Dear Parents/Carers and members of the TWSS Community, this week has been a sad and reflective week with the tragedy which occurred in Sydney – with the death of a mother, father and their two children, both children living with autism. On Thursday night as I drove home from school I listened to a mother of 3 children, who all live with autism on the radio. The key message that this mother relayed was the importance of support and the importance of having a break. She went onto to say that she was extremely fortunate to have family support but understood that not everybody had this support. As a school, I make the offer to you to come and talk to us – both Amy and my door is always open if you need to have a chat (confidential of course). Amy and I may also be able to assist in linking you up with possible support agencies. The TWSS community pass on our thoughts to St Lucy’s School (the school the children attended and the mother volunteered) and to their family.

LIFELINE: 13 11 14 24hr crisis support. Suicide prevention.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – without alarming you - can I suggest that you make yourself familiar with the NDIS webpage www.ndis.gov.au
The NDIS will be starting in Toowoomba in 2017. For more information please read relevant information on the website. If you require assistance with NDIS please phone 1800 800 110.
If you don’t have access to a computer or internet, please contact the school – we will make a computer available for your use. Please see attached document for more information on the NDIS.

Absenteeism – can I stress the importance of parents/carers making contact with the school on the day of your child being absent from school. The school administration team will make contact with parents/families if absenteeism is not explained by 10am on the day of being absent.

P & C Race Day: Unfortunately the P & C has had to postpone this year’s race day. The P & C is in the process of renegotiating a date with Clifford Park Race Course.

QSchools App: The QSchools App is an excellent way for you to keep up to date with what is happening at TWSS. This newsletter will appear on the app, as will other important information. The App is free to download and can be downloaded on Apple or android phones.

A couple of new changes:

Phone calls – when parents/carers or anybody else for that matter phone the school during the hours of ‘teaching time’ (when the teacher is working with students) the ladies in the office will take a message and the teacher will then return the call when they are not working with students. If the phone call is urgent or is an emergency, the call will be transferred through to me or Ms Amy (A/Deputy Principal). I am sure that you will understand that it is extremely important that teachers and students are not interrupted during teaching time.

Absenteeism – parents/carers must contact the school prior to their child being absent for 5 or more days. This could be a holiday, illness/medical or other planned reason. Relevant paperwork will be completed and signed by parents/carers. This is an Education Queensland requirement.

Parent Contact details/Emergency Contact details – recently we experienced a situation where we needed to contact a parent urgently but were unable to due to the parent’s mobile phone not working. Can I stress the importance on informing the school office of alternative contact details if your primary phone is not working. If you have not listed emergency contacts for your child with the school I urge you to do this as well. Please contact the school office if you are in any doubt or questions.

Routine Medication – Medication which an individual student has on a daily basis at a set time. Medication will only be administered if it is prescribed, in the original container and has a pharmacy label. If the medication is more complex with specific administration requirements then a letter from the medical practitioner should be provided. Please come and see myself or Ms Amy for further information if required.

Wrapping up another great week in learning and engagement at Toowoomba West Special School. Till next time,

Regards

Mr Glenn
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.

PBL: POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

PBL is an evidence-based, schoolwide universal system of student behavioural support. This year we are continuing with ongoing revision of our implementation into classrooms and school wide systems. Each week we explicitly teach our behaviour focus for the week. Each behaviour focus relates to one of our three behaviour expectations of BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE SAFE.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- **8.15am drop off** - please arrive no earlier than 8:15am to drop off students. (Staff start duty at 8.15am and a bell will sound)
- **Communication Books** – are used to communicate key points between home and school/school and home. Please do not expect teachers to write in communication books each day. If there is a major issue/concern to report expect it to be written in the communication book or a phone call from the teacher.
- **Hats** – please provide a hat for your child (only if it is not a sensory issue) to wear while playing/participating in activities outdoors.
- **Please name all pieces** of your child’s clothing which is worn at school.
- **Medication** – please make contact with your child’s teacher regarding routine medication.
- **Student details** – please notify the office when any student details change, this also includes EMERGENCY CONTACTS.
- **Transport** – transport amendments/new applications take 7-10 days to implement.

• **Parent/Teacher meetings** – parents please communicate through the communication book/email to arrange a time to meet with the teacher

Visits to Paediatricians/Specialists:
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.

********** Coming Events **********

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-4.11.16</td>
<td>Senior Students school camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.12.16</td>
<td>Graduation night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07.12.16</td>
<td>Report Cards sent home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08.12.16</td>
<td>End of Year Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.12.16</td>
<td>Last day of term 4/end of school year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACCESS TO JP

Mr. Glenn 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.

UNIFORMS

Winter clothing is currently in stock – please see the office team for any uniform orders or enquiries.

Thank you to all families and staff who purchase uniforms through the P & C.
This is Isaac taking photos of his class garden. Isaac is taking photos to track the growth and change in the plants. The students also use the vegetables in their Friday cooking.

Three exhausted teachers. These teachers were waiting with students at 2:30pm. All students had long gone – they just couldn’t get up!