

TABLE TOP PUBLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 8

Wednesday 16th March 2016

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CALENDAR – What's on?

Friday 18th March

Albury Gold Cup ½
Day Holiday

School Closes at 12 noon

Year 6 F1 Grand Prix Excursion
Melbourne

Thursday 24th March

Easter Hat Parade
9:15 am

Friday 25th & Monday 28th March

Easter Holiday

Friday 8th April

Last Day of Term
Mufti Day

Monday 25th April

ANZAC Day Holiday

Tuesday 26th April

Staff Development Day
No students

Wednesday 27th April

Student resume for Term 2

Friday 29th April

Small Schools Cross Country
Trials - Burrumbuttock

Friday 6th May

Southern Riverina PSSA
Cross Country Trials
(Selected Students only)

Tues 10th – Thurs 12th May

NAPLAN years 3 & 5

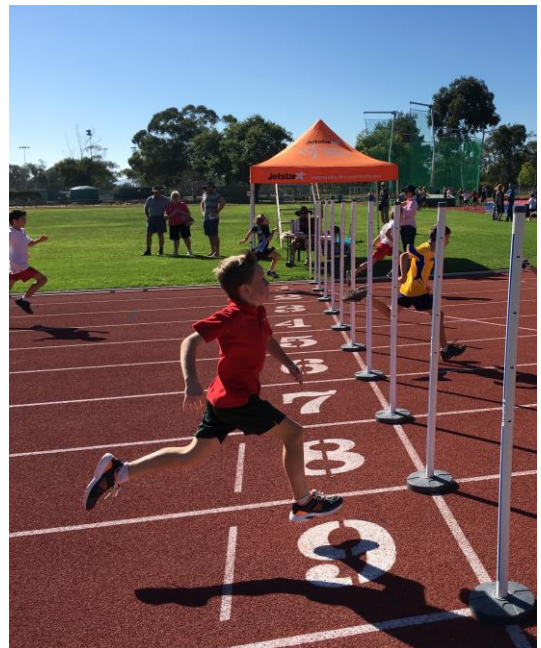
Tuesday 17th May

School Photos

Principal's Report

Athletics Carnival

Our few weeks of athletics training certainly paid off for our students as they competed in the Small Schools Athletics Carnival on Monday. Well done to all of the participants from Table Top PS. Thanks to the many parents who spent the day at the carnival to support their children and our school and especially to those who assisted with events. Thanks also to our staff who took on many roles throughout the day.



Pre-School Open Day

Miss Kirk hosted an open day/information session today for parents of pre-schoolers, and their children, to see and experience some of the magic of Table Top Public School. It was a great opportunity for parents to ask questions and for their children to see our wonderful little school.

Albury Gold Cup Half Day Holiday

A half-day holiday has been gazetted for the Albury Gold Cup, this Friday March 18th. School will finish at 12 noon on Friday. Martins Bus Lines have advised that our school bus will run at 12 noon for the Table Top bus run and will leave the school at approximately 12.20 for the Thurgoona bus run. They have asked that parents are aware of the early drop off times and that parents are waiting at the bus stop for their child/children.

Year 6 Grand Prix Excursion

The Year 6 students from Table Top Public School are all very excited about their one-day excursion to the Australian Grand Prix School Day in Melbourne this Friday. This excursion has been planned to give the students the opportunity to cement the bond they have as leaders, give an insight into their potential as student and future leaders in the wider community and to supplement learning in the areas of literacy, numeracy and technology.

Easter Hat Parade and Holiday

Students in each class are invited to make a colourful Easter Hat for our annual school parade next Thursday, 24th March from 9.15am. There will be prizes and certificates for the most colourful and creative hats! The Easter raffle will be drawn following the parade. Parents are encouraged to attend the parade.

The school will be closed for the Easter Holiday: Good Friday (25th March) and Easter Monday (28th March). Classes resume on Tuesday 29th March.

Easter Raffle Donations

Have you dropped in your donation for our annual Easter Raffle? Each family is asked to donate something to go towards the raffle – including Easter eggs, chocolate, books, textas, pencils, stationary, toys, bunny ears or anything else that could fill the baskets! Over the last couple of years we have had two very

full baskets thanks to the generosity of our families; let's hope we can repeat this! The money raised this year will go towards the purchase of ceramics supplies as part of our Visual Arts learning program. Raffle tickets will go home today.

Tell Them From Me Student Survey

Students in year 4/5/6 will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey this term. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school. The survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

School Chaplain Program

Interviews were conducted last week for the School Chaplain position at Table Top Public School. The applicants were all of a very high calibre. Mr McEachern (Principal), Mrs Gaukroger (P&C President) and Mrs Mitchell (Generate - <http://mychaplain.org.au/index.php>) were on the panel. Congratulations to Mrs Susan Barnes who was the successful applicant.

