Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Welcome Back!**

A warm welcome to 2013, I hope everybody had a great break.

2013 brings many positive changes to Tahmoor Public School. Our school will continue to target Literacy, Numeracy programs to help build upon the many positive foundations that were established in 2012. Focus on Reading will be supported by the Taking Off With Numeracy program (TOWN). This will provide a solid balance between whole school Literacy and Numeracy programs. The beneficiaries of these programs will again be our students and our staff who will participate in these wonderful professional development opportunities.

**New Kindergarten students**

A special welcome to our new Kindergarten students and families to Tahmoor Public School. It is important that our Kindergarten students receive a positive start in their first year of learning. This sets the students on the road to a positive education.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me or the office staff if you need assistance in any matter. Your children are very important to us and as a school they are our number one priority.

**Best Start testing**

All of our new Kindergarten students have now been tested in relation to pre skills already attained in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. Parents/Carers of 2013 Kindergarten students will receive a written report in about 8 weeks time.

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**Class Structures**

This year we have 14 mainstream classes and 3 multicategorical classes.

2013 Classes and teachers are as follows:
- KG - Mrs Grant
- KD Ms Dooley
- K1B - Mrs Booth
- 1G - Mrs Galettis
- 1P - Ms Gibson/Mrs Browne
- 2P - Mrs Pogson
- 2S - Mrs Statham/Mrs Smith
- 34P - Mr Parker
- 34L - Mrs Lazarus
- 34N - Mrs Newhouse
- 45H - Ms Howe
- 56B - Mr Booth
- 56A - Mrs Apps
- 56J - Mr Jacobs
- K/3S - Mrs Stirling/Mrs Waters
- 3/5B - Mr Ballango
- 6V - Mrs Verrell

A special welcome to Mrs Verrell, our new Assistant Principal, who is coordinating the Multicategorical classes.

Welcome also to the following new teachers:
- Mr Jacobs
- Mrs Apps
- Ms Howe
- Mr Parker
- Mrs Smith and; Mrs Browne.

Each of these teachers are a great addition to our already accomplished staff. Please make these teachers feel welcome when and if you cross their paths.

**Stage Supervision for 2013**

- ES1 (Kindergarten) - Mrs Booth
- S1 - Mrs Pogson
- S2 - Mrs Statham
- S3 - Mr Maumill.

**Before and After School care**

Our proposed Before and After School care company withdrew the Friday before we returned to school. I have since spoken to many parents who would like me to look for another company. I am currently investigating an alternative company. Please stay tuned!

Have a great fortnight

Dave Schofield
Principal
Early Stage One News

Kindergarten have settled into their new classes and are developing many new relationships. The Kindergarten teachers for this year are Miss Sarah Dooley, Mrs Louise Grant and Mrs Suellen Booth. We welcome new families to our school starting Kindergarten this year. The children are learning classroom routines, rules and expectations.

Kindergarten Sport day will be on Friday. All Kindergarten will need to wear their sport uniform on this day. Classes will also be participating in physical education lessons. KD and KB will also need to wear sports uniform on a Thursday. KG have physical education on a Friday.

KD and KB will need to bring a library bag on Thursday and KG will need a library bag for Friday.

Text book notes went out this week. Please ensure these are returned with payment to the front office so that we can begin work in these books. The children will need to bring a paint shirt to school, labelled with their name. We are also asking if families could donate a packet of baby wipes, soap on tape or tissues to their classroom.

From next Monday Kindergarten will be lining up with the rest of the school for morning whole school assembly under the big cola. Tuesday to Friday we will be lining up with Stage One under the cola near the canteen. Please place school bags on seats near the Kindergarten rooms prior to this.

Our Parent Information Afternoon will be held in our rooms on the afternoon of the 19th of February. You will receive a note about this at a later date. We hope to see you there.

We look forward to fun learning and happy days in Kindergarten!

Thanking You
Early Stage One Teachers.

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Stage One News

The main focus in Stage One classrooms is “Being a Learner”. In order to achieve this, your child needs to come to school prepared to listen, learn and be respectful of all students and teachers.

Part of being prepared to learn is having all the equipment necessary to begin a task. On Monday we sent out a note detailing the equipment students require for class. If you have not received this note for some reason please ask your child’s teacher for it. Please ensure your child has all the necessary items at school each day.

