Upcoming Events

February
19  Book Club orders due back at school
24  ArtsLink Performance—Crazy Science
24  Metropolitan West Swimming Carnival

March
14  P & C AGM @ 7pm in the school staffroom—All welcome!
15  Inter-house Cross Country
18  Leadership Badge Presentation
22  School Photos
22  Helping with Reading Workshop @ 2pm or 6pm
24  Last day Term 1 Easter Vacation
25  Good Friday—Public Holiday

April
11  First day Term 2
11  P & C Meeting @ 7pm in the school staffroom
Beginning of year information – Week 2

Learning focus

Each term your child’s Class teacher will publish a summary of the main Key Learning Areas for the term. This will be titled..... “What I am Learning”. The Key Learning Areas will be English, Mathematics, Science and History / Geography. This information will in future terms be sent home by the end of the first week of the term.

The Learning focus information sheet for each class was sent home Monday this week. There was a bit of delay as we had been waiting to see what might happen with Day 8, but once we knew that there would not be a change to class arrangements for 2016 we began working to publish this information for parents.

If you have not yet received your copy of the Learning focus for the term, please ask your class teacher for another copy.

Parent information sessions

PARENT ORIENTATION SESSIONS

In the next week—fortnight teachers will be organising Orientation sessions for their classes. The purpose of these information sessions is to outline classroom routines and expectations. Please keep a look out for information for each class as this year Class teachers are organising session times for their own class.

PARENT READING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Our Master Teacher Mrs. Angela Burgess will be offering these information sessions for parents in Term 1 (March 22: 2-3pm & 6-7 pm). Flyers will be sent home and sessions information advertised in the weekly newsletter closer to the date.
School Vision

Last year a recommendation from our School Review was development of a revised school vision. This work is to involve staff, parents and students. On the Pupil Free Days our staff began working on their part of the process. We also advertised last year that parents would be given an opportunity to be part of a shared visioning process and we announced that to do this we would randomly select 1/3 of our families and ask them to take part in a telephone survey. Following the random sampling telephone interviews, any parents who were not included would be given the opportunity to be involved and have their say.

In order to assist with this process, I have published the questions which will be asked during the telephone interview in this edition of the newsletter for your consideration. I will continue to publish these questions in subsequent editions until the process is complete. I will also notify you through the weekly newsletter, the timeframe for the telephone interviews so that you may know when you may expect a call and I will notify parents selected by letter prior to the time of survey so that you may have time to prepare.

Parent visioning questions

1. List fair and equitable strategies that will enable positive and effective parent and staff communication (i.e. two way conversations):
   - Day to day issues effecting a student’s schooling
   - Emerging issues related to individual students
   - The Individual students learning achievement each Semester.

2. What processes should the school put in place to share information with parents about the school improvement agenda?

3. What information about individual students’ learning progress do parents wish to have communicated?

4. What are appropriate ways in which parents can make contact with the school to resolve concerns or issues?

5. How can the school best communicate information to parents about school processes for managing student behaviour?

REPORTING TO THE OFFICE

When coming onto School Grounds during the day, parents are asked to come directly to the Office.

Education Queensland policy states that the Facilities Manager—Principal must know who is on site at all times. This policy is so that the Principal can manage the safety of the students and this can only be managed if parents first report to the Office. One of the main reasons is in case of an emergency—staff must work to ensure the safety of all and this can only be done with an accurate knowledge of who is on the school grounds at any given time. We thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.
Settling into new environments

Attending school is an important and exciting stage in a child’s development. They will have opportunities to interact with other children and educators, and benefit from a stimulating learning environment. Some children embrace this change with an enthusiasm that can leave parents feeling confident and comfortable, and perhaps even a little left out. Other children may feel afraid, upset or anxious. It may be the first time they have been in the care of adults who are not part of their family, or the environment could be noisy and crowded compared to being at home, making it all feel a bit too much. It is actually quite common for children to show some signs of discomfort when they first start in a new program. From about six months old, most children begin to show distress when they are away from their parents or carers, as they don’t yet have a separate sense of self, so can feel a part of them is missing. While this can be worrying for parents and carers, it is normal for children to find the transition to childcare upsetting and it is important to remember the distress is often short-lived. Here are some tips which can help if either you or your child are feeling anxious.

