Recognition Parade
We recently held our first recognition parade for 2015. This provided an opportunity to recognise outstanding attendance and achievement of students from term 4 last year along with formally recognising our student leaders for 2015. It was extremely pleasing to be able to share this event with a significant number of parents who attended to see their child recognised.

School Dux
As part the Recognition Parade we congratulated Brad Fuller who was awarded the Dux for 2014. Brad was our highest achieving academic student in year 12 and attained the highest OP result last year. Brad is a worthy recipient of this award and we thank him for attending the parade. From our perspective it is extremely important for our school community to recognise excellence in our students.

Lions Youth of the Year
Last Saturday the district Lions Youth of the Year competition was held at Tannum Sands State High School and I was fortunate to attend the evening public speaking section. I would like to acknowledge the organisation and running of the event; it went extremely smoothly. The 10 students involved were exceptional! Each of the student’s speeches were interesting and informative and delivered with real passion and conviction. Toolooa State High School was well represented by Georgia Muir, Sarah Lumsden, Matthew Furness, Georgia Robertson and Kaitlin Read. Kaitlin took out the Public Speaking award with Georgia Roberston being crowned district Youth of the Year. We congratulate all students involved.
Literacy
As identified in the last newsletter, we have reading and writing as clear focus areas for 2015. To continue to support the writing ability of our students a range of strategies are being implemented in classrooms. Some of these involve simple processes and expectations:
- ensuring sentences are start with capitals and end in the appropriate punctuation point
- appropriate use of capital letters (start of sentences and for proper nouns etc)
- all answers written in sentences
- spelling errors being identified for students to correct

We would appreciate the support of our parents to make these a priority for their children when doing homework, drafts, assignments and so on. Our goal is for our students to make these important elements strong habits and part of their everyday process when writing.

Swimming Carnival
Unfortunately the swimming carnival has been postponed due to the approaching cyclone. We will keep our students and parents informed of alternate dates for the carnival once decided.

Uniform
Our uniform is being worn extremely well by the vast majority of our students and we want to continue this very positive start to the year. Just a reminder that denim (jeans, shorts etc) is not part of our uniform at Toolooa State High School and cannot be worn to school. Additionally, jumpers are restricted to a plain black zip-up or pullover or the school spray jacket available at the school office. Student that are out uniform are required to have a note from their parents explaining the reason that they are out of uniform. Students that are out of uniform without a parent note will receive a lunch detention.

From the Deputy’s Desk— Danielle Willard

Newsletter Term 1 Week 4

Another two weeks have flown by and students are settled into their year levels and classes. The beginning of the school year can be an anxious time for many children. Our school is very fortunate to have a large number of support staff who, with the help of the classroom teachers has been able to assist these students.

I have had the pleasure of seeing some amazing work in classrooms. As I have been walking around the school and visiting classrooms I have seen some fantastic bookwork. It has been a pleasure to see the learning that is taking place in the classrooms at Toolooa. During my classroom visits the students are always very enthusiastic to share with me what they are learning and why they are learning it.

Across the next fortnight our classes are getting ready to complete their assessment tasks. A Semester One Assessment calendar will come home shortly. This calendar will outline the dates for assessment for your child for Semester 1. Encourage your child to locate their assessment and assist them to develop a plan and to spread out their study time. They will be going through these due dates with their teachers but it is a great idea for parents to also be aware as to when assessment items are due in at school. It provides the platform for conversation and a way for parents to gain insight into how the students may be feeling about the subjects that they are studying.

I am looking forward to sharing information about the exciting events that are about to occur across the remainder of this term.

Cheers

Mrs Danielle Willard
Office Info

The **2015 STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME** fees should now be either:

1. paid in full or
2. have paid an instalment of $60 (by the end of Term 1) plus have a written payment plan in place.

For your convenience payments can be made:

1. in person at the school.
2. by phone call *(if you have a Visa or MasterCard)*. The receipt can be emailed to you or given to your son/daughter.
3. by a **Direct Bank Transfer** from your account into the school account. *(If you choose this option it is essential for you to enter identifying information i.e. invoice or student ID number, with this transfer so the payment goes to the correct student.)* Please contact the school office for necessary details if this is your preference.