Library day will occur each week once the timetable has been consolidated. Sports day will be Thursday. Please ensure your child wears joggers and their hat. Homework is given in class on Monday: please ensure it is returned to school on Thursday or Friday (Depending on your child’s teacher). Home Readers can be changed on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays (depending on your teacher’s preference and the timetable).

Each child in Stage One will require a handwriting and Mathematics book. The school has placed a bulk order in order to enable a reduction in price. Please forward $28 to cover the cost of these texts. Your child will receive them shortly after payment.

Stage One will be learning about “The Sea” particularly the animals within the sea and a part of this unit we envisage to visit to the Sydney Aquarium towards the end of Term One. Details regarding this excursion will be forwarded to you as soon as the excursion is fully organised.

Thank You to all of the parent’s we have met so far. We are looking forward to meeting you all at our Parent Information meeting coming up in Week 4. It is shaping up to be a wonderful year for our Stage One students and we are looking forward watching your child’s education grow.

Year 1 and Year 2 Teachers
Stage Two News

Welcome back Stage Two students. We trust all families had a restful and enjoyable holiday and that children are ready to work hard and achieve their goals for 2013.

We look forward to our first sporting event of the year: our swimming carnival on the 15th February at the Picton Leisure Centre. Notes went home at the end of Week 1 informing parents of the event and the cost. Please return the signed notes and money to school as soon as possible.

Students in Stage 2 this year will be using a spelling text book which covers not only a weekly spelling list but a wide range of word usage and grammar tasks.

Your child will be receiving an invoice shortly detailing the cost and on payments of this invoice shall receive their text book. Textbooks will NOT be issued until payment has been made. Please remember to label all your child’s belongings so they can easily be returned when found. We look forward to meeting parents of Stage 2 students at our Meet the Teacher night on Tuesday 19th February when class schedules, excursions, homework and expectations will be presented.

Stage 2 Teachers

Stage Three News

Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new students and their families. I would also like to say welcome back to our returning students and their families. This year Mr Booth, Miss Howe, Mrs Apps and Mr Jacobs will be teaching the Stage Three classes. Welcome to our new team members who have been working hard with Mr Booth and myself in the lead up to the start of the year to organise classrooms, teaching programs and opportunities for our students. This has been greatly appreciated.

Meet the Teacher Afternoon

An opportunity for parents and carers to meet the Stage Three teachers on Tuesday 19th February. This afternoon will allow you to meet the Stage Three team as a group before going into your child’s to hear specific information related to their class, such as essential equipment for example.. A note will be sent home outlining the date, time, and venue for the afternoon. A note outlining specific equipment will go home. Whilst this note is being prepared we encourage all students to ensure that they bring a pen, pencil, eraser, glue stick and ruler to school each day.

Minnamurra Falls Rainforest Excursion

This term the students within Stage Three are studying rainforests. We are fortunate to have access to the Minnamurra Falls Education Centre at Budderoo National Park near Jambrero on the South Coast. This experience will enable the students to put their learning into real world contexts by actually observing a rainforest environment in person. The staff of the Education Centre will conduct a presentation on rainforests prior to leading a guided tour of the rainforest. A note is currently being prepared outlining the date, travel times, costing and necessary equipment.

Real life first hand experiences enhance and support the learning which our students undertake within the classroom and serves to extend their knowledge and understanding of concepts.

As Stage Three supervisor I look forward to working closely with the students, staff and parents/carers this year. I am sure that through working together we will provide the best educational outcomes for our students. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss or clarify any of the above points or other concerns which you may have.

Kind regards,
Michael Maumill
Assistant Principal
2013 School Leaders

Tahmoor Equestrian Team News

Equestrian events are already starting this year for the Tahmoor Equestrian Team with students attending the Silver Hills Derby Day in early January. It was a pleasure to see Ellen Kelly, Brianna Kelly, Janayha Holdsworth and Krystal-Lee Holdsworth! There will be some Interschools Events coming up, so if any students need to borrow a saddle blanket and browband come and see Miss Sarah Dooley in the Kindergarten rooms. With a happy horse, comes a happy rider.

