



From the committee

Welcome back to school everyone!! We are all excited about the year ahead. Thank you so much to all of the teachers, parents and carers that attended our **Cheesy Welcome** night. It is always nice to catch up with other members of the Tuntable School community to chat about what we can all do as a collective to better our space and our children's school experience.

Some housekeeping:

- A reminder to everyone that we want to be a **"nude food"** school. That is, no packaging in lunchboxes where possible. This continues to support our ethos as a sustainable and environmentally friendly collective.
- See the **after school travel / bus board** information inside.
- Inform the office if you don't want **your contact details** distributed to all families – these will go out next week so let us know right away.
- Call the school by 10am if your child is **not attending**. We need to log a reason (eg 'sick', 'spending time with visiting family') and who has informed us. While we understand that our children need the occasional day off, it is important that attendance is regular.

We would like to make **roster days** easier for all families so that they feel like they can support the school in any way that they can. Some of you are already supporting the school either in the garden, the kitchen, in the classroom, with shopping or washing, and that has been amazing!!

We will be putting a black board up outside the art room with a list of "jobs" that allow parents to tackle a few smaller jobs rather than feel like they need to complete a full day, which as we know can be daunting for parents of young children or those with work commitments. Either way, being a parent-run school, we love and need your support. Watch this space...



This year, we would like to make sure we celebrate all things important to you and your family. Do you have a celebration that you would like to see the school and students come together to celebrate? Let one of the committee members know, so that we can put it on the calendar.

Just a reminder to bring a **gold coin** for your children's photos last year. The jar for these is in the office. The money raised goes to SRC for the flying fox the kids want to buy.

School calendar

Pamper the parents
Wed 14 March

Committee meeting
Every Wednesday
from 21 Feb

Team building
Committee and staff
Thursday 29 March

Easter holiday
30 March – 2 April

Last day of term
Friday 6 April

Holidays 7-29 April

Family work day and meeting
29 April

Term 2
Start: Monday 30 April
End: Friday 6 July

Term 3:
Start: 30 July



Welcome to **Janelle Schafer**, our new Administration Assistant. She will be in the office on Tuesdays,



Wednesdays and Fridays, and Kirrily is in on Mondays and Thursdays.

Lastly, if you don't already know, we have a **Facebook site** - have a look at to see what it is all about. Most parents have signed a permission form to say whether they allow their child to be on this or not and this will be on our revised enrolment form, but in the meantime, please return the permission note attached to this newsletter.

We are always on the lookout for great **Relief Teachers**. If you know a teacher who would fit into our school culture, tell them to send us an email.

A big THANK YOU to **Preschool** for buying a shade cover for the sandpit and contributing to our garden. It is good fun having you in the garden with us on Thursdays

We sadly say goodbye to **Micah** and **Luca** who have gone to Coffee Camp PS and Lismore. We will miss you!

Welcome to Petria and Polly who have joined our committee. Petria is also our Treasurer-in-training.

You may have heard about our scary incident on Wednesday when Tigerlilly was hit in the head by a soccer ball – a complete fluke accident – and ended up going to Lismore Base in an ambulance as a precaution. The staff and teachers coped well with the situation and thankfully, Tigerlilly is feeling much better now.

Cheers, *Nicole*

After school travel plans

If your child will take the school bus and has never had a school bus before, you need to apply online via Transport NSW. (Call 131 500 if no internet access.)

Update details here as well if anything has changed.

Children moving from year 3 to year 5, no longer need to re-apply for a bus pass.

There is a grace period at the start of the school year to allow passes to be received. Tell the driver if your child's hasn't arrived yet.

Here at school, we have a master list which states which children *regularly* take the bus each day. Please inform us once your child has set plans.

We don't need to know if your child walks or is picked up. However if there will be a change to what is usual, tell the office so we can write it on the 'bus and after school travel' board. This is on the wall by the office and is where teachers get the latest information at the end of the school day.

Please call Kirrily or Janelle if you have any questions.

Straddie or...?

As an outcome of the Family Meeting, we are possibly looking for alternative destinations to going to Stradbroke Island for the family camp in September/October each year.

We all love Straddie but it can make it difficult for everyone to attend due to extra ferry costs and the difficulty of fitting a whole week camp around other commitments.

Don't worry, this is just investigating other ideas – any suggestion will go to a family vote before a decision is made.

Proposals for alternative places should be emailed to the school by Wednesday 28 February. (Rough costs would help.)