Facilitate your child’s bonding with the teacher.

Kids need to transfer their attachment focus to their teacher to be ready to learn. If you notice that your child doesn’t feel good about school, contact the teacher immediately. Just explain that they doesn’t seem to have settled in yet, and ask for the teacher’s help to reach out to your child so they feel at home. Your child’s teacher will understand and pay extra attention.

Facilitate bonding with the other kids.

Kids need to feel bonded with at least one other child. Ask the teacher if she’s noticed who your child is hanging with. Ask your child which kids he’d like to invite over to play. If he isn’t comfortable with how the other child would respond to a playdate invitation, you can always invite the mum with her child for ice cream after school, or the entire family for Friday night dinner. You don’t need anything fancier than pasta, and by the end of the meal, the kids will be racing around the house like long lost buddies. And who knows?

Give your child a way to hold onto you during the day.

For many kids, the biggest challenge is saying goodbye to you. Develop a parting ritual, such as a hug and a saying: “I love you, you love me, have a great day and I’ll see you at 3!” Most kids like a laminated picture of the family in their pencil box. Many also like a token for their pocket, such as a paper heart with a love note, a tissue with a lipstick kiss, or a pebble you found on the beach together.

Calm their fears.

Most school anxiety is caused by worries that adults might find silly, such as the fear that you’ll die or disappear while at school. Point out that naturally people who love each other don’t like parting, but they’ll have fun, you’ll be absolutely fine, the school can always contact you, and your love is always with them even when you aren’t. End every conversation with the reassurance “You know I ALWAYS come back”. 

Help your child laugh out his anxieties so they doesn’t have to cry.

Giggling is your child’s way of venting anxiety, and any child who is having a tough school adjustment is feeling anxious -- fearful -- inside. Give them as many opportunities to giggle as possible. If you can spend some time every morning playing a chase game in your house, or whatever gets them giggling, you’ll find that their separation from you at school goes more smoothly. (But NOT tickling, since that seems to involve a different area of the brain and may even build up stress hormones.)

Leave without fanfare.

Tell your child you are leaving and that you will return, then go—don’t stall.
All positions will become vacant and open for nominations. Following is a list of the positions which will become vacant:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Uniform Convenor
- Fundraising Convenor
WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received an award on assembly this week:

Year 1
Kaiden Kelly  Remembering difficult vocabulary during art
Sophie Broekhuizen  Enthusiasm during science
1/2
Sarah Kercher  For an excellent result on her spelling test!
Pip Seymour  For an excellent result on her maths pre-test

Year 3/4
Clayton Steels  An amazing start to Year 4. Congratulations!
Kae-Cei Pearce  Putting in a huge effort at the start of the year

Year 5
Katie Martin  Working hard to complete set tasks

ICT
Being competent when logging onto the computer:
Phoenix Andrew  Lachlan Buchanan

Gotcha Draw
Congratulations to the following students who were the winners of the weekly Gotcha draw:
Being organised:  Katie Martin
            Bailey Hughes
            Tahryn McLeod
            Hayley Daniells
            Sophie Reilly
Caring for our school:  Darcy Cubit
            Bessie Reiser

Citizenship & Achievement Award
Kindly Sponsored by the Toogoolawah IGA
Xavier Bowles

What lovely addition to Toogoolawah State School Xavier has been.
After arriving here last year, he quickly established himself as a student who takes his learning seriously and immediately showed that he was someone from whom good work could always be expected.
Nothing has changed this year in Year 4. He is still working to a high standard, always trying to produce only his best. His bookwork is immaculate, a great example to others who have not yet mastered the art of neatness. Xavier is well aware of how others should be treated and is respectful to both other classmates and adults alike. His manners are spot on and he is always well dressed in his uniform.
Responsibility seats well with Xavier and he can be relied on to complete his work and to act appropriately at all times. Already seen as a leader in his classroom by his classmates, Xavier should plan to follow this direction. His common sense and his understanding of the need for hard work, makes him an excellent candidate for a school leadership position in the future.