If your fees are unpaid please phone the school office so arrangements can be made to pay or to make arrangements for a payment plan.

A signed **Student Resource Scheme — Participation Agreement Form** is required **each school year**. This signed agreement form is to confirm arrangements between yourself and the school and is required for auditing purposes. The form approves the use of a Government subsidy plus your commitment to pay a contribution of $160 (or a pro rata amount) for textbooks and consumable resources for the current year.

**Student ID Cards**

Student ID Cards and also any student participation in non-curriculum activities such as Port Curtis sports will not be available to students who have unpaid school fees or who have no negotiated (written) **Student Resource Scheme — Participation Agreement Form** in place.

**Manual Arts Fees**

It is a condition of acceptance into a Manual Arts class that all annual resource fees are to be paid under the same principles as for the **Student Resource Scheme** conditions as indicated above.

**Receipting times for the school office are from 8:00 am until 3.00 pm. (Other times by arrangement.)**

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**Phone Messages For Students At School**

Parents and carers are advised that it can be (at times) difficult to pass on telephone messages to students during the school day. Classrooms do not have phones and teachers are rarely in their staffrooms to take messages. Classes often alternate rooms for specific curriculum tasks at short notice which also adds to difficulty in locating a student.

We will always endeavour to deliver messages of an **urgent nature only** to students.

It is advisable for parents wishing to arrange alternate pick-ups to leave their child a SMS mobile message during school lunch breaks. Students can then access their messages in the designated areas of the school.

**We thank parents and students for your assistance in this matter.**

**Student Absences**

For your convenience when your student is absent from school you can call the Absentee Message line on 4971 4360 and leave a message by following the prompts. This information will be entered into school records during the school day.
25 ways to ask your teenagers about their school day and actually get an answer

School is in full swing and what do your teenagers think so far?... Most parents struggle to get more than two words out of their teenagers about their school day. They get an answer like ‘fine’ or ‘good’, which doesn’t tell a whole lot.

Parents want to usually know more or at least get a full sentence. The trick is to ask about things that are specific, but still open-ended. Move beyond “fine” and “nothing” by asking your child to describe their world. Try some of these different ways of asking about their school day to promote more conversation:

1. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
2. If you could choose, who would you like to sit beside in class? (Who would you NOT want to sit by in class? Why?)
3. How did you help somebody today?
4. How did somebody help you today?
5. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
6. When were you the happiest today?
7. When were you bored today?
8. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed someone up, who would you want them to take?
9. Who would you like to spend lunch with that you've never spent time with before?
10. Tell me something good that happened today.
11. What word did your teacher say most today?
12. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
13. If they played music at lunch time at school what would everyone want them to play over the loudspeaker?
14. What would you change about school lunch?
15. Where do you hang out at lunch time/who did you sit with?
16. What did you do at lunch time?
17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?
18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
19. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
20. Is there anyone in your class who needs a time out?
21. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class, who would you trade with? Why?
22. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
23. Do you think math [or any subject] is too easy or too hard?
24. What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
25. What rules are at school do you think are fair/unfair?

Another tip for getting teens to open up is to avoid just sitting them down and asking questions. You may find that this method isn't really effective. BUT, if you say...trap them in the car...and talk to them while you are driving and they don't have to make eye contact... they are more willing to offer up more information or ask more questions.

This also happens while you are working with them on things like making dinner, folding laundry, rearranging furniture, etc. You can casually talk and ask questions without making them feel like you are grilling them. Asking these questions may open the door for you to have a discussion to ask why, potentially uncovering issues you didn't know about before.

Good luck and happy conversing!
EQIP Engineering Skills Centre

Thanks for Derek Horton, the EESC Coordinator, who visited Year 10 parade in Week 3 to discuss the application process for the EESC in 2015. While applications don’t open until later in the year, Derek provided interested students with information on the selection process and what students can do to improve their application. Check out the EQIP website for more information on the EESC program: http://eqipgladstone.com.au.

