Dear Parents/Carers and members of the TWSS Community, what a great week we have had in our school! This is an extremely busy time in the year for all school staff – as we are finishing 2016 but preparing for 2017. Our school student numbers are very steady – at the moment 65 students have enrolled for 2017. At this stage we will have 1 prep age class; we have a couple of families moving from interstate and a few students who are moving from primary schools. We will also be having a couple of teacher changes. More information to be released closer to the end of year (I know, how much closer can we get?) I am still in the process of ‘locking’ in teaching staff for 2017. I will let you know ASAP.

PBL – Today I went through all of our behaviour data and I have excellent news! Your children and staff at Toowoomba West Special School have achieved a 5 is to 1 ratio for POSITIVE REWARDS and behaviour expectations not followed (4 is to 1 is best practice) – we are achieving a better result than best practice. That is, for every 1 behaviour expectations not followed there are 5 positive rewards given to students for following our behaviour expectations. So far for 2016 our students have received 560 positive rewards! And 92 incidents have occurred in our school. Well done to all our students and TWSS staff who work tirelessly to get the best results for your child.

Monday and Tuesday – our great friends from Toowoomba Christian College visited our school for both days. About 25 students (year 8, 9, 10) and teaching staff volunteered their time spent their day working in classrooms and just having a great time with all of our students. TWSS students had the greatest time – and quoting a couple of the TCC students “we are exhausted.” Staff and students greatly appreciate TCC visiting our school and are most welcome to come back. And during their visit they sprung a surprise on me by presenting our school with a $1000.00 gift voucher from InterSport Toowoomba. A very big thank you from our school community!!!!

Wednesday was the last day for horse riding in 2016. A big congratulations to our students who participated in this activity. Horse riding which takes place at Riding for the Disabled has a primary focus on the development of individual students physical strength, coordination and mobility. I have attached an image of 3 of our riders with their trophies.

On Thursday a number of parents from our school community attended the NDIS information session organised and delivered by the YMCA team. A big thank you to Melissa Volp for orchestrating and leading this event for our parent community.

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.

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.

Every Day Counts at School
Just a reminder of the importance of sending children to school every day. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year.

Absenteism – 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.

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.

Behaviour Alerts- At TWSS we are committed to
promoting a safe, respectful and responsible school community that enables our students to reach their full potential. This is done through the implementation of a range of strategies including our PBL focus, explicit teaching and school wide expectations and rewards. However, for some of our students they also require more individualised support. As part of the strategies used to support these students, on occasion it is required that the school has a ‘behaviour alert’. This is a strategy used by the school to alert all staff (via the phone system) that one of our students is requiring additional support, and to ensure the safety of all students, teachers are to remain in their classroom with their students (i.e. not moving around the school). There are also times when due to the location of classes (e.g. at lunch time) the ‘lockdown’ siren is sounded to indicated to staff and students that they need to return to their classrooms to ensure a safe environment for all members of our school community. If you have any further questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to come and see Amy or I.

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 Mr Glenn 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

P & C Meeting – Monday 28th November 5:30pm in the staff room

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 ★★★★★★

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>28.11.16</td>
<td>P &amp; C meeting 5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>06.12.16</td>
<td>Graduation night – start 6:30pm</td>
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<td>07.12.16</td>
<td>Report Cards sent home</td>
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<td>08.12.16</td>
<td>End of Year Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.12.16</td>
<td>Last day of term 4/end of school year</td>
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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

School uniforms are currently in stock – please see the office team for any uniform orders or enquiries.

This is Issac. He has made a diorama of meerkats in their natural environment. Issac is very happy with what he has made (and so am I). Excellent work Issac.

Congratulations to Joel, Ashley, Lakesha and Bella for earning 6 rockets and having lunch with Ms Amy. The smell of McDonalds in the office draws staff from far and wide. Well done everybody.

Mr Glenn receiving the $1000.00 gift voucher from TCC students Gabrielle and Sarah. Thanks TCC!

This is the TWSS Horse Riding Team – Jordan, Preston and Ashleigh holding their trophies. Great job team.
Dear Parents and Caregivers

End of Year Concert
Twba West Special School
Thursday 8 December

We invite you, your families and friends to celebrate with us.

8.45 Students in classrooms
(Normal routine and concert preparation)

9.00 Assemble in hall

9.10 Concert begins!

10.10 Normal Morning Tea routine for students
Parent / Carer morning tea in the hall
Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

11.00 Welcome Santa
(In the hall, Santa will meet with each class)

12.15 Normal lunch routines for students
(If any parents or carers would like to take their child home, please notify his / her teacher to let them know beforehand.)

We hope you can make it!

Regards

Glenn
Glenn Gatehouse
Principal