

NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners

TERM 1 | WEEK 9 | March 2021



CREATING OUR FUTURE

SHAVE FOR A CURE and CRAZY HAIR

Toormina High School community raised \$1,965.67 for the Leukaemia Foundation through our recent 'Shave for a Cure'.

Thank you and congratulations to all involved! Especially the 'shavees': Daniel Ingram, Reece Hargraves, Michael Quodling, Bridget Thornton and Dumie Brabander.

Also a big thank you to our staff hairdresser, Jodie McCormick, and Mari from Hidden Image Hairdressers in Park Avenue.



Peer Support at THS

This program provides students with a supportive, fun and engaging environment where young people can develop understanding, skills, attitudes and strategies to improve their mental, social and emotional wellbeing. All peer-led modules are designed to equip young people with the skills to deal proactively with life experiences.

During Year 7 students meet in small groups 5 times per term with their peer leaders and Ms Katie Griffiths, our peer support coordinator. Sessions run for 50 minutes and during this time students work through activities created to build resilience, understanding and awareness across many life experiences. This includes but is not limited to: bullying, friendships, goal setting, being grateful, positive mindset and strategies for coping with stress.



In year 9, students who have expressed interest in leadership and mentoring nominate themselves to train to be peer leaders. Students learn key skills around supporting our year 7 students, working as a team, handling group sessions, co-leadership and problem solving.

During year 10, the trained peer leaders are briefed and debriefed on sessions with year 7 to help them become effective leaders and mentors.

NAPLAN 2021 more information for parents on the back pages of this newsletter.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

Our school will be participating in NAPLAN Online between 11 and 21 May 2021.

Excessive preparation for NAPLAN Online is not recommended. Students can use the public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in the NAPLAN Online tests.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN Online, please contact your child's teacher.

Exemption - If you want your child to be exempt from sitting NAPLAN 2021, please contact the Principal ASAP as a signed consent form is required before April 23.

Regional Lions Youth of the Year



Congratulations to School Captain, Ellena Cheers-Flavell, who has won the Regional Lions Youth of the Year competition. Ellena will now progress through to the District level to be held at Forster in March.

Youth of the Year is designed to encourage student interest in leadership and the qualities required to take an active and constructive role in the community. A high level of academic, leadership, sporting, public speaking and citizenship achievement is sought in its potential winners. By emphasising these qualities the Lions Club hopes to provide outstanding role models for the youth of Australia.

Good luck Ellena!

Digital Thumbprint



Congratulations

Congratulations to year 11 student, Mitchell Hickey, who came 6th in the 7.5km Swim and 8th in the 5km Swim at the National Open Water Swimming Championships on the Sunshine Coast!



Each year group attended Digital Thumbprint presentations during Week 8. Digital Thumbprint supports regional communities with in-school sessions focused on safety in the digital world, taking students through the skills of creating strong passwords, enabling privacy settings on social media, and understanding just how easily and far things can spread when shared on the internet. **Please ask about the presentation and continue this conversation with your student.**

Chess Challenge against South Grafton High last week. Yay! First Victory for THS Chess Team 2021. Congratulations to Holly Trimble and team!



Love Bites

Our school is proud to be a leader of the Love Bites program in the region, delivering it to our students for over 15 years led by teacher, Adrienne Gillingham. Lovebites is a respectful relationships program covering topics of domestic violence and consent. We thank the NSW Police for their support, in particular, Senior Constable Snow for her invaluable contribution in coordinating the delivery of this program.

We were also so proud to see our students and staff showcased in the film shown at the recent Charity Love Bites Ball. This short video can be seen on our Toormina High School Facebook page. Congratulations to staff and students involved!

Laura McRae
Head Teacher
Wellbeing



YOUTUBE.COM

Love Bites. Proudly supported by NAPCAN.

The Coffs Coast Committee Against Relationship Violence and Sex and Relations



Mid North Coast Representatives

Congratulations to our **Rugby League** players selected for Mid North Coast teams: Luke Jones, Caleb Rhodes, Lachlan Smith, Zach Stevenson, Liam Hand, Travys Downton, Riley Spokes, Diem Mason-Woods.

Touch football players also selected for Mid North Coast teams: Myndee Morris, Jorja Barnes, Lyla Kelly, Isabelle Eggins, Navy Neun, Ella Stock, Lily Davis-Jamieson, Lachlan Smith, Reef Sjoberg, Kobe Saxby and Koby Irvine. Well done THS!

Didgeridoo Workshops



A group of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys at Toormina High School have been involved in didgeridoo workshops this term. Through the expert teaching and guidance of World Renowned Yidaki musician Kristian Benton, and knowledge passed down from thousands of years of history and culture through many generations, the boys are crafting their own didgeridoo from raw materials with a mixture of old and new technology.

