

NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners

TERM 1 | WEEK 5 | February 2020



CREATING OUR FUTURE

Congratulations to the many people involved in the Valentine's Day fundraiser.

\$980 was donated to the Heart Foundation by Year 12!





Lions Youth of the Year Competition

On Tuesday, February 18, Bonville/Sawtell Lions Club held their annual Youth of the Year competition dinner.

Toormina High School was represented by Ryan Gilchrist, Amy Newcombe and Deborah Ngongo. All three students delivered speeches on topics they believed to be important. They spoke with passion and were exemplary representatives of our school. Ryan was awarded the overall winner on the night and will represent the Bonville/Sawtell Lions Club in the next round on March 14. The school wishes Ryan all the best for the competition and would like to thank the Lions Club for their ongoing support of our students.

Lisa Mullan, Head Teacher English



North Coast Girls Cricket Reps

Toormina High School had two representatives in the North Coast Girls Cricket team playing at the CHS State Championships in Bathurst last week.

Asha Lloyd, year 8 and Ellena Cheers-Flavell, year 11, played 6 limited overs games over 4 days. Ellena was also the team's vice captain. Great representatives of THS!



Swimming Champions

CONGRATULATIONS

12 Years Kodie Hilton

Charlotte Beadle

13 Years Fyn Harrison

Eva Knight

14 Years Oscar Hickey

Lily-Grace Herden

15 Years Braydan

Paunovic

Montana Anderson

16 Years Mitchell Hickey

Sharny Williams

17 Years Ryan Gilchrist

Sahra Stevens

Adam Berrada,

Carnival Coordinator



WELCOME Eline!

Eline Praille in year 11 is an exchange student from Belgium. Eline will be in Australia for 5 months as part of the AFS Intercultural Programs Australia.

We hope the weather improves so Eline can enjoy our coastal lifestyle! Welcome to Toormina High School Eline!



Sista Speak has started up for 2020. This is an Aboriginal girl's well-being program designed to inspire and motivate young Aboriginal women about the importance of education, improve self-esteem, learn about career options and understand positive choices. The girls enjoy coming to Sista Speak and are proud to be associated with the group. It enables Aboriginal girls from different years to connect and form a support group within the school. Photo above shows girls with Gumbaynggirr Language Teacher Penny Grace and Aboriginal Education Officer Gloria Mercy.

YEAR 7 2020

Head Teacher Wellbeing, Scott Gale, Tanya Cheers, Year Adviser, our school Counsellors and Gaye Devoy, Supervisor of Girls provide pastoral care to ensure the physical and emotional welfare of your child. They are assisted in this support by staff listed below.

Aunty Gloria is our school **AEO** (Aboriginal Education Officer). AEOs work closely with teachers to promote Aboriginal education, encourage students and support parents.

SLSO's School learning support officers (formerly teacher's aides), under the supervision and direction of a teacher, assist in classroom activities, school routines, and the care and management of students in a variety of ways.

Our school learning and support team plays a key role in ensuring that the specific needs of students with additional learning and support needs are met. Suze Hardy is our Relieving Head Teacher Learning and Support. Suze supports teachers in identifying and responding to the additional learning needs of students.



Students from Mrs Sharkey's 7Tech1 class above, preparing some pizza muffins for their class morning tea to be hosted early next term for invited guests!



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Parents - please 'check in' with your student by asking 'open ended' questions...

- Tell me about the best part of your day.
- What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- Did any of your classmates do anything funny?
- Tell me about what you read in class.
- Do you think math [or any subject] is too easy or too hard?
- What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?

All year 7 classes have students from different primary schools. The Bonding Day next week will enable students to expand their friendship groups through fun team building activities.

If you did not receive a YEAR 7 ASSESSMENT HANDBOOK, please ask at the office.



You will receive a statement of fees in the next few weeks. Payments can be made online through the school website or at the school office.

If students are handing in notes and money at the office, please make sure student is fully aware of what they are handing in or paying for, to avoid confusion later.