Career News

Toolooa SHS subscribes to MHS Careers, a career information service. MHS Careers also has a Facebook page where they post last-minute career information: https://www.facebook.com/mhscareers.

Careers and Employment Expo

Friday 29th May, 9am - 3:30pm and Saturday 30th May, 10am - 4pm @ Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hall 1, Corner Merivale and Glenelg Streets, South Bank

The expo is free to attend and provides the perfect platform for all organisations, employers and educational bodies to showcase their careers and education opportunities to the state’s current and future workforce.


Defence Work Experience: Army Field Experience

Monday 23rd - Wednesday 25th March @ Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera

This work experience activity provides an introduction to the Brigade and provides information on Army careers, enlistment and training procedures. Participants will rotate through activities such as Mess, Weapons Training & Battle Simulation, Gym, and the RAR Memorial and Museum. Submit applications before 5pm 20th March. See https://defencecareers.nga.net.au/cp/armyfieldexperience for more information.

Tax File Number Applications

A tax file number is a unique nine-digit number issued to individuals and organisations to help administer tax and other Australian Government systems.

The Australian Tax Office has changed the process for students applying for a Tax File Number (TFN). Schools are no longer able to process TFN application forms.

The new process involves students completing an online application form and then visiting an Australia Post Office outlet to have their identity verified.

To apply for a TFN students need to visit: https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Ind/Apply-for-a-TFN-on-the-web/?fb_locale=es_LA.

After they have completed this form students will need to print their application summary and take this together with proof of identity documents to an Australia Post outlet. This must be done within 30 days of completing the online form.

Information on the type of Proof of Identity documents that can be used can be found at: https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Ind/Apply-for-a-TFN-on-the-web/?anchor=Proof_of_identity#Proof_of_identity.

Defence Force Career Information Session

The Defence Force will be visiting our school on Wednesday February 25th at 11am for students interested in a career in the Defence Force (army, navy, air force, officer entry or general entry). Years 9 to 12 are welcome to attend. Students are required to register their interest in attending on the whiteboard in the Senior Room.

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Natalie Jounquay
Head of Senior Schooling
Toolooa State High School
Philip St
Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 49714 333
Fax: 07 49714 300

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|                           | Term 2    |
| Placement Dates           | Forms due |
| Holiday Placement         | 7 May     |
| 29 June – 3 July          |           |
| GPC Placement             | 7 May     |
| 29 June – 3 July          |           |
| Holiday Placement         | 7 May     |
| 6 July – 10 July          |           |
| GPC Placement             | 7 May     |
| 6 July – 10 July          |           |
From The Junior Secondary Co-Ordinator
With Jess Batey

NAPLAN 2015
Tuesday 12th May: Language Conventions
Wednesday 13th May: Reading
Thursday 14th May: Numeracy
Friday 15th May: Catch-up Tests

Demystifying NAPLAN for Parents
For students in years seven and nine, sometimes the perceived pressure of NAPLAN can become all too much! At Toolooa SHS, we view NAPLAN as a test that can give us an idea of just how far our students have progressed. We also use the results of the tests to inform our own practises, which helps students to continue to improve in the five core areas of reading, writing, spelling, numeracy and grammar & punctuation.

If you want to help your child to do their absolute best in NAPLAN, and improve their general core skills, take a look at the following tips:

- **Read together** – Have your child read a text to you. It may be a novel, a newspaper, a website, a magazine – whatever your child is interested in. Explore the text together by discussing what you think might happen, or why a character made a particular decision, etc.

- **Encourage your child to write** – In this day and age of technology, writing seems to be becoming less and less frequent. Wherever possible, get your child to write. It might be something as simple as a shopping list, or as complex as a narrative. Proof-read your child’s writing with them so they can get used to using strategies that you use as an adult.

**Do everyday maths together** – Maths is everywhere in life, but sometimes, adults take it for granted. Children can be involved in simple tasks such as estimating how much your shopping will cost, or calculating how much flour will be needed for a recipe. You could also get your child to help you work out how much mulch to buy next time you’re doing the garden, or have them help you calculate the cost of fencing an area of your yard. Children are much more inclined to get involved with maths if they see it as helping their parents.