With patience and care the boys have devoted these lessons to sculpting and crafting these impressive pieces of art and are sharing their skills and encouraging each other to improve.

The advantage of these workshops are that the boys get to share their experiences, trace family connections, have a yarn and share some laughs in a positive environment.



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YEAR 7 BONDING DAY

This day is designed to develop positive peer relationships as a cohort through team building and bonding activities. Although we couldn't go to Boambee Reserve our year 7 students had a great day at school.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Students received a Value+ Card for 'Right Place, Right Time' and were then in the draw for prizes. Prize winners were drawn at the Week 8 Assembly.

Year 11 - Ben Tucker, Liam Betts

Year 9 - Lilliana Davis, Eligh Duncan, Charlotte Cooper

Year 8 - Zac Moore, Riley Breanan

Year 7 - Lillian Cruwys, Joesph West, Faith Hardcastle, Declan Peters

Focus area for Weeks 9/10 is 'Pouch It'. Students will be issued a Value+ Card when they show a pouched phone when requested. The next draw will be during the Week 10 Assembly and this will be our big Easter draw.

DATES

Mon	22/3 - 1/4	Parent Teacher Phone Interviews
Mon	29/3 - 1/4	WEEK B
Fri	2/4	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Mon	19/4	PUPIL FREE School Development Day
Tues	20/4	First Day Term 2
Mon	20/4 - 23/4	WEEK A
Mon	3/5 - 14/5	Examinations Year 7, 8, 9, 10

The Barney Miller Surf Classic is on again this weekend, 26 – 28 March 2021.

The weekend fundraising includes Friday night Mexican Night, Saturday Night RSL Trivia, garage sale all weekend, Board Swap see Barney Miller Surf Classic on Facebook and Instagram for all the details.

Zach Moore, year 8 and Poppy Browne, year 9, Toormina High School students, will be performing in the band Sidetrack't at the presentation on Sunday afternoon.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Please advise the school with the reason for a student's absence by-

- * handing in a note to the front office staff or the roll call teacher on the first day back
- * providing the reason by answering the text message sent from our office when student is marked absent in roll call
- * emailing the office toormina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
- * sending a message through the Skoolbag app or Sentral Parent Portal app

At Toormina High School, we are Safe, Respectful Learners and learners need to be here to maximise their potential.

Karina Menzies, Attendance Officer

TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

OPEN every Monday
8am - 12pm,
every Thursday
12pm - 4pm

For more information
Jess 0468 436 217



Please 'like' and 'share' our posts on the Toormina High School Facebook page (look for the school logo) as this is a free, easy way to show our community all the great activities at THS!

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Street Art Project

The Street Art Project that ran in Term 4 2020 involved seven students from the High Potential Gifted Education Program.

Attending four sessions at Open Studio under the tutelage of artist Ash Johnson, students learned basic practical street art skills in visual design, lettering, stencilling, canvas works, and wall murals. A final student-designed and painted 6m x 1.8m mural has been produced for permanent display at THS (completed March 2021, yet to be installed).

The mural theme 'Stand Together', is a vibrant, collaborative piece which celebrates collectively, the student's Aboriginal cultural heritage, the diversity of young people attending THS, and inclusion of all, which they feel their school promotes. Students were mentored regarding graffiti vandalism versus street art as a legitimate creative outlet. Over the sessions, their confidence using spray cans, and their engagement and collaboration with tasks and each other grew.

Congratulations Hayden!



Last week Hayden O'Rourke, year 11, officially received his Australian Business and Community Network Foundation Scholarship. Hayden will receive \$7,000 over the next 3 years to support his education.

WALK

Mathematics teacher, Katie Griffiths, is raising awareness for ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) by participating in 'Walk for Autism'.

<https://www.walkforautism.org.au/fundraisers/katie...>

Link below is a video about the fundraiser.

`<iframe width="500" height="281" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/etqgBUNo1A8" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen=""></iframe>`



Trent Doyle from Boambee Public School was at THS for a meeting and took the opportunity to catch up with some of our 'Boambee' students.

Public education building communities!

Tutoring Program

Our tutoring program enables students to optimise their learning in small groups. Photos show teachers, Maurice Podbury and Lisa Mullan with their students this week.



Lots of Socks

The aim of Lots of Socks day is to raise awareness of Down Syndrome. It is a day that can promote discussion about the acceptance of all our differences and what makes us fantastic as an individual. The THS Support Unit incorporated Lots of Socks into Harmony Week and year 8 student, Maddy Raven Post, has been hard at work colouring posters.

Premier's Debating Challenge Years 11/12

On Friday March 19th, Toormina High's Senior Debating team participated in round 1 of the Premier's Debating Challenge. Sharnte Cannon, Mariah Anderson, Ellena Cheers- Flavell and Katie Homes competed against students from Macksville High School on the topic that all high school students should have the option to work from home one day per week. Toormina High successfully presented the negative case to win the debate. Congratulations girls! The team will come up against Camden Haven High in term two. Students in years 7-10 will also be taking part in round robin debates for the Premier's Debating challenge next term. Best of luck to all the students involved.

