

# TABLE TOP PUBLIC SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 7

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015

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### CALENDAR – What's on?

#### **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

Riverina PSSA Athletics  
(Selected students only)

#### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> & Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

K-1 Canberra Excursion

#### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

First Kinder Orientation Day  
9.00 – 11.30 am

#### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Spirit Of ANZAC Centenary Experience  
Years 3 - 6

#### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

Library Museum Visit  
Years 4/5/6

#### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Library Museum Visit  
Years 4/5/6

#### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

P & C Pizza Day  
Last Day of Term

#### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Labour Day Holiday

#### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

School resumes

#### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to**

#### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

School Swimming & Water Safety Program

#### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

Second Kinder Orientation Day  
9.00 – 11.30 am

### Principal's Report

#### CSU Pre-Service Teacher

Welcome to Miss Jessica Gillies, who started her final CSU Pre-Service teaching placement with the 4/5/6 class last week. Miss Gillies will work with the class for the remainder of the term.

#### Canberra Excursion

The K/1 students, their parents, Miss Kirk and Ms Jacob, leave for their overnight excursion to Canberra tomorrow morning. The children will experience first-hand learning with a visit to the Australian War Memorial, the National Museum of Australia and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. Thanks to Miss Kirk for organising this amazing opportunity for her class and to the many parents who will be accompanying the students.

#### TTPS Kindergarten Orientation

The first official orientation for our 2016 Kinder students will take place on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be a great opportunity for these children and their parents to learn about our wonderful school and for our Year 5 students to spend time with their potential buddies for 2016. Thanks to Miss Kirk for organising this important activity.

#### Semester Two SRC

The Semester Two SRC elections were conducted last week and the first meeting held yesterday. Students who have not previously been SRC students in 2014 or 2015 were eligible for this round of the SRC. TTPS has a Semester One and Semester Two SRC to

provide more students with leadership opportunities. Congratulations to the following students who were elected by their peers: **Kinder: Aidan L & Olivia; Year 1: Stefan & Esher; Year 2: Matilda & Boyd; Year 3: Ned D & Darcy E; Year 4: Ethan T & Jessica; Year 5: Toby, Paris & Ethan S; Year 6: Destiny & Ned T.** Our School Captains, Natalie & Dylan remain on the SRC. Thanks to the outgoing Semester One SRC students for their outstanding contribution to our school. These students may keep their SRC badges as a memento of their service.

### **Whole School Music Program**

Teachers from the Murray Conservatorium of Music begin the 10-week drumming program for all students on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Students in each class will learn the skills of drumming and develop an understanding of musical rhythmical concepts and perform an exciting item on our presentation night. The 10-week program is at the very reasonable cost of \$33 per student. **Please return the permission note and payment by Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

### **Whole School Merit System**

The following procedures, which are embedded in our School Welfare Policy, have been developed to recognise and reinforce positive student behaviour in the classroom and playground at Table Top PS.

Behaviour, effort and achievement of students is recognised at a school level by the use of formal awards. At the weekly assembly, students may be awarded a **Merit Card**. Merit cards are the principal system of formal reward and consists of a cumulative system comprised of the following steps:

**Green Card Award.** These are awarded by the teachers to students for positive actions, effort or behaviour. Green Cards are

presented at the weekly Whole School Assembly.

**Special Encouragement Award.** This special award is presented to the student after they have collected and returned five Green cards to the office in the days leading up to the weekly Whole School Assembly. Returned Green Cards are stamped on the back with the date they are handed in. Families are encouraged to keep green cards in a safe location at home and return them to school when five have been collected.

**School Banner.** This very special award is presented to the student after they have collected five Special Encouragement Awards and handed them into the office in the days leading up to a weekly Whole School Assembly. Recipients of this award are also acknowledged at the annual School Presentation Night.

### **PSSA Riverina Athletics Carnival**

Natalie (100m, 200m long jump, discus), Courtney (100m, 200m) and members of the Senior Girls Relay Team, Natalie, Courtney, Tilly and Isabella, will represent the Southern Riverina PSSA team at the Riverina Regional Athletics Carnival next Monday 31st August. We wish the kids all the best of luck!

### **Borambola Excursion**

The major 4/5/6 excursion to the Borambola Sports and Recreation Camp is booked from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The excursion will involve rail travel to and from Wagga, and a series of fun and challenging outdoor activities. Mrs Gaukroger is organising this major excursion for our senior class.

