



Tunable Falls Community School

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117 Upper Tuntable Falls Road Nimbin NSW 2480

23 February 2021, Term 1, Newsletter 2, Next issue due 9 March 2021

From the Committee:

February has really turned on its wet season charm this year; the ground is soggy to the core, the beautiful sound of the creeks flowing and the chorus of croaking frogs. However the unpredictable nature of our **bridge flooding** and the school being closed can be challenging for some families. We aim to ensure families are informed ASAP by adhering to our **Flood Policy** when rainfall has been heavy, the call is made whether the school will remain open or closed between 7 and 7.30am, understandably this can change at any moment throughout the day with whichever way the weather goes. Please feel free to talk to a committee member if you had any difficulty during our last school closure.



The new monkey bars and flying fox getting a workout.

We have some beautiful **new families to welcome to our school** community, joining the Buribi class will be Gabriel along with his parents Luka and Fabien. Joining the Year 3 & 4 class are Noah and his brother Luis along with their mum Gellic. Please introduce yourselves and help them to feel at home here within the school.

It's so great to have the kitchen up and running again, I don't like to be cliché, however, it really is the heart of the school. So grateful to those that have chosen to undertake their roster days in the kitchen. It is really such an important role. Wednesday I had a great day cooking with Motoko, Akela and Lynda cooking okonomiyaki (Japanese pancakes), which were delicious. We shared our backgrounds, recipes, parenting moments, working alongside each other and we started to get to know one another. This is what I love about creating community. I'd actually forgotten how cool it is to be in the kitchen all day, seeing what the kids get up to, watching them play, getting to know them, love it. If you have some time on Tuesdays or Wednesdays consider coming to join the kitchen crew. Many hands make light work!

School Calendar:

- **Term 1 Ends**
Thu, 1 Apr 2021
- **Term 2 Begins**
Tuesday, 27 Apr 2021

School Bell:

- School starts: 9:05
- Recess: 11:00-11:30
- Lunch: 13:00-13:45
- School ends: 14:45

Important Dates:

- Garden Day
Tue, 2 March
- Story Board
Wed, 3 March
- Parent Meeting
Thu, 4 March, 3pm
- AGM: Mon, 29 March
- Guruman & Dingoes
Camp: 8-10 March
- Gooarng Camp
23-24 March

Committee Meetings:

Monday, 1 March, 2:30pm
Monday, 8 March, 2:30pm
(subject to change)

Drink Bottles:

All children to bring
their own drink bottles
as part of COVID
hygiene measures.
**Especially important on
Thursdays for CIRCUS.**

We are a *Nude Food School*. Please avoid using plastic wraps or packaged items in school lunches.

Our termly **Parent Meeting** will be held on the **4th of March at 3pm**. This is an informal catch up to get to know each other, ask any questions that may have arisen about how the school operates and to eat cheese. See you there.

Stay dry, Cushla :)

Communication:

The committee feels strongly about open communication at the school. Therefore, our names, phone numbers and emails are published for you here. Please keep it handy and don't hesitate to contact whomever you feel comfortable with.

Committee Member	Position	Phone Number	Email
Amanda Collien	President	0447 743 727	amandacollien@hotmail.com
Alison Southey	Vice President	0414 013 318	alisouthey@hotmail.com
Cushla Lobb	Secretary	0438 817 678	cushlala@yahoo.com.au
Jacinta Duivenvoorden	Treasurer	0422 817 151	jacinthafrances@gmail.com
Nicole Devery	Member	0432 429 296	nicolepeisto@hotmail.com
Romany Pike	Member	0428 440 219	romanypike@hotmail.com

- It is important to **call the Office by 9:30am** if your child is unable to attend school for any reason.
- Please provide a **Doctors Medical Certificate** to the Office if your child is absent due to illness for five consecutive days or more.
- If you are **planning time away from school** during the Term, please complete an Application for Exemption from School form at the Office.



Birthdays

We would like to congratulate the following students on their birthdays.
Happy birthday precious possums!!



Tuntable Falls Community School invites you to Dr.

McKinnis

AUTUMN

GARDEN CELEBRATION

PROGRAM

9:10-11:00 ~ Cooking, gardening & Art
1:00-1:45 ~ Autumn harvest feast
1:45-2:30 ~ Storying circle
2:30-2:45 ~ Teacher storytelling

Tuesday
2nd of March





Buribi (Kindy)

As it seems to always be the way, the Term is gliding along rapidly and we are already past the halfway mark! This bouncy ride must be due to the brilliant new playscape, now with a flying fox, monkey bars and more.



Findlay can climb anything!



We are a swarm of buzzing energy and absolutely love circus!

We are delighted to have Gabriel join our learning group and welcome his lovely parents Luca and Fabien to the School.



Daisey and Lettie, welcoming the new Chickens.

