us recognise the outstanding achievements of some of our students at Toormina High School, many of whom graduated from your schools first.

2015 has been a fantastic year for Toormina High School. We've enjoyed great success in academic endeavours, on the sporting field and in extra-curricular activities such as the creative and performing arts, public speaking and debating competitions. Our Student Representative Council and Student Executive Team have continued to learn and grow as they develop the necessary skills and attributes to become the future leaders of our school and eventually our broader community. Throughout the year students have also demonstrated how much they care about each other and their community through fundraising efforts which have raised many thousands of dollars for charities such as Rotary's Shelter Box, the Red Shield Appeal, Shave for a Cure, the Kokoda Foundation and most recently the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal toy drive. In this way 2015 has been no different to any other year as Toormina High School students have continued to demonstrate the compassion, care, acceptance and understanding for which they are renowned.

Today's assembly is a celebration of achievement; an opportunity to recognise those students who have excelled academically, in sporting endeavours or in cultural events in 2015. However, I'd like to take a moment to congratulate all of our students at Toormina High School for the completion of another year of their education.

Many of us shrug at the thought of completing a year of schooling and dismiss this achievement as unnoteworthy, after all today you are surrounded by over 720 other students who have also achieved this same endeavour. So why celebrate it? This is not a question you would ask if you were one of the 32 million children in the world who dropped out of school this year, nor if you were one of the 61 million children who did not even manage to enrol. We are privileged indeed when we shrug our shoulders at education and forget that in some countries the rates of education for women can be as low as 13% and around 122 million youths around the world remain illiterate.

Education is not something to be dismissed. It offers us opportunities and insights, it allows us to learn, discover and grow as individuals and societies. If, as Nelson Mandela tells us, education is our most powerful weapon for changing the world... then sitting before me are our change agents. Students, you are our future, our beacons of hope and your education is your guiding light.

So this year, when you reflect back on the wonderful things you have achieved count amongst them the things you have learnt in school and be thankful for the chances that your education has and will give you. But in so doing also take a moment to think of the child in Cambodia who has never opened a book or the girl in Qatar who will never enter a classroom and consider how your education could change their lives forever. And this year, when I reflect back on the wonderful things we have achieved at Toormina High School I will count first amongst them the education of each of our students.

Thank you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from our family to your family!

For all important dates & information - www.toormina-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Have a safe & happy holiday!