### **Spirit of ANZAC Excursion**

Students in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will visit the Spirit of Anzac Centenary experience in Wodonga on Monday 7th September. The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is Australia's flagship community event of the Anzac

centenary. Beginning in Wodonga, it will be touring to 23 locations around Australia from September 2015 to April 2017. The Experience brings to life an infant Australia still finding its feet on the eve of war. It follows in the footsteps of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and nurses throughout the campaign, including a commemoration of Australia's century of service. Driven by artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, the Experience also integrates interactive environments, special effects and more to tell Australia's story in new and engaging ways. The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience also presents students with an invaluable learning opportunity, with direct links to the Australian curriculum. For more information, visit: <http://www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/>

### **Write Around the Murray**

Students in Year 4/5/6 will engage in a series of educational experiences with published authors as part of the annual Write Around the Murray festival. The students will work with the following authors: Holly Harper in a workshop entitled 'Aand Action'; Robert Hoge in a workshop called 'The Art of Being Ugly'; and Narelle Oliver in a 'Creation of a Picture Book' workshop. Further information can be found at: <http://www.writearoundthemurray.org.au/>

### **PSSA Friday Sport**

This Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, heralds the final PSSA netball and soccer Friday for 2015. Gymnastics for those not attending the Canberra excursion will also finish up this week. Thank you to everyone who assisted in any way with Friday sport, especially those who provided transport. I would also like to particularly thank Lisa Condon for her outstanding contribution to our soccer teams and to Sally Livermore for her great ongoing work with the netball team.

### **PSSA Hotdog Thursdays**

Students can order hotdogs for lunch on Thursdays (\$2.50 each). This is a fundraiser

to purchase new soccer, netball & hockey uniforms and related equipment for Friday PSSA Sport. Please write your child's name and their hotdog order on an envelope, enclosing the correct money and drop it into the office, preferably on Wednesdays.

### **Earn and Learn Stickers**

Please keep collecting the Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers and drop them into our special box in the office foyer. In the past, this promotion provided our students with art, reading and maths materials. The more stickers we collect, the more resources we can claim!

### **School Facebook and Twitter Accounts**

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TableTopPublicSchool>

Twitter: @TabletopPS

### **P&C Meeting Dates**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. 6pm for playground planning meeting, 7pm for general meeting. The School Council meeting will be held at the end of the term.

***Andrew McEachern***

### **Kinder Sounds**

The Kinder sound for this week is 'r' for Robot.



The kinder sounds for next week is 'l' for Lizard



### **How2Learn**

#### **Your Learning home**

#### **Using your living space**

How you organize and use your living space can make a huge contribution to your child's learning. So why not look around you and see how to get the best out of the space you have for learning?

### **In the kitchen**

Cookery is a great activity for learning while having fun. On days when you have more time, use a recipe and allow your child to do the measuring. Counting spoonfuls, measuring in jugs, estimating amounts, weighing, setting the oven timer and shaping dough are all valuable maths activities. Why not aim to set aside one afternoon each week or fortnight as cookery afternoon?

### **In the dining room**

Eating together is an excellent time to learn together. For many families, just getting together to eat is a challenge. Try starting with just one family meal each week, and if you usually have the TV on, make sure it is switched off on this occasion.

### **In the living room**

Television can be a wonderful source of information and entertainment, but try to avoid having it on all the time. Working out some sensible rules for the use of television is essential if you want your family to have a good range of learning opportunities. Playing the piano or keyboard is one of the most effective ways of developing a child's growing brain, so it is well worth encouraging your child to learn if possible. You will need to sit with them while they practice regularly, ideally starting with 10-15 minutes a day.

Family concerts are great for building confidence, however short and simple the piece of music played. Ring a local music school for advice.

### **In the bedroom**

Your child's bedroom has a special importance for them. Even if it is shared with other children, it is the closest thing to their own space.

Bedtime patterns are especially important in establishing good learning behavior. Always try to read your child a story. Until they are able to read on their own, hear them read a few paragraphs to you first, then read a book to them. As soon as they can read on their own, you read to them first and then leave them to read to themselves.

Some children like to listen to a story tape to get them off to sleep, so allow time for this. For example, if you want your child to go to sleep at 8.30 pm, aim to have them in bed and be reading to them at least 45 minutes before this.

### **In the bathroom**

The bath makes an excellent science laboratory. Try your own experiments with water or buy kits from toy shops. Bathtime is also a great opportunity to chat. Your child is 'captive' in the bath and you can ask questions that they may be too busy to hear properly during the rest of the day.

### **In the garden**

If you have a garden, you have an outdoor classroom which is great for developing maths skills and finding out about science. If not, many activities can be done in a local park.

### **School Assembly**

Congratulations to the following award winners from week's 5 and 6 of Term 3's School Assemblies:

### **Student of the Week**



(Week 5)

### **Special Encouragement Awards:**





## Teacher Merit Cards (Green cards)

### K/1

**Week 5:** Jett, Stefan, Harry M, Jy, Brideh, Abi E

**Week 6:** Nil

### 2-3

**Week 5:** Sheya, Hope, Zoe, Darcy E

**Week 6:** Nil

### 4-6

**Week 5:** Rupert, Isabella, Paris

**Week 6:** Nil

## Voluntary/Mathletics Contributions

Contributions for 2015 are \$45 per child and \$10 per child for Mathletics. If paying by cheque, please make payable to Table Top Public School. These can be paid at the office or by direct debit.