If you have concerns about NAPLAN, or you would like to speak to someone about preparing, please do not hesitate to contact the Junior Secondary Head of Department, Jess Batey, on 49 714 352, or e-mail jbate112@eq.edu.au. Alternatively, feel free to visit www.nap.edu.au for information from the National Assessment Program governing body. Remember, NAPLAN is designed to assess what your child knows and what they need to improve on; it should not be viewed as something to fear. We are looking forward to seeing the progress that your child has made since joining us at Toolooa SHS.

Jess Batey
Junior Secondary Co-ordinator
This week the student success journal is focused on the increasing student wellbeing by engagement and achievement through actively using your home work station. Last fortnight, time management was my focus and super important to success. Similarly, an orderly work station is important to enhancing wellbeing. The student journal gives fantastic suggestions of how to improve you workspace at home (or work for parents). Interestingly, research suggests that an ordered space is more important than a tidy space. This is not an excuse to neglect the cleaning of your room; rather know how your particular workspace works for you. Another tip is to use interesting and colourful items in the room to give the space a more welcoming feel. Make the place where you study, a place you want to be. Try to put clear physical boundaries between your sleeping space and your studying space. For example, use a bookshelf creatively to give mark a clear study/sleep boundary. Improving the space for study can lift or depress your mood and is vitally important to wellbeing throughout your school life.

For further tips and discussion around work spaces you can contact me via email as droby0@eq.edu.au or phone (07) 4971 4363

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**Nurse Natters**

**Australia’s Healthy Weight Week 16-22nd February**

What’s the right weight for my teenager is one of the most common questions parents have. Or the common household problem of a miserable teenager with a healthy weight but due to constant social media pressure has unrealistic expectations of what their healthy weight/body should be.

**Weight/ body issues can be a sensitive issue to discuss.**

**The realities of adolescents:**
Not everyone grows and develops at the same schedule. Weight gain is common and normal during puberty before reaching full adult height.
It can feel quite strange for adolescents to adjust to suddenly feeling heavier or taller. So it’s normal for a teenager to feel self conscious about weight during teenage years- a lot of adolescents do.
We also have to be aware that the implications of being severely overweight at a young age can cause an increased risk of type 11 diabetes, heart disease, bone and joint disorders.

**When there may be cause for concern:**
If your child appears large around the waist and you have difficulty finding appropriately aged clothes to fit them.
Your child is being teased at school about their weight.
Your child has expressed their concerns to you.

**What can you do as a parent/caregiver:**
If your child is showing signs of being overweight, the key is to make positive changes to your family’s lifestyle as a whole.

**Keep it simple. Start with these five basic steps.**

1. Lose the soft drink/energy drinks in the house. Replace them with water.
2. Make vegetable and fruits visible and accessible in your home.
3. Encourage breakfast every day.
4. Don’t keep any junk food in the house. You have limited control of what your teenager eats outside your walls, you can offer a lot of healthy choices at home.
5. Eat at home.

If making lifestyle changes isn’t enough to help your teen or you are still concerned, seek help from your trusted Doctor.

For any further information please ring Lani (School Based Youth Health Nurse)
Ph 4971 4364 or Mobile number 0410 414 906.


**1 to 1 Laptop Information Night**

This year, we have extended the offer of laptops to some new students in years 7-12. There will be an information session on the 26th of February; at the end of our Meet the Parents’ night (an informal gathering that parents of year 7 and 8 students can attend to meet their child’s teachers). **Parents of year 7 and 8 students, who have been given a laptop charter, are asked to stay behind after the Meet the parents’ night for a quick information session.** If you cannot make the session, please feel free to call me and have your questions answered.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Townsend
Whole School IT co-ordinator
Teacher Librarian
(07) 49714347

**Library Goes 24/7**

There have been a few changes made in the library; to bring us up to the 21st century. If you visit our Toolooa SHS homepage, click on Facilities, Library and then Online Library Catalogue, you can now access our library catalogue from home. The search bar is simple to use and once you find the resource you want, you can request it and then pick it up from the library counter the next day. Please enjoy and use this new service.