Thank you to Aiti for helping our class to sew our special Reading Owls. If you have a special skill, interest or ideas to share with our class, please feel welcome to discuss it with me. I have developed some main focus themes that will span across the year. So take a look as it may spark some relevant suggestions. I will send the 'Learning Areas List' home in the Reader Folders this week.

It is wonderful having such terrific family support. It is great to see new parents around. There has been some delicious food, coming from the Kitchen again, which is fabulous to see, smell and of course eat!

We have been Learning about each other, our differences and some more ways to get along. We are all practicing **Respect** by taking turns to speak and using our imaginary bubbles to remember the importance of everybody's personal space. Our **Kindy Home Visits** should be starting **next week**. This will encourage students relating to one another and to value differences between them. If you haven't received a note regarding these visits, please contact the office or myself to obtain one. **Return notes** can be left in your child's reader folder and I will check them daily this week.

I hope you also received your special **Garden Day invitations**. These were sent home last week and there are some posters being put up about the school. **Autumn Garden Day Celebration is Tuesday 2nd March**. The next day, **Wednesday 3rd March 'Story Board' will be visiting our school** and the students will get to meet and speak with an author.

Parent Teacher Interviews: Contact René in the Office to arrange a meeting

The students are gently and slowly settling into the daily routines at Big School. There are a lot of stimulating, new experiences where they are learning to regulate their own behavior and concentrate for longer periods of time. This is difficult for young people and you may be noticing some big changes. Please know you can contact me to discuss any of these changes.

Warm wishes,
Fiona ★



Gooarng (Middle class)

Hi Families,
I hope you all stayed relatively dry over the weekend...

This last fortnight the kids have started creating their ideas for their **altered fairytale** and the characters for their puppets. We plan to start making them this week.

In the **Sounds-Write program** this fortnight we are revising all our singular sounds in longer words such as - drank, drink, slump, trust etc. And we are also beginning to look at our consonant digraphs, starting with 'sh'.

In **Math** we are continuing to practice our place value, friends of 10/20/100, and starting to look at fractions.

If you haven't made time for your **Parent Teacher Interviews**, please see me soon. There is a schedule up on the classroom door.

This week you will also receive your **camp note and permission slip**. Please read it carefully and let me know if you will be driving and if you have any room in your car for others. Thanks.

Up we grow,
Ishta





Dingoes (Years 3 & 4)

What an exciting start to the year it has been! The new playground has proved all too enticing for those energetic selves while the kitchen has been pumping out nourishing lunches on these much-loved, rainy days. The creek most definitely made itself heard last Thursday and Friday which created excitement for everyone, including myself! Well done to the team for the clear communication on Friday where everyone got home safe and sound.

A warm welcome to our new students **Luis** and **Noah** who have already contributed positive and willing attitudes to our classroom and the school. Thank you to Gellic for your huge help with stocking and organising of the kitchen!

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming Holly back into the classroom to share her love of creative writing. As we are beginning to develop our character profiles for our final narrative piece, Holly's enthusiasm went down a treat. We look forward to those weekly visits where we can further transform ourselves into brilliant writers and storytellers.

I welcome any Parent/Caregiver to come and share any creative interests or talents with our class. It is always refreshing to learn new things from others, so please feel free to get in touch with me and we can organise a time.

Sadly, Ginger will be leaving us very soon :(However, she has passed on the honourable duty of holding the **Girl's Circle** usually held during lunchtime on Tuesdays. I have discussed this with the girls, and we are all very motivated to keep the tradition alive and continue to hold a respectful space for one another. The circle will continue to take place on **Wednesday lunchtimes, beginning week 6**.



Sunny's heart-melting similie.



The rising creek and high energy all-round



Boys bonding over the building of a motor car.

How can you help? I have created time slots where (only if you feel like coming in) for either reading groups, math games etc - please let me know so I can make a note.

Monday	09:00-11:00	Literacy - Changing Readers/ Homework
Wednesday	11:30-12:30	Numeracy
Thursday	09:00-10:00	Literacy
Friday	11:30-1:00	Transport to Nimbin for sport
Friday	2:15-2:45	Library – book borrowing/ reading

We are channelling the dingo energy and conquering the ability to be adaptable and resilient. Our goal for the coming weeks is to foster positivity and to pour that energy into everything we do. To believe in our abilities and to support each other as a family unit within our cute and colourful classroom. Go team Dingoes!

Warm regards,

 Angie



Guruman (Upper class)

As part of our English / History term focus on historical documents, students will be writing a Travel Journal for a bushwalk later in the year.

