



**WOW! What a way to celebrate the year**



### TIPS NEWS

#### From John and Silvia .....

Our final newsletter for 2018 has so much important information in it! We have decided to send a hard copy home to all families so that we can make sure everyone has this information.

We have had two fantastic recent events, our whole school celebration and our year 7 Graduation. Have a look at the photos inside.

Both occasions highlighted just how fantastic and inclusive our school community is.

#### Class Placements & Reports

This Thursday every student will receive their end of year report and class placement letter. This creates a lot of excitement (and some angst) as we prepare for the 2019 school year. It is important everyone understands the situation, therefore we share with you the following information.

As mentioned previously, we've had a surge in numbers. Mid 2016 we had just over 250 students and next year we'll start with 370.

For the third year in a row we'll start with an extra class, in the transformed computer room.

We are currently turning away families (and have a waiting list) to try not to have too big a surge in enrolments. This enables us to control growth which can blow out our budget.

Our class structure depends on student year level numbers and also the need to separate some groups of children. By restricting our enrolment intake (to just new families moving into immediate proximity of our school) we expect our class structures for 2019 to be:

#### Reception

Reception / Year 1

Reception / Year 1

Year 1 / 2

Year 2

Year 2 / 3

Year 3 / 4

Year 3 / 4

Year 4 / 5

Year 4 / 5

Year 6

Year 6 / 7

Year 6 / 7

Primary District Special Options Class - Rm 9

At the writing of this newsletter we are unsure of 3 teaching positions at school. You may get a letter on Thursday telling you the structure of your child's class (eg Year 3/4), but the teacher is unknown. The Department for Education hopes to allocate 1,200 teaching positions this week. If we find out who your child's teacher is, we will let you know.

Almost all of our classes are completely full. The occasional class may have a space, kept for those emergency enrolments. (This means anyone who comes to talk about changing their child's class placement, it is near on impossible). There is no flexibility in student placements.

#### Please remember:

- We asked for parent requests for placement at the beginning of this term, now it's too late.
- We've done our best to accommodate parent requests, but even a few of these it's just not been possible. Some parents we've talked to when we haven't been able to accommodate requests, have suggested we adopt the model some other schools (and all private schools), where the school selects the classes and it's final. Let's not go there yet.
- You want the best for your child and we want the best placement for 370 children. It's not that simple to say you would like your child moved. Last Friday we thought we had finished classes by swapping two children. When we did the final check Monday morning, eight children had no friends in their new class because of that move, which we needed to fix.
- We ask that you trust the commitment and professionalism of our staff to do the best for your child. If your child says they don't have a friend in their new class, it's because their list of friends has changed in the weeks since they were asked to make a list. Just like their friendship group may look different in 6 weeks time when school starts again. It's important we support your child to develop strength and resilience to handle change.
- Classes have been evenly balanced for student learning
- Your child has not been placed (for example) in a year 3/4 class because they are a smart year 3 or a year 4 needing support. They are in a class where the teacher will cater for as wide variety of learning needs.

*continued over ...*

**Friday is the last day of term, students dismissed at 2:10pm**



## Final Assembly

A tradition at our school is our final day Farwell Assembly. This will be at 9am this Friday. It's an opportunity to say goodbye to any students leaving our school community (be it our year 7's or students moving to another school), and also to staff members retiring or leaving. Please join us if you can.

## Important Dates

Whilst we are talking about dates of significance, the front office will be open from **Tuesday, January 22nd** if you are needing to purchase new uniform. Speaking of uniforms, there is a mountain of lost property that at the end of this week will be donated to charity, so please come in and check it out by Thursday.

## School Timetable

This term we have been trialling a different timetable and have asked our school community for feedback. Every student has voted on the questions: Do you like having the long play before the short play (lunch play before recess)?, and Do you like eating after play?

Almost all classes (and a majority of the individual vote) was they liked having lunch play first. Interestingly the majority of students who voted no wrote they were against it as they don't like change.

The vote on when to eat was much closer. In fact the slight majority said to eat first. when this information was unpacked there were two reasons why students had voted no. Again the main reason was change, the second reason was not having enough time to eat. When teachers discussed this they believed there had been a significant, positive change in children returning to class quickly after play and settling whilst eating and being ready for learning quicker. They did acknowledge eating times needed to be considered/extended (depending on the cohorts of children) and that we should increase the amount of time for the 'warning bell' to allow children to go to the toilet

and wash their hands before eating time. (This was also feedback provided by parents)

A proposal was put to Governing Council by the teachers that we adjust our timetable from now on to follow the trial times. This was accepted by Governing Council. So from now on our bell times will be:

8:30	Teachers on duty, students can enter the yard
8:50	Learning time <b>Healthy Snack/Reset Break mid-session</b>
11:20 - 12:00	Lunch PLayer
12:00 - 12:10	Eating
12:10	Learning Time
1:40	Recess Play (20min)
2:00- 2:10	Eating
2:10	Learning Time
3:10	Finish
3:25	Bell to vacate yard, teacher no longer on duty

The first day of school for students next year is **Tuesday January 29th**. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after a safe, happy and healthy break. We wish you all the best this festive season.

## Year 7 Graduation

Congratulations to all of our graduating year 7 students. We all had a wonderful night celebrating this milestone with you!! Well done to all of our Learner Achievement Award recipients and a very special congratulations to Finn P and Andrej S our very deserving recipients of the 2018 Outstanding Student of the Year Award! Good luck to all of you as you move onto exciting new adventures from your teachers and all of the Torrenville Primary School community.



## Happy Retirement!

Monday of last week we had a celebration for three of our teachers who are retiring at the end of this week.

We wish Bronwyn Matthews from Room 21, Sue Keane our Teacher Librarian and Pat McCarthy from Room 3 all the very best for the next stage of their lives, retirement!



## Special Music Assembly



## Planting, planting, planting



The new garden is really taking shape now with many plants in. Another big thankyou to Bunnings Mile End who were here once again working with the children. Bunnings presented an apple tree to our graduating year 7's and also a gift for each student.