## P & C Fundraising Contributions

The fund raising voluntary contribution for 2015 is \$50 per family. This can be paid in full or by instalments.

*Cheques should be made payable to  
TTPS P & C*

If you would like to pay by direct debit

### **School bank details:**

Account Name: Table Top Public School

Account Number: 157014 BSB: 032-001

Reference: *Surname and item/s being paid*

## Community News



## NRL Holiday Clinic

FUN / FITNESS / FRIENDS

Come along this Holidays and enjoy a Rugby League Experience

Venue – Sarvaas Park, Albury

Date – 1<sup>st</sup> October

Time – 10am to 1pm

Cost - \$40 (Includes pictured pack)

Age – Girls and Boys aged 5 to 12

To register -

1. <http://www.playnrl.com/programs/>
2. Type Albury into the search panel
3. Click on the Clinic
4. Follow the link for more details.
5. Contact Dean Whymark 0411159456 if you need any further information.

www.alburylittleathletics.org.au  
www.lavingtonjinderalac.com.au

**LITTLE ATHLETICS**

**GALA DAY 2015**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 2pm**  
**Alexandra Park, Cadell Street, Albury**

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW  
ATHLETICS COMPLEX**

**FREE ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS**  
Novelty races for all ages • BBQ •  
Face Painting • Coaching &  
Demonstrations • Colouring  
Competition • Prizes • Information &  
Displays • **WIN A CAR WITH STAR  
FM'S "CARAOKE"**

**Fun Run commencing at 12:45pm**

Albury Mayor, Kevin Mack, officially opening the track at 12:30pm

**ALL WELCOME!!**

Little Athletics registrations taken on the day.  
Proof of age required.  
Ask about  
**2 Weeks FREE 'Come and Try'**

Albury City

# Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

*Building parent-school partnerships*

WORDS Michael Grose

## It's time for dads to Speak Up

Michael Grose looks at the role of a father's 'presence' and the need for fathers to 'speak up' to their kids to impart important life lessons.

The messages for fathers from parenting experts like myself have morphed over time. Two decades ago dads were encouraged to 'be a presence' in the lives of their children. Authors such as Steve Biddulph and Daniel Petrie urged fathers to be very present in their children's lives rather than a distant or aloof figure. They reminded us that kids need good men around them to model how to relate, how to behave and how to live a good life. Raimond Gaita author of the superb book *Romulus, my father* articulated this notion beautifully when he wrote, "I know what a good man is, because I've seen it in my father."

A decade or so ago the 'be a presence' message for dads was turned up a few notches to become involved in all parts of children's lives. A raft of research linked a father's active involvement with positive educational and social outcomes for kids, as well as a dad's satisfaction with the role. Men embraced this 'hands on dad mantra' in droves.

Suddenly changing nappies, going to parent-teacher interviews, helping with homework, coaching (or umpiring, managing, cutting oranges for) their children's sports teams became the new fathering norm. Family breakdown, long working hours and Fly In Fly Out jobs, rather than lack of will, were seen as impediments to men's ongoing involvement in their children's lives.

### It's time to speak up

It's time to ramp up father's presence once again, but in a different way. The recent actions of some high profile representatives of the **Millennial Generation** – from being arrested in a \$9000-a-night hotel, through to cringe-worthy public antics – has many Australians scratching their heads in bewilderment. Quietly, many people are questioning the quality, or lack thereof, of the advice they receive from their fathers. Being present and involved in children's lives isn't enough per se for this current generation.

TIME magazine recently described this group as 'a generation with narcissistic tendencies that contribute to a feeling of entitlement before they've achieved anything'. But an overblown sense of importance is only half the story. Growing up in a reality TV culture where everything is critiqued it is little wonder that today's young people are perhaps the most critical generation that have ever lived – posting careless criticism of ideas, people and institutions at the tap of a finger at unfathomable speed, fast losing the art of thinking things through. So what's a dad to do?

I firmly believe the current generation of young people are in dire need of some old-fashioned, very grounded fathering advice such as "Don't get ahead of yourself", "Treat others respectfully at all times" and "Think before you speak/tweet/post anything nasty about anything/one else."

more on page 2 >>



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at [parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.



[parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au)

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## ... It's time for dads to Speak Up ...



Okay these messages can and do come from mothers but they have equal, if not more potency when they come from the traditionally more reserved parent– their father. Sometimes a few well-chosen words said with conviction from a highly regarded elder have more impact than a series of reminders, talks, and dare I say, lectures.

