Dear parents,

Congratulations to the students who achieved a place in our zone cross country team based on their efforts last Friday. It was an excellent day and the weather did not spoil the event. Mr Gattenhof will post a complete report when available and ribbons will be presented in the assembly on Friday 22nd.

Many thanks to Mr Gattenhof, Mrs Holloway and the students of 6G and 4/5H who went to the fields early to set up and stayed behind to pack up. Thanks to the parents who also helped.

New legislation for Non Smoking Areas
There are new rules regarding areas where smoking is no longer allowed. A summary of the new legislation and the full details are being sent home today and are available at the office.
Please remember that smoking is not allowed on government grounds at all. The new laws affect a number of other areas and entrances to public buildings where smoking will no longer be allowed.

School Banking –P&C
The P&C recently surveyed our parents regarding the reintroduction of school banking. There is strong support for students to have the opportunity to bank at school and Mrs Melissa Kilby has offered to coordinate the initiative. The school receives a percentage of the funds banked as a fundraiser for the P&C. Information packs will be sent home shortly and a representative from the Commonwealth Bank will attend our assembly in the near future to promote banking for students.
Thank you to our P&C for their ongoing commitment to our school.

Head Lice Information
The control of head lice is a constant issue in school and we ask parents to check student’s hair regularly and treat accordingly when any evidence of head lice is detected.
We have received information CDs to assist parents in the ongoing treatment of head lice. They will be sent home this week with the eldest child in each family and we hope it is a useful resource.

Have a wonderful week and I hope to see many parents at our P&C meeting on Wednesday night.

Regards
Annette Thomson

AFL Regional Trials

On Tuesday 12th March Nick Ceci, Mitchell Hall, Mitchell Walls, Lachlan Blyth and Ryan Arkless represented our school and the Port Stephens zone in AFL at Maitland Park. The boys played with courage, determination and sportsmanship. They were up against very stiff competition for limited places in the Hunter team. A record number of 80 students attended the trial. Nick Ceci and Mitchell Walls made it into the ‘Possibles and Probables’ game. Nick was selected in the Hunter team, an excellent achievement. Congratulations to all five boys for the way you represented our school. Thanks so much to Penny Blyth for accompanying and organising the boys.

Mr Cornish
Hello everyone...

We only have a few weeks left this term and I have sent home raffle tickets for our yummy, chocolate Easter raffle. Prizes are on display in the canteen. The raffle will be drawn during the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 28th March from 2.30pm. There will be an opportunity to buy more tickets then if you wish.

All the best for this week
Jo Holley

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**P&C AGM**

P&C AGM will be held on **Wednesday 20th March, 6.30pm in the Staff Common Room.** Positions open will include:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

If you would like to be part of a dedicated group of parents who work with the school to provide resources for our children, please join us. It would be wonderful to see some new faces and some old ones too.

Thank you
Elizabeth Stokes elizabeths1969@dodo.com.au

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**Canteen Roster**

WED 20th March S.Stagg S.Podziadlo
THURS 2st March A.Durant J.Hannah
FRI 22nd March E.Stokes L.Morrison V.Orton

Hello everyone..

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Jo Holley

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**ASSEMBLY ORGANISATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK/DATE</th>
<th>TERM 1 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8(22/3)</td>
<td>K-6 assembly—Cross Country ribbons and swimming champions trophies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9(29/3)</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10(5/4)</td>
<td>K-2 : (1/2H leading)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11(12/4)</td>
<td>K-6 Anzac Day Celebrations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mobile Phone Collection**

Do you have unwanted mobile phones at home????

If you do, please send them in to school as our school can earn $3 for every phone collected. This would enable TPS to earn valuable dollars for our school to purchase resources for students.

Send your old phones to Mrs Mayers’ room for collection.