Congratulations Xavier. This is a well-deserved acknowledgement of your achievement.
Learning in Year 1 Term 1

We are learning to be responsible for our belongings.

Every day we practice our sight words.

We are learning to write our letters correctly.

We made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.

On Tuesday’s we have literacy groups. We read, write, play literacy games and more.

We enjoy doing Reading Eggs on the computers.

Mondays we read with Year 6 students in the Library.
Somerset Regional Council Kids Club

Looking for something fun to do afterschool?
Come along to our new Kids Club kicking off in Toogoolawah!

**When:** Fortnightly on a Wednesday during school term, 3.30pm – 4.40pm

**Where:** Toogoolawah Playgroup Building, McConnell Park, Cressbrook Street.

There will be tons of different activities, fruit for afternoon tea, and a chance to meet other kids and have some fun after school.

Please bring a hat and some water and a parent/carer to sign you up for the first day and to sign you out at the end of each day.

Spread the word to anyone who you think might be interested. For more information phone Anglicare Southern Queensland on **1300 114 397**. Check out the term one program below:

**10 February**
Minute to Win It Challenge

**24 February**
Survivor – Outwit, outlast kids style afternoon

**9 March**
Trash to treasure – upcycling reusable items in your own unique way

**23 March**
Easter craft and scavenger hunt

Kids Club is free after school joint initiative of Somerset Regional Council and Anglicare Southern Queensland, and is hosted by Toogoolawah Community Connection Point.

Somerset Regional Council SPORT AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

Get Out Get Active

Free Touch Football and Little Athletics programs at Toogoolawah State School

- Touch Football – Friday afternoons, **Term 2**, 3.30pm-5pm
- Little Athletics – Friday afternoons, Term 3, 3.30pm-5pm

Get Out, Get Active is part of the Queensland government’s Start Playing, Stay Playing initiative to increase and enhance women’s and girls’ participation in sport and recreation; this program is specifically for girls however boys will also be able to participate in the program should numbers permit.

Registration forms are being sent home with today’s newsletter.

Active Ageing Program

- Free schedule of activities for residents aged 50+.

Contact Somerset Council for more information.
Government Grant Information

Grants are available from the Local, State and Federal Governments for Community, Sporting and other Programs. Listed below are a few of the Grants available. Please contact the Somerset Regional Council for more information on grants available to you.

Somerset Regional Council

Community Assistance Grants: The current round closes on 5 February 2016; the subsequent round closes on 22 April. Community organisations are invited to apply for grants from Somerset Regional Council to assist in delivering projects, events or services that provide community benefit. For more information visit http://www.somerset.qld.gov.au/cap.

Somerset Excellence Bursaries: Assistance depends on the level of representation in academic, cultural or sporting fields; ranges from $100 to $600; applications are open year-round. For more information visit http://www.somerset.qld.gov.au/cap.

Queensland Government

Get in the Game:
- Get Started Vouchers ($165 vouchers available for children to participate at sport and recreation clubs); Round 7 vouchers are fully allocated. The next round opens on 13 July 2016.
- Get Going Clubs: Round 5 opens in July 2016.
For information on all of these grants go to https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sportsfunding/getinthe.game

Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF): Applications for the next round close on 28 February 2016. Grants up to the value of $35,000 (inclusive of GST) are available. For more information go to http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/corporate/sponsorships-and-grants/grants/community-benefit-funding-programs

Young Athletes Travel Subsidy (the Travel Subsidy): Eligible athletes and officials are able to apply for assistance for attending one eligible event at each of the three tiers, once every two calendar years. The following funding is available for each tier of competition: - $200 for state or state school events - $400 for national or national school events - $600 for international events. For more information visit https://www.qld.gov.au/youth/sport-recreation-leisure/young-athletes-travel-subsidy

SAND SAFARI

Presented by Streets Ice Cream

Enter the enchanted wonderland of Sand Safari presented by Streets Ice Cream as Surfers Paradise over 3 weeks transforms into a precinct of art inspired by sand and sea.

Sand Safari will feature DreamWorks heroes from Kung Fu Panda, Madagascar, Shrek and more, carved in large sand sculptures at the Australian Sand Sculpting Championships along the foreshore and 22 mini sculptures in the Sand Trail from Tweed Heads to Loganholme, plus some exciting brand new elements including Sand and Sea themed sculptures, art murals and photography exhibitions.

