BE SAFE  
BE RESPECTFUL  
BE RESPONSIBLE

**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:**  
“Use equipment as intended”  
(Be safe)

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**SCHOOL LEADERS**

Our School Leaders for 2015 are Ryan Blair and Shakia Owen. One of their first official duties this year was to attend the Mayor’s Morning Tea for School Leaders which was held at the Empire Church. Student representatives from each of the primary schools (State and private) were invited to attend. Following a morning tea, students from three schools spoke to the group about their school and their leadership roles.

Left: Miss Lea, Shakia and Ryan pose with Councillor Paul Antonio, Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council.

**FOCUS ON CURRICULUM**

Deb Loveday is a teacher from Clifford Park who has particular expertise in **Intensive Interaction** – a communication methodology used worldwide. As Glenn said in the last newsletter, Intensive Interaction is designed to meet the learning needs of people who are still at early stages of communication development. Throughout this term and possibly longer, Deb is visiting our school each Monday to work with students and staff in order to build our knowledge and skills around using Intensive Interaction. The results have been so positive and we look forward to continuing this relationship with Deb which will also benefit the transition of our young people to Clifford Park in the future.

Sitting right beside her son was proud mother, Veronica Blair, with Shakia in front while TRC Councillors are in the background.

The Empire Church was just about brimming to capacity when leaders from all schools in the TRC area converged for the Mayor's Morning Tea.
ANZAC Day Ceremony

School Leaders Ryan and Shakia pose with floral tributes after the ceremony at school, including some that the students themselves had made.

Mr Glenn took our floral tributes to the Mother’s Memorial so that they would be there for the Dawn Service the following morning.

PBL: Positive Behaviour for Learning

We continue to implement 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. This week it has been Use Equipment as Intended (Safety).

Brendan (above) and Seth (below) are applauded by their schoolmates as Mr Glenn parades them through the school announcing their achievement using our portable PA system. This is a huge event.

We use star stamps as rewards for desired behaviours. These are then transferred onto rockets with each rocket containing 10 stars. Students are able to access the reward menu each week when they accumulate a certain number of rockets.

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), Laura Masters (our Curriculum Co-ordinator), Mary Evans (Teacher Aide) and Megan Apalais (our Parent Representative and Vice-President of the P&C).

Attendance

Attendance at school results in maximised learning time and we believe that if students attend every day and every learning minute of the day, we are improving their opportunities for success.

Having said this, please be aware that if your child is unwell and staff feel they are not coping with their school day or they are too ill to be at school, you may receive a phone call to collect your child.

‘Catch Up’ Morning Tea

Monday 1 June at 9.30am

Another lovely Parent / Carer Morning Tea was held on 28 April. It is always a great opportunity to catch up with other parents and see how their term is travelling.

From front left to right: Kristy, Megan, Cherie, Abbie, Ben, Afina, Nikki and Jezma enjoyed a leisurely cuppa and chat.

It would be great to see more of our parents / carers at our next morning tea, which will be held on Monday 1 June at 9:30. Please bring a plate to share.

Megan Apalais (P&C Vice-President)
DATE CLAIMER:
Toowoomba West P&C
Race Day
Saturday 24 October

A Race Day committee is now formed 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!

CLASSIC CAR RALLY SUPPORTS OUR SCHOOL

On Saturday 2 May at 4pm, over 20 hot rod, muscle and classic cars lined the TWSS carpark. Their mission: to raise money for to cover the registration and insurance costs for a number of our students to attend Riding for the Disabled each week by participating in a ‘Dead Dog Poker Run’.

After a quick briefing with run details the adventure began with drivers taking one of two routes that would lead to Rod’s Diner at Gatton. Along the way participants kept a keen eye out for the "Dead Dog" (a toy dog) and answers to the observation questions. Part of the journey involved making stops at two check points where drivers were given a card to make up their poker hand. People staffing the checkpoints were open to bribes in exchange for better cards and as a result an additional $200 was raised!

Once at the diner everyone could relax and enjoy a hearty and delicious meal as they waited in nail-biting-suspense for the winner of the run to be announced! Prizes were handed out for the best poker hand, most correct answers on the observation run, the dead dog finders and the raffle was drawn by the diner owner. Finally then the time had come to reveal how much money had been raised...an astounding $1,050!!

A great time was had by all, so much fun in fact that there were several requests for a another run! A huge thank you to all who were involved for your overwhelming generosity!

Jacquie Twidale (Organiser)

This bright and busy painting was presented to our school for our students yesterday. The artist was Tina Wilson, mother of student Jazmyn Wilson. Tina wanted to do something especially for the students; something that would engage them in a different way each time they looked at it. Just about every children’s character you can imagine in film, cartoon or book is represented – even from my vintage. (Does anyone remember HR Puff’nstuff, Astro Boy or Yogi Bear?) Enshrined within the painting in beaded letters are the name of our school and our three PBL behaviour expectations: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. We will make sure we hang it where all students can engage with it – most likely in our library. Many thanks, Tina!
On 22 April, our P&C launched its 4th annual Toowoomba Business disABILITY Awards – TBDA. This event developed from a desire of our P & C to have a strong focus on the future of our young people which involved the need to recognise those businesses that support, educate and employ people with a disability in the Toowoomba region.

The Committee has a strong commitment to the future of our students and indeed to the overall employment of people with a disability in the mainstream workforce – as both a community benefit, and a viable commercial decision. We believe in encouraging engagement between local businesses and people with a disability, to gain meaningful employment in our community.

More than 30 people attended the launch, from service providers, politicians, business people and supporters. Guest Speaker Laura Skurr spoke about the challenges she has faced in finding employment, despite having a Commerce Degree (Double Honours) and a Degree in Business. Laura has Cerebral Palsy and has applied for over 180 roles and has not been successful. She is more than qualified for a position as an accountant and she is pursuing that dream by starting her own business. Laura’s speech had a great effect on all of those in attendance.

The Keynote speaker for 2015 was also announced at the launch: International Humanitarian and Global Peace Maker – Moira Kelly AM. Moira shot to prominence in Australia when she brought conjoined twins Krishna & Trishna to Australia for lifesaving surgery to separate them. Moira skyped into the Launch and spoke about her charities. She is going to be an exceptional speaker, and those at the launch were very excited by the announcement of her attendance at the Awards Dinner on 29th August. More info is available at www.tbda.net.au We would love to see you there.

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 is our Uniform Co-ordinator for this year. Don’t forget that winter is approaching 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.

Many thanks
Cherie Imms

- We went Blue for Autism on the last day of term. 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. We raised $120.

- Our school is very fortunate to be the beneficiary of a charity golf day which is being organised by two businesses in town: Toowoomba Fasteners and Northbuild. Tom Herbert, owner of Toowoomba Fasteners, has been running this charity golf day for a number of years and has this time approached Toowoomba West to be the beneficiary! The golf day will be on Friday 22 May. More in our next newsletter.

- Complimentary on-line Theme Park Discount Vouchers are attached to this newsletter.

Till next time
Kind regards
Lea

★★★★★ Coming Events ★★★★★

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.05.15</td>
<td>5.30 P&amp;C Meeting – you are all welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.05.15</td>
<td>Charity Golf Day to raise money for TWSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.06.15</td>
<td>Parent / Carer ‘Catch-Up’ Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>29.08.15</td>
<td>Toowoomba Business disABILITY Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.09.15</td>
<td>‘Talk Like a Pirate’ Day (fundraiser)</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.10.15</td>
<td>Toowoomba West P&amp;C Race Day</td>
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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.