Susan will be working three days per week (Mon-Wed) at our school this year, beginning in Week 10, to support the well-being of students, families and parents of our school. We welcome Susan to our school community. The Chaplain Program is a well-being and pastoral program and not a religious program. Further information on the Chaplain Program can be found at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studentwellbeing/chaplaincy-programme/index.php>

Friday Icy poles

Icy poles will be sold by the SRC and student leaders each Friday lunchtime for 50c each. If you would your child to purchase either one of the icy poles, please ensure they have the correct change each Friday. ***This week they will be sold at recess to cater for the half-day holiday.***

School Communication

School Stream: Table Top PS is uses the School Stream mobile app to help deliver important school information in real time, directly to parents on their mobile devices, IOS & Android. In the app you can look up information about coming school events, sign consent forms, fill out absence notes, read the newsletter and have school information alerts pop up on your screen in real time. Please search your device's app store and install this free app onto your device. There is no cost for parents to use this app.

Facebook:

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

Twitter: @TabletopPS

School Voluntary Fees

Our school voluntary fees, which help cover the costs of educational resources for your children are \$45 per student. There is an additional \$10 fee per child to help cover the cost of a one year subscription for Athletics.

Accounts were attached to last week's newsletter.

P&C

The next meeting of the P&C will be held at school on Wednesday, 4th May at 6.00pm. All existing and new members most welcome to attend.

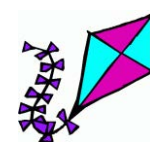
Andrew McEachern

Ice Cream Containers Wanted

We would like 2 and 4 litre ice cream containers. If you have any that you can spare please send them into school by Friday 18th March. Thank you.

Kinder Sound

The Kinder sound for this week is 'k' for Kite



The Kinder sound for week 9 is 'h' for house



K/1 News

In Literacy we are learning about *Information Reports*. So far we've done information reports about frogs, ladybeetles, mealworms and tadpoles. In Weeks 10 and 11 (Tuesday 29th March – Thursday 7th April) I would like the children to take turns to give a spoken information report about a creature's life cycle. This could be about frogs, butterflies, ladybeetles or another creature your child would like to talk about.

The children can come prepared to give their spoken information report on any day or they can use their News time.

Their information report needs:

- An introduction (tell us what creature they are going to talk about)
- **Three** pieces of information about the creature's life cycle
-

It can be as simple or as involved as your child is comfortable with. If your child wants to tell us more than three pieces of information that's fine. They may like to use props like pictures etc.

I will send home a planning page that they might like to use. The planning page can have photos, writing or drawings on it for your child to use as clues.

Please ring me if you have any questions.

Thank you, Elaine

How2Learn

Your Child is a learner

How you and your family can become learners

Have you ever wondered ...

- ? what happens when you are learning?
- ? if there is a good way of learning?
- ? whether play helps children to learn?
- ? what you can do to make your home a good place for learning?



HOW GOOD A LEARNER ARE YOU?

DO YOU...

Yes No Yes No

1. Always have to get it right first time?.....
2. Enjoy watching someone and copying them?.....
3. Talk yourself through it?.....
4. Try alternatives in your head?.....
5. Do it again and again until you get better?.....
6. Work out what you will do in detail beforehand?.....
7. Ask lots of questions as you go?.....
8. Give up easily?.....
9. Set yourself a target or targets beforehand?.....
10. Try to work out how it all fits together?.....
11. Need to get up and move around a lot?.....
12. Test yourself on what you have remembered?.....



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. No. It can be helpful to experiment and try alternatives.
2. Yes. Imitating others is a great way to learn, it's how we learn to walk.
3. Yes. Talking aloud helps you to understand and remember.
4. Yes. Rehearsing in your head works!
5. Yes. Practice does make perfect!
6. Yes. Planning is an essential part of most successful learning.
7. Yes. Asking yourself questions is essential.
8. No. Staying positive and persisting is essential.
9. Yes. Setting goals helps you to stay motivated and purposeful.
10. Yes. Your mind loves to make connections and see patterns.
11. We are all different! Moving about may help to give you more energy.
12. Yes. Going over things on a regular basis helps. Little and often is best.

Discuss your answers to the questions and the explanations given alongside them. What might you do differently as a result?

School Assembly

Congratulations to the following award winners from week's 6 & 7 of Term 1's School Assemblies:

Students of the Week



Special Encouragement Awards:



Teacher Merit Cards (Green cards)

K/1

Will, Campbell, Jed, Olivia, Lizzy, Dallas, Ebony

2-3

Mia M, Ryan S, Darcy B, Mia R, Sheya, Dante, Anthea, Zoe, Matilda .