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**HUNTER SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL 2014**

Any parents who wish to complete a ‘Targeted Sports Application Form’ for their year 6 child to attend Hunter Sports High School next year can obtain a copy of the application and information from Mr Cornish.
**STUDENT COUNCIL TERM ONE CHARITY - Epilepsy Action Australia**

Purple Day (26th March) is a global effort dedicated to raising epilepsy awareness. Purple Day was founded in 2008, by nine-year-old Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, Canada. Motivated by her own struggles with epilepsy, Cassidy started Purple Day in an effort to get people talking about the condition and inform those with seizures that they are not alone. She named the day Purple Day after the internationally recognised colour for epilepsy, lavender.

Whilst epilepsy is the world’s most common serious brain disorder it is currently impacting the lives of over 111,000 Australians. It is an unpredictable and often debilitating condition which is estimated to affect up to 3% of the Australian population within their lifetime.

Tomaree Public School is going purple on Tuesday 26th March. We are asking our students to wear something purple on the day and bring along a gold coin donation.

There will also be a lunchtime stall selling purple wristbands ($3) and purple shoelaces ($5) on behalf of Epilepsy Action Australia. Please note purchasing from this stall is completely voluntary.

Sue Holloway
Student Council Coordinator

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**STEWART HOUSE**

Each year 1,800 public school children in need of a break from their everyday life go to Stewart House. During their stay, children are provided with optometric, dental and medical treatment as well as emotional support. This is balanced with health and educational programs and out of school activities to boost their self-esteem and to promote a healthier lifestyle.

In response to the natural beauty of the site, at Curl Curl Beach, the school integrates environmental and Aboriginal education. Children are encouraged to express themselves formally and informally through a variety of speaking, listening and writing activities such as keeping journals, writing letters or emails, recounting excursion experiences, and sharing life stories. Major excursion venues include Sydney Olympic Park, Taronga Zoo, the Rocks Area and the Powerhouse Museum. In addition, parks, reserves, lighthouses are visited along the Northern Beaches. Children participate in Visual and creative arts such as pottery, dance, painting and drawing.

Through use of technology children contribute to the production of a DVD visual diary of their stay at Stewart House. They utilise email to communicate to home and home schools and to access the Internet for research. They can record their experiences or excursion research in our computer lab.

There is an active sports program including bike riding, swimming and outdoor games. Through a special grant the Australian Sports Commission provides a variable program every term that has included beach games, gymnastics, hip-hop dance and basic games skills. Beach activities such as surf awareness, kite flying, sand modelling and games complement the more formal sports program.

As part of their stay children are encouraged to further develop their independence and sense of responsibility through activities such as cooking, health awareness and self help skills. Children are encouraged to enjoy recreational and leisure pursuits. Some activities provided are bush walking, fishing riding scooters and indoor games. Children learn to socialise with others and relax while completing craft activities such as stained glass windows, jewellery making and wood burning.

Children in the care of Stewart House attend a specific purpose school onsite for 8 days of their 12-day stay. The NSW Department of Education and Communities provides infrastructure and staffing support for this school. All others costs associated with the childrens’ stay are met from charitable donations. Many teachers from throughout NSW and the ACT make fortnightly contributions to Stewart House through salary deductions, but this is not enough. It costs $103 a day to provide for one student, so the cost of the twelve day experience is $1236. Stewart House is currently holding a fund raising drive. When your child brings the Stewart House envelope home, please donate as generously as you can.

Thanks
Mr Cornish
In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it, you'll be the grandest person in the Easter Parade....... 

Yes, this year we are holding an

Easter Hat Parade

Students will bring their creations from home and parade under the COLA at 2:45 pm on Thursday 28th March.

Be creative with your child, have fun and come and see the creations of others!
2014 Year 7 Parents are invited to a

Parent Information Evening
At the Tomaree Public School Hall

Wednesday 27th March 2013

Information Session from 7pm – 8pm

Optional High School tour from 6:00pm
Outline of primary to high school transition activities
Answers to questions raised in parent surveys
CAPA and Academic Extension Class application process

For further information contact
Karen Thurlow: karen.thurlow@det.nsw.edu.au or ph: 4981 1444

Peter Partridge
Principal
February 2013

Dear Parent/Caregiver

The Seasons for Growth programme has successfully operated over the last two years. We are currently planning for the successful continuation of this programme in Term 2, 2013.