Deborah's kindy news

Welcome to all Kindies and Kindy Parents!

The beginning of the school year is always filled with excitement and anticipation and especially so for the Kindy children. They have settled in so well.

Our main focus this week has been on classroom routines, expectations, getting to know each other, and of course, having lots of fun!

To help the children learn to work independently, a number of activities have been set up on our shelves that cover all aspects of the curriculum. Examples include: water pouring exercises, hand washing, hammering, maths and literacy and art.

We are always looking for 'bits n bobs' to add to the collage trolley as well as small jugs, trays and baskets. Before you discard these, please think of us!

In these first few weeks, our learning focus is on friendship, caring and sharing. We will then move onto a unit of 'Belonging'. This will involve a program of home visits where we visit all the Kindy homes (if convenient) over the term.

The Kindy home visit program has a number of benefits for their integration into school:

- Socially, after they begin to know each other at school, they can then learn more about each other in their own home environments.
- Each child has the opportunity to be 'master' of their own environment as they show peers around.
- They will explore families different to their own.

The program will begin on Tuesday 13 February with a visit to Frankie's house.

Please let me know as soon as you can if you need to change your allocated date.

The following week we will visit Sebastian on the Tuesday and Ruby on the Wednesday.

Due to Cath's timetable, we will not be able to walk the distance to Sebastian's and Ruby's so will do relays in our cars to get the children there.

You might have heard their letter-sound chants, a much-loved part of our day! So far we have



learned: a, m, t, s, i, . This means – great joy – they are just beginning to read 2 and 3-letter words!

Happy Birthday to Frankie and Theo!

Sun-shower Blessings! Deborah





Jessica's lower news

It's great to be back here!

We are exploring our imaginations and discovering the wonders of learning. Finding our favourite stories and choosing books we love will

open up our world. Why read boring books when there are so many fantastic ones out there?

Students can borrow library books on Fridays. Send book and bag back weekly (or on Mondays) so your child can experience a variety of books regularly. Visiting libraries and knowing what to find there is a great life-skill to give your children.

Soon you'll receive an invitation to our *Ridiculous Reading Morning*. At this stage it is a Wednesday morning but let me know if this doesn't suit you so next time we can change the day.

Please start conversations with your child about favourite books/reading material so that all children are bursting with book banter. Watch out for your invite!

We're looking for parents to run sport or physical activities during lunch. This could be a way for you to connect with students and staff and strengthen that link between home and school...

Learning Goals

We have been talking about what we want to get better at and talking positively about our learning. Building confidence and reading fluency is my goal for the class this term. If you want to know about your child's individual learning goals, call to arrange a meeting - it'd be great to discuss what goals you have for your child this year.

Hope to see you at our *Ridiculous Reading morning* in Week 5, if not before.

Jessica

Emmy STEM Supreme

Hello Tuntable School community! I have joined the team teaching STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) on Thursdays.

As some of you know I am Akash's wife (and Yoshi's mum) and volunteered teaching Science with the Uppers last year. This year we will conduct lots of experiments, begin exploring Science theory and build some interesting projects. The focus throughout the year will tie in with the general themes of each class.

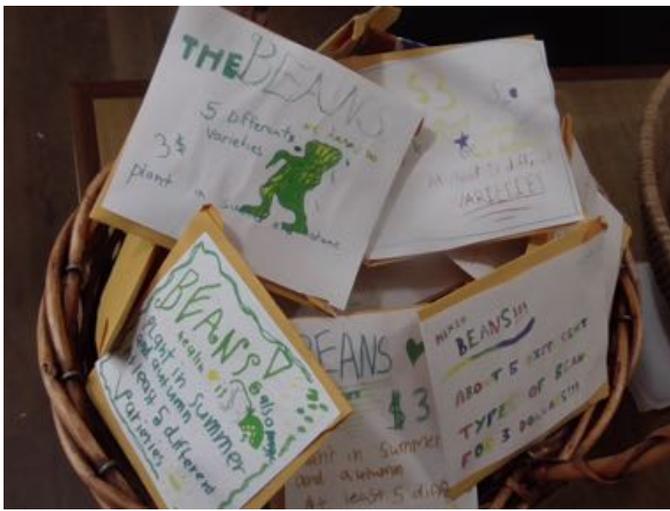
In my previous roles I have worked as a high school Science and Geography teacher and as part of the Merri Creek Management Committee ecology team in Melbourne. I am particularly enthusiastic about ecology, fungi and botany but

am a general science enthusiast. I love seeing kids faces light up with new discoveries and watching them think through scientific questions.