4-6

Rupert, Jessica, Tilly, Ned, Gibb, Ethan T, Paris, Darcy E

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.

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*

P & C News

P & C Catering

The P & C are catering for the Mosaic Workshop being run by Sharon McEachern on Saturday 2nd April. We would like to request families donate a plate of food for either morning tea or lunch.

We need some Gluten Free food to cater for 3 of the 16 participants. If you can provide something please contact Rachel Gaukroger on 0409 005 402. Your help is greatly appreciated.



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Thurgoona Community Auskick



Who: Boys and Girls 5 - 12 years of age
When: Saturday Mornings, 9am to 10:30am
Where: Ernest Grant Oval (Thurgoona Drive)
Cost: First child: \$75.00
Second and subsequent children \$70.00

Registration:

Ernest Grant Oval (Thurgoona Drive)
Saturday 19th March, 9am to 2 pm

- 1) Please complete your registration online at:
<http://www.aflauskick.com.au/>
- 2) Print out your registration Form
- 3) Bring Registration Form with you on registration day.
No online payment available. Cash or Cheque only.

Children must be 5 years old before June 2016

If you cannot attend the registration day, registrations can still take place on any Saturday Morning.

The season will begin on **Saturday 2nd April**

If you would like further information please contact:

Hayden: 0417 496 791

Website: www.thurgoonaauskick.sportingpulse.net

Email: thurgoonaauskick@dodo.com.au



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Jenny Brockis

Creating creative kids

Dr Jenny Brockis explains the 4 main ingredients for creativity and why it is so important for whole brain development in kids.

"If you're not prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original." Sir Ken Robinson - author and advisor on education in the arts.

Creativity and imagination help us to better understand our world. A creative mind looks for ways to do things differently; we see things with a fresh pair of eyes.

Creativity adds value to and enriches lives and our kids have wonderful fertile minds just brimming with ideas. The problem is we can stifle that creativity, particularly during those upper school years when sticking to the demands of a busy curriculum takes increasing priority.

Research tells us that those kids who continually access creative outlets are the more successful students, because creativity is linked to whole brain development. Brain wise, creativity is important for the development of language, problem solving, reasoning skills, understanding and learning.

Being able to think "outside the box" is what makes for a better brain. Rather than pushing your child to spend hours doing their piano practice, spending some time in unstructured creative play may pay far

greater dividends in the form of them being better at problem solving and finding alternative ways of doing things.

Encouraging curiosity matters, and we as parents and educators can do much to promote the engagement, fun, focus and perseverance required to provide an innovative environment.

There are four main ingredients required for creativity:

- Mess
- Mistakes
- Make-believe
- Mucking in together

Creativity is messy

So the kitchen looks like a bomb has gone off, the lounge suite has been completely disassembled and the dog is wearing an outfit that looks mysteriously like your best jacket! But, all that activity has resulted in that first cake being made, the princess's castle being refurbished and the dog being an active participant in a rehearsal for that very important play.

Creativity is full of mistakes

If we don't get things wrong, how can we tell when they are right?

There is no room for perfectionism in creativity. Allowing our kids to get things wrong and discover what doesn't work is just as important as discovering what does. It teaches them to deal with failure and to realise that finding out the wrong answer matters far more than never starting to look in the first place.

It was Thomas Edison the inventor of the light bulb that said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10 000 ways that won't work."

Creativity is make-believe

Stories are a great way to transport our children's minds to far off and magnificent places. It allows them to create their own visual images of the people, characters and places. Manufacturing creative artistry allows saucepan lids to become cymbals, modelling clay to become teacups and saucers, boxes and tin foil to become knights on horseback, and colourful artworks the latest masterpiece destined for the fridge door.

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. You'll be so glad you did.





... Creating creative kids ...

It's not about a pretend reality; kids know the difference. Their make-believe world allows them to explore possibilities and options.

Creativity is mucking in

Creativity can be a solo performance but is often a collaborative piece. Joining young minds together amplifies the creative process.

Mucking in is about using an array of different (and sometimes unusual!) materials that can be repurposed or used to create new objects.

Whether your child is six or sixteen, managing their creativity starts with sharing the value we hold for the arts and new ideas. It's about taking trips to an art gallery, a science show or museum. It's about travelling to different places, trying different foods and learning about different cultures. It's about reading and sharing books, and talking to our kids to encourage an ongoing sense of wonder and curiosity about their world.