Sand Safari includes:

- Sand & Sea Sculptures (5 to 28 February)
- Pop-up Photographic Galleries & Photography Competition (5 to 20 February)
- DreamWorks mini Sand Trail across the Gold Coast (5 to 28 February)
- Mural Art (5 to 7 February)
- DreamWorks 2016 Australian Sand Sculpting Championships (12 to 14 February)
- Sand Art Activities and Workshops (12 to 26 February)
- DreamWorks Heroes Exhibition (17 to 28 February)

Price: Free
Address: Throughout Surfers Paradise
Phone: (07) 5504 3700
Website: http://www.surfersparadise.com/whats-on/free-events/sand-safari
TOOGOOLAWAH PLAYGROUP

- Playgroup is for babies and children up to 5 years of age.
- It is a great place for your child to play, learn and make friends.
- Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers all enjoy catching up at playgroup as well.

**WHEN**: Pop in between 9am - 11:30am Fridays (school terms)

**WHERE**: Green building at end of driveway at McConnell Park

**Cost**: $2 per visit plus an $8 term levy

**First 3 visits are FREE!**

Contact Sarah Stevenson on 0418 732 082 for further details or pop in one Friday to check it out.

*Like the Toogoolawah Playgroup on Facebook!*

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**EXCITING CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM**

**MARCH - JULY 2016**

Queensland Running’s 2016 Cross Country season commences on Saturday 5 March at Teralba Park, Mitchelton. The season runs from March through to the end of July and is of great assistance to all students in preparing for the school, district and regional cross country competitions.

Our competition includes distances ranging from 500/800metres (alternating each week), 1000, 1500, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000 and 8000 metres. The 3000 and 5000 metre distances are run together as are the 4000, 6000 and 8000 metre events. In these races, runners can complete the lesser or greater of the of distances, depending on their comfort zone.

The runs are conducted at various parks in and around Brisbane, including Chermside, Toowong, Pine Rivers, Sandgate and Yeronga, to name a few.

For those unable to run, but still wishing to participate, a 500 metre non-competitive walk is programmed each week. Take your pram or dog for a wander through one of these beautiful parks, it is a popular event for families and best of all, it is free!

We have very reasonable rates to run and they include as many events as you would like to run over the afternoon, 10 years and under run for $3.00 for the afternoon, $4.00 for 11 to 17 years and adults pay $5.00. If you register for the season for the cost of $12.00, your runs cost $1 less each afternoon and you run your first day for free.

We also have family registrations or individual runners can pay up front for the season.

It is a great family afternoon where mums and dads can run with their children.

If you have any enquiries, please check out our website: www.queenslandrunning.com.au or call 0418 113 377.

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**Fun for all ages and fitness levels**

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**Expression of Interest**

**Saturday Morning BootCamp**

Starting first Saturday of March

7:00am start

Cost $10.00

If you are interested please txt your name to: 0417 839818

Donna Gottschall: One2One Fitness

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**Toogoolawah PICTURES**

**Sat., 13th Feb - pg**

Doors: 7.00 pm  Movie: 7.30 - 9.30 pm

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**Sat., 20th Feb - m**

Doors: 7.00 pm  Movie: 7.30 - 9.40 pm

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Child to High School: $6

Adult: $8  Family: $25

Snack Bar. Hot Dogs & Pop Corn

Alexandra Hall, T’wah

Inquiries: 0438 149 954
Helping children with - Reading

Toogoolawah State School
Would like to invite
Parents and Caregivers
to an information session on

Helping your child with reading

Presenter: Angela Burgess (Master Teacher Esk and Toogoolawah SS)
Date: Tuesday 22nd March, 2016
Times: 2.00 p.m (afternoon session) or 6.00 p.m. (evening session)
Location: Master Teacher Room

Cut here and either return form to Toogoolawah State School office or phone your details through to 54234111

Name:_____________________________________________________________________________________
I will be attending the afternoon/night session.
I have child/children in grade/s __________

****** Please RSVP with questions by Thursday the 17th March******

I would like information on:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________