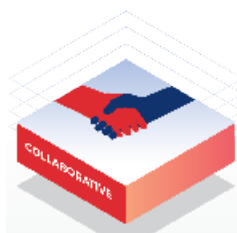
On Friday 21st February, Year 7 students received their vaccination information packs. The vaccination pack includes a parent information sheet and a NSW School vaccination consent form. We ask that these vaccination forms be returned to the school office by the 11th March. These vaccinations will be occurring toward the end of March. Also, a reminder for parents to have your Expression of Interest for the Year 7 excursion in as soon as possible. We are just short of ensuring the camp will run and need to finalise arrangements so parents and carers can begin making payments.

Lastly, there have been a number of reports of inappropriate use of social media outside of school. I encourage all parents to view the eSafety Commissioner website www.esafety.gov.au and use this tool to make reports of any material that may be concerning.

Scott Gale
Head Teacher Wellbeing

Please download the FREE Skoolbag communication app to your phone. We use this app for reminders and alerts. Follow Toormina High School on Facebook (look for the school logo).

Community Charter



We work in partnership to promote student learning.



We treat each other with respect and fairness.



We communicate in a positive and constructive manner.

The NSW Department of Education has introduced a School Community Charter (PDF 1.4 MB) for all members of NSW public school communities. It has been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

What our schools provide
NSW Public Schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when students, parents and schools work together. The School Community Charter aligns with the department's Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022. We all play a part
Parents and carers play an important role in the school community. The School Community Charter informs parents and carers on how to engage with NSW public schools. Read the School Community Charter (PDF 1.4 MB) to ensure you understand how important it is to create a positive learning environment for our students.

Parents and carers can expect:

to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning
communication from teaching staff will be timely, polite, informative and solutions focussed
professional relationships with school staff will be based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect
to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process.

Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces, people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

Unacceptable behaviour in our schools

Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



Regular attendance = Better learning

Often students and parents do not see that regular and punctual attendance at school is important. Nothing could be further from the truth. Besides missing out on valuable content – students miss out on information, discussion and skill development that is the pathway to success and the development of high self-esteem. The following chart highlights the impact of non-attendance and partial attendance over time. Viewed in this context, the implication of regular absenteeism is startling.

The chart shows the cumulative effect of persistent non-attendance over the period of schooling from Kindergarten to the end of Year 10.

Days Absent	Total Days	Number of Terms	Number of Years missed
1 day per week	451	9	2 years 1 term
1.5 days per week	676.5	13.5	3 years 1.5 terms
2 days per week	902	18	4 years 2 terms
3 days per week	1353	27	6 years 3 terms
5 weeks per term	1127.5	22	5 years 2 terms
Average 5 days per term	220	5.5	1 year 1.5 terms
Average 10 days per term	440	8.8	2 years 1 term
Partial absences			
1 hour late per week	75 days	1.5 terms	
½ hour late per day	188 days	3.75 terms	Almost 1 year
1 hour late per day	376 days	7.5 terms	1 year 3 terms

Visitors from the U.S.A.

Our school was very lucky to have First Nation Elders from South Dakota, USA, share their experiences and stories with our students recently as part of their Australian visit.



Student Leaders



Congratulations to our year 7 representatives voted by the peers to join the 2020 Student Leadership Team. Ella Grace Chowdury, Lily Champion and Fyn Harrison will join students from each high school year in this team which provides an opportunity for student views to be presented and also to gain leadership experience.

THANK YOU Toormina High School

from the Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council Facebook page

Our Lockie Skinner was invited along to Toormina High School to speak to the male Aboriginal students in the BroSpeak Program. BroSpeak is an excellent program where the male students have a culturally safe space to share what's on their mind and listen to guest speakers each week around motivation, support and encouragement.

Lockie said "Looking around the room as I presented and seeing the young people and how they actually listened to me was crazy, and after the session all the lads came up and thanked me, shook my hand and yarned about parts of the presentation that hit them, made me feel like a million bucks! To think I motivated or inspired someone today was such a great feeling. I think we all need to remember what we have lived, and learned. Our stories have the power to lift people without us even knowing it."

We really want to thank Toormina High School for the invitation. The kids were deadly!