Yours in teaching,
Miss Sarah Dooley
Equestrian Team Co-ordinator

Fundraiser for Bushfire/Flood Devastated Communities

Tahmoor Public School has demonstrated great generosity throughout the years when called upon to help others in need. We are once again raising money through a Mufti Day for K-2 students on the 15th February. Children may wear Mufti clothes and bring in a gold coin for the privilege. Year 3-6 students will be at our Swimming Carnival on that day and will have the opportunity to donate a gold coin towards the appeal at the pool. The money raised will be sent to the Salvation Army Disaster Relief appeal and will be forwarded on to our fellow Australians who have endured disasters this summer. We look forward to your participation in this appeal.

Thank You
Mrs Newhouse

P & C Association

Welcome back to all our families and staff and also to all our new families and staff joining TPS this year. We wish you all a fantastic 2013 and look forward to working with you, supporting the children through the P & C. Please contact Karen or Kylie if you have any questions about P & C or would like to join.

BIG THANK YOU!!!
The Gift Basket Raffles held last year were a huge success thanks to everyone’s fabulous donations and hard work. We raised $1,200 for the school. Special mention to the very generous donors in 3/4T for all the great breakfast items. We hope the lucky winners enjoyed their prizes.
NEXT MEETING
Next meeting is on the Wednesday 13 February at 9am in the Teachers Centre. Agenda items include fundraising planning for this year and also proposed closure of the Canteen on Mondays or running it on a voluntary basis. Please come along and help support your child’s education in this way. All welcome.

2013 P & C Committee:
President: Mrs Karen Irwin,
Vice President: Mrs Melissa Snedden,
Vice President (2): Mrs Mylee Durrant
Secretary: Ms Kylie Savidge
Treasurer: Mrs Carrie Kable
P I Officer: Mr Boris Ballango
Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator: Mrs Sharon Mordue
Canteen Committee: Mrs Elizabeth Scott, Mrs Karen Irwin, Mrs Vanessa Morris, Ms Kylie Savidge.
Fundraising Committee: Mrs Melissa Snedden, Mrs Bianca Sames, Mrs Vanessa Morris, Mr Boris Ballango - Staff Liason for fundraising - Mr Michael Maumill.
Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for these positions and thank you for supporting TPS in these roles.
Big thank you also goes to the office staff at TPS who help the P&C so much throughout the year. Also to Mr Schofield for his unwavering support and encouragement and to the TPS staff for their understanding and helpfulness, especially with our fundraisers. Big thank you also to Karen for her excellent leadership and enthusiasm as our President. Thank you to the members who worked so hard with fundraising efforts - especially Melissa, volunteering in the Canteen and in many other ways - WELL DONE!

**CANTEEN NEWS**
Volunteers are needed for this year’s Canteen Roster for Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays. Each volunteer is rostered on one morning a month from 8.50am till 11.20am. If you would like to help out please fill in the form below and return to the Canteen.

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<td>Child’s Name &amp; Class</td>
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**UNIFORM SHOP**
Due to this busy time of year we are finding a delay in supplying certain sizes in the uniform shop. Parents that have paid will have priority as soon as they arrive. The school or myself will call but please keep looking in the newsletter for news and be patient with volunteers.

**Price of Hats**
The price of bucket hats will be going up from Term 2 from $5 to $8. We have not had a price rise for over 5 years. (We actually have been underpricing hats - we should have been charging $8.) We are also introducing embroidered hats and caps with TPS logo.
The new prices will be:
Bucket hats - $10
Caps - $8.
They will be filtered in slowly and when old stock runs out, only embroidered hats and caps will be available.
Kind regards
Sharon Mordue
(Uniform shop coordinator)
Welcome to another year. This year there have been some small changes made to student borrowing. All children will be able to borrow from week 3. Children in kindergarten will be able to borrow one book each week. Children in grades 1-6 will be able to borrow two books each week. Children in grades K-2 will need to bring in their library bag each week.

There will be two book fairs this year one in early March and the other late August. Any volunteers to assist with helping out during our book fairs are greatly appreciated. Please come and see me if you can help as this allows book fair to be open longer and on more days. All money raised is used exclusively to purchase books for our library.

Jody Marden
Teacher Librarian