In addition to our online catalogue, we have launched an ePlatform that can be accessed 24/7. To access eBooks, all you need is a laptop, phone, iPad, iPod, or tablet and download a free Blue Fire reader app. Once the app is downloaded, head over to our Toolooa ePlatform (https://toolooashs.wheelers.co/) and sign up. Alternatively, there is a new ePlatform by Wheelers app, which supersedes the need to download a separate reading app. You simply download the ePlatform by Wheelers app, click on Find Your Library and then search for Toolooa SHS and register.

Once the registration is confirmed, our eBooks can be accessed. Borrowing is for two weeks at a time and to return them, you literally need to do nothing! After the two weeks the book will simply expire. No more overdue books! Please enjoy and use this new service.

**Indigenous News**

Last week was the official launch of the ARTIE program. The Former Origin Greats (FOGS) ARTIE (Achieving Results Through Indigenous Education) Academy is an Australian Government supported program. It provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attending Queensland schools within Townsville, Central Queensland, Sunshine Coast, Caboolture, Ipswich and Logan regions, the opportunity to participate in a program that encourages and rewards improvements in schools attendance, behaviour, academic achievement, effort and ultimately Year 12 attainment or its equivalent. The ARTIE Academy operates with an innovative, high expectation, consistent and positive mindset. ARTIE is an Academy that students are proud to be a part of. An Academy that expects them to achieve to the best of their ability. An Academy that will support them in times of need, but not accept excuses for a lack of commitment.

The ARTIE Academy motto of “Inspire, Encourage, Succeed” lays the foundation for the creation of strategies that aim to improve the schooling endeavours of participants.

**Global Term Challenges**

Focused on Physical Attendance (minimum 90% attendance) and Effort and Behaviour results in Math and English. Students are encouraged throughout the Term to improve of their results to achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold status and in turn receive a reward for their hard work.

**ARTIE Greats Challenge**

An incentive based challenge to ensure the retention of students from Year 10 into their senior years of schooling (Years 11 and 12). The focus of this project is on being a ‘role model’ for younger students. As well as the overarching Global Term Challenge, Year 10 students are set the task of ensuring they achieve a high standard so they are able to receive an ARTIE Letterman Jacket.

Any question regarding this program please phone the Indigenous department on 49714314
Business News

The start of a new year and what a busy term is planned. The year 9 students are busily working on their Business Venture. This is where students operate a business (on a small scale), they choose a managing director, financial director and other positions within their classes. Each group then decides on a product they would like to make and sell to Toolooa students, in the hope that their group will be successful and return a profit for their group.

This involves students making prototypes, calculating costings for their various products, making and marketing their products. Students will be selling to other Toolooa students later in the term. There will be 8 different groups across both year 9 Business classes with varying products available to purchase, each group vying for the most successful group. We wish them all the best in their venture.

Students Sophie Realph and Tre Sirriss making their trial ice cream slices that they will be selling many varieties on the day, including Oreo's and M & Ms.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Thinking about a Traineeship???

Why not earn while you learn???

School Based Traineeships are a fantastic way to combine practical work experience with formal school study. A school based traineeship will even give you 4 QCE points towards your senior certificate.

McDonald’s works on a flexible changing roster and are happy to roster you around school work and sporting commitments. This means that you can obtain your Certificate in Retail Services whilst continuing your school studies.

Completing a school based traineeship will give you employment skills in the areas of communication, teamwork, problem solving, initiative and enterprise, planning and organising, self-management, learning and technology. No matter what your chosen field is in the future, these are valuable skills that will help you in your career.

If you or your parents have any further questions about our school based traineeship program please do not hesitate to contact Raelene on 0427 329 787 or raelene@waxup.net

Freedom Festival and Family Fun Day

- Gladstone Showgrounds 10am – 9pm
- Supporting our youth and young adults through times of need!
- Special guest appearances from Home and Away Stars and The Bogan Hunters.
- Rides, Market Stalls, Games and fun for all.
- Drug and Alcohol Free!!