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to join us for a class please feel free to come have a chat.

Emmy





Nicola's garden news

Welcome back! The SEE Program has a few exciting projects, guest speakers and excursions planned for 2018. This year we want to keep an ongoing record of how much food our garden produces, and work out how much money we have saved by growing our own. We have already been busy harvesting, drying and sorting a wide range of bean seeds.

We are learning that seed-saving counts as “producing a yield” and is an important skill to carry into the future. We have been exploring the notion of “heirloom” varieties (seeds that grow ‘true to type’).

Seed-saving is also one of many ways to earn income from acres, and to this end we are offering packets of seeds for sale, containing at least five different varieties of bean, for \$3 a packet. Please support this worthy venture and give your children the important message that (should they wish to participate in the money economy!) seed-saving is a viable earning option.

This term the SEE Program will also see our school participating in the GREEN INNOVATION AWARDS, in one or more of the following categories: 1) Waterways management, 2) Waste management, 3) Green products or recycling used in building or packaging, and 4) Biofuels/renewable energy.

The lowers are already recycling milk bottles in an effort to deter rats from eating our corn, and the uppers will attempt to make a mini bio-gas digester. Both classes will be making “bottle

bricks” in an effort to recycle soft plastics – we can build with them!

On 21 February, we will meet Jo Low Impact (BW picture below), a woman from Lismore who has lived for more than three years without money. Our students will be meeting English outcomes by generating interesting questions to ask Jo, interviewing her, and recording her answers on video camera. Parents interested in meeting Jo are invited to join us, and if you can't be with us on the day and have any questions for Jo, please pass them on to your children.

This term we are aiming to go on two excursions – one to the Lismore Recycling Centre (isn't it good not to have to say “dump?”) and another to Lismore Council to hear about how water is captured, stored, treated and distributed in this shire.

A BIG THANKYOU to Tigerlily again, and to Nicole, for coming in to help us in the garden, and in gardening class respectively. It is so lovely to have parents involved in the school.

Nicola



Active Kids Rebate

The NSW Government will provide a rebate through a voucher system to parents/guardians of school enrolled children. The \$100 voucher can be used for registration and participation costs for sport and fitness activities.

The initiative will reduce the barriers to participation and help change the physical activity behaviours of children and young people in NSW.

The majority of children and adolescents in NSW are not meeting the daily recommended levels of physical activity. In 2015, more than 1 in 5 children in NSW was overweight or obese.

Every family in NSW with a child enrolled in school from Kindergarten to year 12 will be eligible for the Active Kids Rebate.

It will not be means tested and one voucher will be available for every child in the family annually over the next four years.

There will be no limits on the number of applications per family, as long as every child is enrolled in school.

The voucher can be used for registration or membership fees for after-school, weekend sport and structured physical activity programs, including swimming lessons, from a wide range of providers.

The vouchers will be redeemable through approved sport, fitness and physical activity providers upon registration.

The Office of Sport will work in partnership with Treasury and Service NSW to implement the systems required to enable families to access their voucher through an on-line process.

The Office of Sport will work closely with approved sport, fitness and physical activity providers to support the largely volunteer workforce in implementing streamlined systems to allow users to redeem their vouchers upon registration.

From January 2018 families will be able to claim their voucher/s online from the NSW Government.

Applications will be facilitated by the Office of Sport. More information will be available on the website as the program details are further developed www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids.



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"The Inaugural MIMI Shield Tournament"

Saturday 17th of Feb

Soccer Games:
* 1 pm Juniors
* 2 pm Women
* 4 pm Men

A Family Fun Day In Honour of our friend and valued member Simone Rutley

BBq, Canteen, Bar, Raffles and music....
All funds raised will be directed to charity

KARATE CLASSES

Nimbin/Tuntable Creek/Lismore

Under school age:
Mondays 2.15-3pm @ Birth & Beyond, Nimbin \$10

Primary school children to 11 years:
Mon & Fri 3.30-4.25pm @ Nimbin Main Hall \$12

12 yrs old to Adults:
Mon & Fri 4.35-6pm @ Nimbin Main Hall \$15

Homeschoolers Class:
Fridays 1-2pm @ Wyralla Rd, Lismore \$12

Senior Levels class:
Wednesdays 4.30-6pm @ Tuntable Creek \$20

during school terms
call Sensei Rachel Whiting
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