In the tradition of Joseph Banks, they will be making a record of the flora and fauna that they observe on their trek. To make this possible, the class learned how to draw, classify and name trees that they are likely to encounter and were guided in their identification processes by Chris Holt who took them through the complexities of leaf structure. As a follow up to their preparations, they will be getting to know exactly what trees we have around the school with the aim of mapping them out and labelling them. Chris brought a wide selection of the local flora, showed them how to use the identification books from our library, and confirmed the students' mostly accurate naming. It was a great opportunity to tap into some of our local wisdom.





SEE with Ginger

My last newsletter for some time! It is my pleasure to teach SEE over the past couple of weeks because my main objectives were to get all the gardens planted out, harvest what we have grown, cook what we have grown, make a biodynamic fertiliser mix, set up the worm farm and welcome some new chickens to our flock.

Buribi have been enthusiastically planning out their garden, selecting seasonal seedlings, learning how to use the tools safely and identifying weeds. They selected strawberries, cucumbers, silver beet and flowers for their garden bed and have all been very active and engaged.



Gooarng & Dingoes students have formed small groups and collaboratively planned out their garden and planted them according to their size, considering their accessibility and sunlight.

Guraman has managed to clear all the weeds before turning the soil, adding fertiliser, measuring and mapping their garden beds considering size, scale and shape as well as planting out seedlings and mulching. They have cooked pumpkin soup, banana bread, lasagne, chocolate avocado pudding, pesto pasta, potato & beetroot chips and cherry tomato sauce. They are getting increasingly confident and capable in the kitchen using the area safely and learning good time management skills.

The bee's are going really well and our new chickens are getting lots of lovely hugs. Cawdor, a pre-school parent, has set up a fantastic worm farm for the kitchen scraps to be composted for worm castings for our garden.



What an exciting start to the year.

Best wishes and I'm sure I'll be seeing you all up until my baby is Earth side.

Peace, love and fluffy chickens!

Ginger.



STEAM with Emmy

What a wonderful wet start to the term.

Shame I'd planned to use the power of the sun for our science lessons. Oops!

So far I've been settling into the Maker Space and juggling moving between classes. I love having the space and opportunities to be outside with the kids. Especially when Maximus and Monty are painting their "Princess Rainbow Sparkle" fixer-upper bike!

With Buribi we are discussing living things and will soon crack out the microscope to *oooh* and *aaah* over the little things. It's lovely to be with their curiosity.

Dingoes are an energetic delight and are showing awesome construction skills as we build a parabolic solar popcorn cooker (not just for popcorn!). Just waiting for some sun to help us along.

Gooarng have made nature journals that will be used when they choose sit spots where they will relax and connect with nature. We have also been honing observational skills with mini experiments and lots of discussion.

Guruman are working on independent learning projects that see them doing some computer programming and bike mechanics amongst other things.

I have also squeezed in some time with Ginger, getting ready to sustain her amazing work on the SEE program while she goes off to sustain new life.

I would like to strongly encourage parents, caregivers and extended family members to come along and help with the SEE or STEAM activities. I'll be at school Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Everyone has something to offer and if you're not sure please just touch base with me. We can definitely find a way for you to help be part of the wonderful village of people that we need to help our children grow.



Our fluffy new chickens are being loved up.

Important Notices:

- No toys, sweets, money or mobile phones are allowed to be brought to school or on the bus.

Please be aware that the school may need to go back into lockdown due to a rise in COVID-19 cases in NSW and QLD.

Should this happen, staff will provide assistance and learning materials to support your child's learning at home.

COVID Precautions:

In addition to the hygiene and safety measures we have already put in place, the NSW Health have made the following recommendations to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission in NSW school communities.

These measures will be effective as of Wednesday, 19 August 2020.

NSW Health requires schools to:

- exclude students and staff with even mild symptoms of COVID-19
- encourage immediate testing for any symptomatic children or staff
- prohibit return to school for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 until a negative COVID test result has been reported and they or are no longer symptomatic.
- If **any** person in your family has been tested, then **all** members of the family must stay home until a negative result is obtained. No student is to be at school if a family member has been tested and is awaiting their results.

More information can be found at www.health.nsw.gov.au

We ask you to help us by:

1. Not sending your child/ren to school if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms **and** obtaining a negative COVID test result before sending them back to school.
 - *If any person in your family has been tested, then all members of the family must stay home until a negative result is obtained. No student is to be at school if a family member has been tested and is awaiting their results.*
2. trying to make the settling in process as quick as possible so as to avoid too many people in the school. To help us limit the number of children and adults in the school setting, please don't hang around and try to avoid bringing other members with you.
3. not allowing your child to bring in toys from home.
4. ensuring you are packing a water bottle and enough food for the day. Students have fruit at munch and crunch, a recess and lunch. It is preferred that the bubblers are not used.
5. on arriving home, getting your child/ren wash their hands and change their clothes to avoid spreading anything to your family.

**Please contact staff or a committee member if you have any questions or concerns.*