PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Purpose Statement:

Toowoomba West Special School is committed to promoting a safe, respectful and responsible school community that enables our students to reach their full potential.

Behaviour of the week:
“I use kind actions and words”

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Thanks to those families who supported the recent Pie Drive. Special thanks to Tina Wilson for coordinating this event and her band of helpers: Megan Apalais, Ben and Afina Daniels and Paul Wilson.

FOCUS ON CURRICULUM

Miss Vivian forms a soccer ball using 2 dimensional shapes at QUT.

Just after the Easter break we are going to have a visit from a Mathematics lecturer from Queensland University of Technology’s School of Education, Jan Cavanagh. Since last year, teachers have been undergoing training using a Maths program that looks at the HOW of teaching Mathematics. The YuMi Deadly Maths team from QUT work on collaborative research projects with various schools around Queensland and interstate. Our project involves nine other special schools around Queensland. Jan will be visiting to meet and work with students and teachers from Cohort 2.

Teachers give directions using attributes such as shape, size, colour, number, height, directional concepts etc. at QUT.

Miss Rachael and Miss Melissa experiment with tessellations at QUT.

PBL: POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

We are in full swing with implementation of our Behaviour Matrix this term. The matrix is a grid that includes behaviours we will be teaching which occur across the entire school day. Our three expectations (respect, responsibility, safety) are defined in each daily routine.
Those of you who visit the school daily for drop offs and pick ups will have seen an easel with any important notices for the day or week. Included on the easel is our **BEHAVIOUR OF THE WEEK.** Last week it was **USE ‘HELLO’, ‘GOODBYE’, ‘PLEASE’ AND ‘THANK YOU’** (Respect). This week we have been revising **“USE KIND ACTIONS AND WORDS”** (Respect).

We use stars for rewards for desired behaviours which are stuck onto rockets. Students are able to achieve even greater rewards from choices when they accumulate their rockets.

Seth saved up his rockets for a foot spa!

Cameron saved his rockets for one of the ‘big ticket’ rewards: to sit in Mr Glenn’s chair for a session! On this day Mr Glenn announced Cameron’s reward through a megaphone while wheeling him through the school on his office chair! Well done, Cam!

Our PBL Team continues to meet fortnightly after school. In addition to Glenn and me there is Amy Harding (our external Coach), Megan Thompson (teacher and Internal Coach), Larissa Vale (our Curriculum Co-ordinator), Mary Evans (Teacher Aide) and Megan Apalais (our Parent Representative and Vice-President of the P&C).

**DATE CLAIMER:**

**Toowoomba West P&C Race Day**

**Saturday 24 October**

A Race Day committee will be formed on the 28th April, in conjunction with the parent/carer morning tea at 9:30. Anyone who is interested in being involved please come along. This is one of our P & C’s biggest fundraisers so as much support as can be given is greatly appreciated. It is a great event, so book your baby sitters now!

**Visits to Paediatricians:**

If your child has a paediatric, neurologist or other specialist visit coming up, **please let your child’s teacher know.** This will enable us to provide an update about your child’s progress at school. Paediatricians and other specialists tell us that they find information from school to be extremely valuable e.g. in
relation to a child’s behaviour, ability to concentrate, cognitive and physical skills, energy levels etc. while at school. It would be desirable to have at least one week’s notice for a report.

UNIFORMS – COOLER MONTHS AHEAD!

Cherie Imms will be taking on the role of our Uniform Coordinator for this year once Megan and Nikki hand over to her. Don’t forget that winter will soon be upon us so get ready to order your V-neck, fleecy lined jumpers. These are priced at $24. We have plenty of other stock available. Payment will be required at collection of your uniform order.

We would also like to say that the staff look wonderful in their uniforms – cooler months ahead!

Many thanks
Megan Apalais, Nikki Powell and Cherie Imms

On behalf of our staff I want to wish all of our families a happy and safe Easter vacation and we will see you when school resumes on Monday 20 April.

Till next time
Kind regards

Lea

★★★★★ Coming Events ★★★★★

02.04.15 ‘Go Blue for Autism’ Day (fundraiser)
02.04.15 End of Term 1
20.04.15 Term 2 commences
22.04.15 Launch of P&C’s Business Awards (in school hall)
28.04.15 Parent Carer Catch Up Morning Tea
03.05.15 Heartkids Walk in Queens Park
29.08.15 Toowoomba Business disABILITY Awards
18.09.15 ‘Talk Like a Pirate’ Day (fundraiser)
24.10.15 Toowoomba West P&C Race Day

ACCESS TO JP

Mr. Glenn, our Deputy Principal, is a registered Justice of the Peace (Qual.). Should you need the services of a JP (Qual.) please enquire at the office to make a time to meet with him.

Today we are Going Blue for Autism! Many thanks to those families who have got into the spirit and decked their child/ren out in all things blue today and sent along a gold coin donation to help support people living with Autism and their families.

FAMILY AND CHILD CONNECT

Every family needs a little help now & then. When friends and family are unavailable, it can be hard to know who to call for support. That’s where Family and Child Connect can help.

Funded by the Queensland Government, Family and Child Connect is a brand new community-based service designed specifically to listen to you and help you to connect with the right supports at the right time. In South West Queensland the service is provided jointly by Mercy Community Services & Lifeline Darling Downs & SW Queensland Ltd at three different sites; in Toowoomba, Roma and Charleville.

Whether you are a parent, a young person, a concerned friend, neighbour or professional, if you are looking for information and advice on how you can best help yourself or someone else, you can call or drop into Family & Child Connect and speak to a real person about how to get the right assistance.

Family and Child Connect’s friendly, professional staff know all about the people and services in your area and how they can help with any challenge a family might be facing. They can provide you with information about these supports and in some cases can even introduce you to them. If you are worried about a family other than your own they can help you with ideas of how you might be able to reach out and provide some personal support to them.

At the moment this service is available throughout South West Queensland. If you would like to speak with us it is as simple as picking up the phone and calling 13FAMILY (13 32 64). All enquiries are most welcome.

Bethany Liebke was a very popular young student at our school. She had tricuspid atresia, a rare congenital heart disease in which the tricuspid valve is missing. She battled with this disease all of her life until she died in 2011, just three days before her 10th birthday.

Eight babies will be born today with Childhood Heart Disease (CHD). In Australia, it is the most common birth abnormality and the leading cause of death for children under one. There is no cure...

Bethany’s parents, Lorena and Chris, and brother Regan would like to invite everyone to take a stroll in Queen’s Park with them in memory of their Heart Angel – Bethany Cate. They would love to see as
many of their family and friends join them on 3 May to raise awareness and funds for Heartkids. If you can't make it but would like to help you can make a donation instead by going to the website via the following link: https://twofeetandaheartbeatowoomba.everydayhero.com.au/the-liebke-family

If you would like to participate in the walk, please register on https://twofeetandaheartbeat.org.au

**QSCHOOLS APP ALLOWS YOU TO ACCESS SCHOOL WEBSITE INFORMATION EASILY!**

This is a reminder to parents and carers about an app developed by Education Queensland that allows parents/carers to access information about their child’s school. The QSchools app allows you to access all information on a school’s website. When any new items are uploaded to the website, parents/carers could receive an alert to let them know about it. Fantastic! It’s **free** from the App Store (for apple products) or Google Play Store (for androids).

Also, if you have not visited our website recently, then do have a look when you get the chance: https://toowwestspecs.eq.edu.au/ or just Google us!

Every EQ school website has a translator at the bottom of the site page. Each website can be translated into a range of common languages. For all of you Star Wars fans out there, I have just discovered that it will translate into Klingon!