ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
TOMORROW
25TH APRIL 2013

An open invitation is extended to Tootgarook PS parents, teachers and pupils to attend the Rye RSL Anzac Day Memorial Service commencing TOMORROW AT 12.15pm. The school representatives will be meeting at the Rye Pier Carpark at approximately 12.00pm. The Official Memorial Service runs for approximately 30-40 minutes.

TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND EDUCATION

The Tootgarook Information and Technologies committee is in the process of reviewing our use of technology devices at school.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) is a trend that needs to be carefully examined in an education context to ensure that the devices we deploy are successful. At the heart of good 1-to-1 learning is equity to ensure that all students have equal access to technology-rich experiences, and simplicity to ensure that it is easy to manage and sustain.

Between equity and simplicity, however, come considerations of cost. So while today’s confluence of affordable devices, cloud computing and innovative technology dangles a tempting prospect in front of us, educators face a number of difficult decisions before we finally deliver student learning experiences as broad, deep, relevant, complex and creative as we would like them to be.

The Tootgarook Information and Technologies committee is examining the concepts of BYOD models, their nuances and the considerations that accompany them. 1-to-1 access to technology is challenging traditional ideas about teaching and learning, and the arguments herein emphasise that BYOD decisions need to be education-based, not purely technology-based. They need to deliver tangible benefits for student learning.

The arguments also ask us to question a number of assumptions about BYOD. In particular, we question whether BYOD really reduces the total cost of device use in schools, or whether that cost
has been hidden; that is to say, passed on to parents.

At the moment, BYOD presents more questions than answers. Hasty decisions made today risk casting a long shadow and undermining some of the important achievements made to date. Most importantly, there needs to be agreement on the equitable and sustainable provision of technology so that the core ideas of 1-to-1 learning, refined over many years of classroom experience, are not lost in the stampede to a new deployment model. This is especially important, given that previous educational innovations have taught us that early reports of success can overlook complexities that only become apparent over time. Poorly executed BYOD learning environments, for example, are at risk of amplifying the mass inequity that is already evident across so much of our educational systems with the best technology only available to those with the means to afford it. At the other end of the scale, it is equally inappropriate to set the use of computers within a class at the lowest common denominator simply because four or five students are using devices that are not able to complete the work required.

Without clear research and professional development, schools could introduce inequity, complexity and costly support and insurance issues into their technology programs – completely undermining their goal of making computing simple, powerful and accessible to all. If our goal with universal access to technology is to empower our students to be successful citizens in the 21st century, then we must ensure that our deployment models do not compromise this goal.

The Tootgarook Information and Technologies committee is currently reading up to date research, planning Professional Development for all staff, starting in May, ‘Windows in the Classroom’ and inviting guest keynote speakers looking at technology influences to 2020. Sections of this newsletter have come from, ‘Anywhere Learning Foundation’-Sean Tierney, Microsoft Corporation. During the term we will invite families to complete a survey indicating the devices currently utilised in the home environment.

**Time management**

One of the biggest challenges that students face in their busy lives is the effective management of their time to ensure they can balance the academic demands with their co-curricular pursuits.

A mistake that can easily be made is to leave tasks to the last minute which results in an increase in stress and pressure and could compromise the quality of the work submitted, particularly if there are a number of tasks due around a busy activity time.

A really helpful habit that students should establish during primary school years is to commence tasks from the time they are provided. A useful strategy is to “chunk” their tasks over the time period leading up the deadline. “Chunking” involves breaking the task into manageable parts and setting completion targets leading up to the final deadlines. This helpful tactic will help students take control of their time and reduce last minute panic to complete any tasks. Parents can use the Toorak Planner to monitor and discuss with their child how they’re managing their time.
Student of the Week

Students will be presented with certificates at Monday morning assembly.

Prep B – Mrs Bos –
Prep P – Mrs Prossor – Joshua Alesi-Bateman – for his continuing confidence when speaking to our class.
1/2B – Mrs Baird – C.J. Brill – for his honesty and his efforts in Literacy.
1/2H – Mrs Hughes – Jarvis Swaby – for being a wonderful, friendly and helpful classmate. He is always a great role model to others.
1/2P – Miss Perkins – Xavier Mendoza – WOW you have had an amazing start to term 2! You have made great improvements in maths work and is a wonderful member of 1/2P.
3/4T – Miss Withers –
3/W – Ms Walton –
5/6B – Mrs Clements - The student of the week for this week in 5/6 B goes to a most polite friendly class member. He works constantly during Maths and Literacy Groups, is well organised and prepared for everyday. He’s a gun on the Basketball court, congratulations Jett Prentice on being our student of the week.
5/6Q – Miss Quintin – Zack Lizio – WOW Zack, you’ve worked very hard on your Melbourne Project this week. I can’t wait to see the finished product. Keep up the good work!

Art/Craft (Ms Lee / Mrs Campbell) – Harry Taralaik Drewett - 1/2H - for settling in so well in the artroom, for following instructions and taking time with his work, your artwork is a delight! I have put it up on the easel and we are all enjoying looking at it.

Bernie Walsh Art Award - 1/2P Well done on your cityscapes! Once again I have been surprised by the high standard of artwork in this grade. A real pleasure to work with all of you!

Music – (Mrs Young) –
PE – (Mr King) –

School Camps & Excursions: Asthma

If your child has asthma, attending school camps and excursions can introduce them to new asthma triggers especially if they are going into new environments. It is essential that your child can participate fully and safely in all school activities. The following is a list of considerations to make for your child before they go on school camp or an excursion:

- Is your child’s asthma currently well controlled (e.g. no symptoms at night, reliever use less than 3 times per week)?
- Has your child had an asthma attack or asthma symptoms recently?
- Does the school have an Asthma Action Plan for your child?
- Has the school asked you to complete a School Camp and Excursion Medical Update Form?
- Does your child have their reliever medication and spacer on hand at all times?
- Are they attending with any other medications to be taken on the camp/excursion? If so, are there sufficient instructions to staff for use/dosage?
- Does your child self-administer their medication? If so, has their technique been checked recently?

For more information please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au.