Principal's Column

We have now been back at school for 5 weeks and our students have started to settle in to their lessons. Last week the School Executive met with Mrs Jenny Murray (Director, Educational Leadership) to discuss and explore data related to our school and to look at some targets that we have set to improve our school over the next three years. One of those targets is student attendance. Some of our students are regularly late to school. Being late to school every day by 15 minutes adds up to a total of 9 days absent from lessons per year (almost two weeks). Having a day off a fortnight (approximately 87% attendance) over a student's entire career correlates to over 260 school days (over 1.25 Years) absent from kindergarten to Year 12. The same can be said about students who truant classes. A student who truant 1 period every day for a year misses out on about 34 days of learning. All of this adds up and places the student behind in their studies, making success at school more challenging. Students are required to attend all classes each day including roll call. Students who do not attend roll call create issues around the accuracy of their attendance at school, indicating a potentially worse attendance result than what it really should be.

Students in Year 10 and 11 will need to meet the HSC Minimum Standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC from 2020. Together with the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, the HSC minimum standard is part of an effort to improve the literacy and numeracy outcomes for students.

To show they meet the HSC minimum standard, students need to achieve Level 3 or 4 in short online reading, writing and numeracy tests of skills for everyday life.

Some students with a disability studying Life Skills courses may be exempt from meeting the minimum standard to receive their HSC credential. Students in Year 10 and 11 who have not yet met the Level 3 or 4 requirements will receive additional support through the Mathematics and English Faculties. Students who are identified as needing intensive assistance to achieve this requirement may be required to attend Wednesday after lunch for further targeted assistance. From 2020, only students who meet the HSC minimum standard will receive a HSC credential. Students do not need to meet the HSC minimum standard to:

- study HSC courses
- sit HSC exams
- receive HSC assessment and exam results
- receive an ATAR
- receive a Record of School Achievement.

I have again had a request from Toormina Gardens Shopping Centre for our students not to engage in anti-social behaviour in or around the centre before and after school. The main issue is about scooters and their use inside the centre. This includes riding, carrying and pushing the scooter. Several people have sustained injuries from scooters hitting or running into them. It is important to remember that our community judges our school on what they see. I urge all parents to talk with their child about behaving appropriately in our community.

Mobile phones and their impact on learning have been the subject of conversation for a long time in schools. After consultation and discussion with parents, staff and students we recently signed an agreement with an American company, Yondr, to assist us with reducing phone use at school. Reducing phone use is about getting quality teaching time back in the classroom. It's about developing children's skills in non-mobile phone related communication in the playground. We are planning to commence rolling out Yondr to students in Term 2 this year. Further details for parents will be sent shortly. Students and staff will undertake some training around the use of mobile phones and specifically the use of the Yondr pouch device. I will provide you with further details as we get nearer to the actual implementation date.

Paul Humphrey, Principal

Toormina
High School

UNIFORM SHOP

Shop open
every Monday

8:00am -

12:00pm

every Thursday

12:00pm -

4:00pm

Manager

Jess 0468 436 217

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon	2/3 - 6/3	WEEK B
Wed	4/3	Year 7 Bonding Day
Thurs	5/3	Botanic Gardens Career Day
Mon	9/3 - 13/3	WEEK A
Mon	16/3 - 20/3	WEEK B
Mon	16/3 - 20/3	Year 12 Hospitality Work Placement
Tues	17/3	Year 7 Vaccinations + Year 8 'catch ups'
Wed	18/3	P&C Meeting, all welcome! 5:30-7:00pm



Please 'like' the Toormina High School Facebook page (look for the school logo) and 'share' our posts - this is a free, easy way to show the world our achievements and activities!

The THS Library also has a Facebook page.

PLAY AFL IN 2020

SAINTS

BOYS AND GIRLS WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US!

AUskick IS FOR 5-8 YEAR OLDS

JUNIOR AFL IS FOR 9-14 YEAR OLDS

Auskick Socks included in registration fee and playing top provided on the day. Shorts and footy boots are all the equipment you need to provide. **Cost is \$100 for the season.**

Junior AFL Socks and shorts included in registration fee and playing top provided on the day. Footy boots are all the equipment you need to provide. **Cost is \$150 for the season.**

Training is Tuesdays, Richardson Park Sawtell 4pm - 5pm. **Games Played** Sunday mornings!

REMEMBER you can use your active kids voucher:
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>

Any questions please contact Adrian Carle 0400 468 808
sawtelljuniorsaints@gmail.com

sawtelltoorminajuniorAFL