### Reclaim your place

Part of the modern parenting malaise is that many fathers are unsure of their place when their children are unsocial, unfriendly or just plain painful in public. Which side of the fence should I stand on when my child or young person misbehaves– the side of my child or the side of the offended institution or organization? I suspect fathers of past generations would have had few qualms about letting their offspring know their position when they behaved like brats. A clip around the ears would have been the preferred communication method. While I disagree with the methodology I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiment expressed.

It's not just when kids act like brats that dads need to step forward. They need to be present when children and young people are hurt, fearful, lonely, sad and depressed. The best thing that they can bring to the table is their vulnerability and a willingness to talk about feelings.

I suspect most adolescents would think likewise if asked.

I agree with *Guardian* columnist Mariella Frostup who recently wrote, "Despite 70 years of full-on feminist rhetoric we still bring up boys to be emotionally buttoned up and girls to remain painfully vulnerable to any emotional undercurrent." I've long believed that it's fathers, rather than mothers, who take their sons to an emotional space...or not, as the case maybe. The male inability to admit weakness or talk honestly about feelings may currently pervade the halls of power and business, but it should not and must not be the norm at home. Keeping fear, affection, sadness and other emotions under a veneer of 'she'll be right' control is exhausting for men, just as it is for those around them.

### Become the story-teller

Storytelling used to be the most potent strategy parents used to pass on knowledge and wisdom to their offspring. For too many reasons to mention here storytelling is now a lost art. It's a shame because most children crave to hear their father's warts 'n' all story from the horse's mouth so to speak, rather than have it told to them by someone else, usually their mother. It's how the vulnerability comes out and also how kids know that their dads are human. Realistic rather than exaggerated stories offer kids hope

and can become their map to help them navigate new territory such as starting secondary school, dating, and going for a job. "My dad found things tough but he got through it. I reckon I can too" is a great message for a young person.

The language of fathering is a very physical one. That is, many dads build relationships with their children through games and active pursuits. It's very often how dads pass on important lessons such as fairness, persistence and winning and losing. If physicality is a bloke's only strategy then a father is left out in the cold when his sons and daughters move into adolescence – well passed the playful age.

A man's just got to talk to get his messages through. He can start by letting kids know when their behaviour is likely to offend others; when they behave like chumps when they are not yet champs; and when they need to show respect to those who've tread whatever path they are on before them. This is what great fathering is about in these interesting times in which we live.

Michael Grose



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## NSW Early Days Understanding Behaviour Workshops

**When: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 9:30-2:30pm**

**Where: Aspect Riverina School, 437 Olive Street, Albury NSW 2640**

Early Days Workshops are designed for parents and carers with a child (aged 0-7 years) who is (or may be) on the autism spectrum

**It is strongly recommended that families attend an Early Days Introduction Workshop prior to attending the Understanding Behaviour Workshop.**



### Understanding Behaviour Workshops focus on:

- Learn how to understand your child's behaviour
- Learn tools to manage behaviour and teach new skills
- Learn how to promote positive behaviours

### Workshops Are:

- Facilitated by qualified professionals with backgrounds in providing services, advice and supports to families of children with an ASD
- For small groups
- **Free of charge – all attendees will receive a range of resources**
- Run within school hours
- Inclusive of a light lunch and refreshments
- Not able to provide childcare

To register for the workshop, please visit [www.autismspectrum.org.au/events](http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/events)

Or for more information: Call (02) 8977 8353 or email

[edworkshops@autismspectrum.org.au](mailto:edworkshops@autismspectrum.org.au)

This project is funded by DSS through the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package. For more information on the HCWA package, please contact the NSW Autism Advisor program on 1300 978 611 or Aspect on 1800 277 328





## NSW Early Days **Play and Social Learning**

**When:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 – 10:00-1:00pm

**Where:** Aspect Riverina School, 437 Olive Street, Albury NSW 2640

Early Days Workshops are designed for parents and carers with a child (aged 0-7 years) who is (or may be) on the autism spectrum



### **The Play and Social Learning Workshops can help you:**

- Understand about how ASD can impact on play skills
- Understand the different types of play and how they develop
- Build skills to scaffold and encourage play skills
- Help your child build skills

### **Play and Social Learning Workshops are:**

- Scheduled throughout Sydney and regional NSW
- Facilitated by qualified professionals with backgrounds in providing services, advice and supports to families of children with an ASD
- For small groups
- **Free of charge – all attendees will receive a range of resources**
- Run within school hours
- Inclusive of refreshments
- Not able to provide childcare

To register for the workshop, please visit [www.autismspectrum.org.au/events](http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/events)

*Or for more information: Call (02) 8977 8353 or email*

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