Anita Milne, Debating Coordinator

Harmony Week

Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.



At Toormina High School EVERYONE BELONGS!

To celebrate, the Student Leadership Team hosted a Novelty Olympics each day at lunchtime. We had 9 countries competing with 10 students in each team. The activities included Tug O War, Handball, Trivia & Dodgeball (egg and spoon race was cancelled).

Bronze- Chile

Silver- Jamaica

Gold- USA

Thank you to all participants, helpers and spectators for making this such a fun Harmony Week event.

Sheridan Johnston, PDHPE Teacher





After-School Goori Learning Centre



For more information please contact Ashleigh Moore
literacy@bmnac.org.au | 0402 639 565 | (02) 6652 5080 |



Please contact
to register



**Bularri Muurlay
Nyanggan
Aboriginal Corporation**

MONDAY

3.15PM - 4.15PM

Boambee East

**Community Centre, Cultural Centre,
Boambee East**

TUESDAY

3.30PM - 4.30PM

Yarrawarra

Corindi

WEDNESDAY

3.15PM - 4.45PM

Wongala Easte

**(LALC Hall), Coffs
Harbourt**

NAPLAN Online – Information for parents and carers

What is NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Students participate in NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools and education authorities with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Moving to NAPLAN Online

Schools in all states and territories are moving from paper tests to online tests. It is expected that all NSW schools will transition to NAPLAN Online by 2022. The move to NAPLAN Online brings new benefits for teachers and students.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

More precise results with an adaptive design: Tailored tests adapt to a student's performance and ask questions that match the student's achievement levels.

Better engagement: Research into online assessment indicates that students engage well with online tests as the questions are tailored to their achievement levels.

Tailored testing

Tailored testing provides a more precise assessment of students' performance. Students at each year level start with a similar set of questions. Depending on the number of questions they answered correctly, the next set of questions may be more, or less, difficult.

A student's NAPLAN result is based on both the number and difficulty of questions the student answers correctly. A student who completes a more difficult set of questions is more likely to achieve a higher score.

Watch a video (3:06 length) to learn more about tailored testing – <https://youtu.be/oGFsaJAM3Ew>

Supporting your child

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

Excessive preparation or the use of coaching providers is not recommended.

Students can use the public demonstration site to familiarise themselves with the tools and type of questions they will experience in NAPLAN Online – <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Students' digital skills

The digital skills required to complete NAPLAN Online are skills that students use in everyday classroom activities.

Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete the test. The online test is not about keyboard skills (just as the paper test is not about handwriting skills).

Withdrawals and exemptions

You can withdraw your child from NAPLAN tests.

A student may be granted a formal exemption if they have:

- a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the tests, or
- recently arrived in Australia and have a non-English speaking background.

Contact your child's school for further information and to complete the parent/carer consent form.

Practice tests

NSW schools participating in NAPLAN Online will participate in practice tests between 22 March and 1 April 2021.

The practice test is a trial-run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN Online in May. It is not an assessment of student ability.

Participation in the practice tests is highly beneficial as it allows schools and students to become familiar with the online assessment platform tools and processes.

NAPLAN Online 2021 test window

Practice test window: 22 March – 1 April

NAPLAN Online test window: 11 – 21 May

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is nine days instead of the three days provided for the paper test. This is to give schools flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

What if my child was absent on the day of a scheduled test?

Where possible, schools may arrange catch-up tests for individual students who were absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN Online test.

Catch-up tests are not permitted after Friday 21 May 2021.

COVID-19 advice

Parents should keep students at home if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms and monitor NSW Health advice on COVID-19 case locations across the state. For more information, visit

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19>.

Your child's school will be required to conduct NAPLAN testing in accordance with the latest NSW Government COVID-19 advice.

Year 3 writing test

The Year 3 writing test is conducted on paper at schools participating in NAPLAN Online. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests will be online tests.

Privacy

NESA is responsible for the collection of personal information from NSW schools to be used during NAPLAN testing and reporting.

All data collection for NAPLAN is managed in accordance with NSW and Federal privacy legislation described in NESA's privacy management plan, which can be found on the NESA website:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/who-we-are/privacy/naplan-privacy>

Results

Parents receive two reports showing their child's achievements in NAPLAN; the individual student report (ISR) and additional student report (ASR). The ISR and ASR should always be interpreted with care. Teachers will have the best insight into a child's educational progress.

Reports are usually dispatched to schools towards the end of Term 3. Schools then distribute the reports to parents.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.



NSW Education Standards Authority
NAPLAN team

Phone: 1300 119 556 or 02 9367 8382

Email: naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au