Perhaps your child may benefit from this programme being offered by Tomaree Public School. The program focuses on the issues our kids face - such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem solving, decision-making and effective communication. It is facilitated in small groups of young people in the same age bracket.

Tomaree Public School is in the privileged position of being able to offer this program at no cost to the participants, as a result of a partnership established with Nelson Bay Baptist Church.

The Seasons for Growth Program runs for eight weeks and each weekly session is 40-50 minutes. The program concludes with a celebration session. Later in the year the group will have the opportunity to meet for two further sessions to build on their earlier learning. Confidentiality is assured, as the participants, including the adult companions, make a clear agreement at the commencement of the programme not to disclose any conversations held within the group.

‘Seasons for Growth’ has been running in schools Australia-wide for the past 10 years, with really positive feedback from young people, teachers and parents. Further details can be found on their very comprehensive website (www.goodgrief.org.au).

‘Seasons for Growth’ will commence during school hours in term 2, and will be facilitated by accredited companions. The companions have received special training in the use of this program. If your son/daughter expresses interest in participating in this program, we would encourage you to talk to him/her about this. Should he/she decide to participate please fill in the tear-off section below and return to Greg Smith, School Chaplain or Cheryl Mayers at Tomaree Public School, asap, before the end of 1st term.

We are pleased to be able to offer this important program and are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience.

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION, THIS SECTION MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROGRAM. PLEASE RETURN TO Greg Smith (School Chaplain) or Mrs.Cheryl Mayers.

I give consent for ............................................................... Class……. to attend the Seasons for Growth Program and have discussed this with him/her. I also consent for one of the companions to use their own car for transport to the Celebration Session if necessary.

Parent/Guardian Name:_______________________ Signature:_______________________

Contact phone number: (hm)___________________ Mobile:__________________________

Participant Name:____________________________ Signature:______________________-
Each year at Tomaree Public School we invite students who wish to sit these assessments to participate in the assessment program run by the university. Students and their parents can then gauge their child’s achievements in relation to other children from Australia and Pacific Nations. Students are awarded certificates indicating the level of achievement and a detailed report of their attainments. This competition is separate from NAPLAN run through Australia for Years 3 and 5.

The competition is offered to students in Years 3 to 6 in the following subjects:-

**English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Skills, Spelling.**

IN 2013 YEAR 2 MAY ENTER English and Maths on the dates below

The *closing date for entries at Tomaree* is Thursday 4th April, 2013

NAME, CLASS and which Competitions entering marked with money in a envelope to the school office. Please check you have marked which subjects are being entered so we order the correct papers for your child.

Students and their families can decide which competitions they wish to enter you do not have to do all competitions.

Please tick below the competitions you wish your child to enter and include the amount in total for all competitions. Competition dates are set by the University and competitions must be conducted on those days. Fees are paid on entering the competition.

**PLEASE RETURN THE SLIP BELOW TO MRS. KANDLBINDER**

| MY CHILD_________________________ of YEAR______CLASS_______ wishes to enter the following competitions:-- |
| Computer Skills | $8.00 | Tuesday 21st May |
| Science | $8.00 | Wednesday 5th June |
| Spelling | $11.00 | Tuesday 18th June |
| English | $8.00 | Wednesday 31st July |
| Mathematics | $8.00 | Tuesday 13th August |

I have enclosed the total of $______________________ to cover the costs of my child’s entries.

Please check you have ticked the boxes next to the competition your child wishes to enter.

Thank you.

Mrs C Kandlbinder
Attendance at school
Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

Responsibilities of Parents and Carers
Parents are responsible for:
- enrolling their children of compulsory school age in a government or registered non-government school or registering them with the Board of Studies NSW for home schooling.
- ensuring that their children attend school regularly.
- explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school.
- taking measures to resolve attendance issues involving their children.
- apply in advance for exemptions for periods of absence of 5 days or more when it is known that a child will be absent for reasons other than sickness.