Top tips for fostering creativity:

- 1 **Give permission for freedom of expression** It's not about you or what you think is the right way to create something. Encourage your child to explore, and create on their own terms while having fun.
- 2 **Encourage play** Encourage active unstructured play that takes them away from the TV, tablet or computer for a while.
- 3 **Celebrate your child's creative expression** That's what fridge doors, corkboards, and mantelpieces are for! It's not to reward the masterpiece itself (that's a quick way to stymie any future creative activity!), but to celebrate the process of exploration and discovery.
- 4 **Foster originality by being accepting of difference** While some rules are important to keep our children safe, being allowed to do things their way when developing ideas, is what helps shape their individuality.

Jenny Brockis

Dr Jenny Brockis is a Medical Practitioner, speaker and author. She specialises in brain health and the science of high performance thinking. Her new book *Future Brain* (Wiley) is available in all good book stores and online. www.drjennybrockis.com



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. You'll be so glad you did.



School Holiday Fun
@
Albury LibraryMuseum and Lavington Library

Albury LibraryMuseum

Augmented Reality Street Art

When: Saturday 16 April, 1.00pm - 4.00pm and Sunday 17 April, 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Where: LibraryMuseum, Corner of Kiewa and Swift Streets, Albury

Price: \$5 per participant (includes pizza)

Bookings: 02 6023 8333 or learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Bring spray paint and markers into the digital world and learn how to create 3D augmented reality street art. This two-day workshop will show you how to take street art to a whole new level.

Spray cans, face masks and technology provided, but bring your smartphone, iPad or tablet if you've got one.

Suitable for ages 13+

Limited places

Storybites

When: Weekdays, Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April, 11.00am

Where: LibraryMuseum

Price: Free - Preschool

It's never too early to start enjoying books and stories. Pop in for a special holiday Storytime.

KidsPlay

When: Saturday 9 April Sunday 24 April

Where: LibraryMuseum

Price: Free

A fun spot to drop into throughout the holidays with friends, old or new. Enjoy the toys, the craft table and the 3D colouring station pick up a pencil and be amazed as your 2D colouring becomes a 3D work of art.

Google Cardboard Virtual Reality workshop

When: Wednesday 13 April, 10.00am - 12.00pm

Where: LibraryMuseum

Price: Free – Years 8+

Bookings: 02 6023 8333 or learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Create your very own virtual reality viewer for your mobile phone. With Google Cardboard you'll be able to experience the world of virtual reality in your own hands and even create your own virtual reality games and experiences.

To use the device, participants will need to bring a smartphone.

Includes a guided tour of the *Experimenta Recharge* exhibition. Suitable for children 8 years and older.

Learn to Knit

When: Thursday 14 April, 10.00am - 11.30am

Where: LibraryMuseum

Price: Free Years 8+

Bookings: 02 6023 8333 or learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Grab some knitting needles and come on in to the LibraryMuseum. Begin with basic stitches and colourful yarn to start making a scarf to keep you warm and bright this winter! Bring your own needles if you can so you can take them home and continue your creation! Yarn supplied.

Family Fun Night

When: Friday 15 April, 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Where: LibraryMuseum

Price: \$5 per participant (includes pizza)

Bookings: 02 6023 8333 or learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Games tournament for the whole family!

Come along for some family friendly games, competition and pizza.

Recycled Bead Jewellery

When: Tuesday 19 April, 10.00am - 11.30am

Where: LibraryMuseum

Price: Free

Bookings: 02 6023 8333 or learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Using household materials and your imagination create beautiful handcrafted beads and use them to make a necklace or bracelet.

Create your own book

When: Thursday 21 April, 10.00am - 11.30am

Where: LibraryMuseum

Price: Free

Bookings: 02 6023 8333 or learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Using a recycled cereal box, some gorgeous decorative trims, paper and thread, make yourself a unique book to treasure. Store your precious secrets or your new story in your own personalised book!

Lavington Library

KidsPlay

A fun spot to drop into throughout the holidays for toys, crafts and 3D colouring.

When: Saturday 9 April - Saturday 23 April

Price: Free

A fun spot to drop into throughout the holidays with friends, old or new. Enjoy the toys, the craft table and the 3D colouring station pick up a pencil and be amazed as your 2D colouring becomes a 3D work of art.

Arty Bookmarks

When: Tuesday 12 April, 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Price: Free

Bookings: 02 6043 5645

Create arty canvas bookmarks with fabric, magazine cuttings, crayons, ribbon and glue. Make a great gift for any book lover.

Google Cardboard Virtual Reality workshop

When: Wednesday 20 April, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Price: Free

Bookings: Lavington Library 02 6043 5645

Create your very own virtual reality viewer for your mobile phone. With Google Cardboard you'll be able to experience the world of virtual reality in your own hands and even create your own virtual reality games and experiences.

To use the device, participants will need to bring a smartphone.

Suitable for children 8 years and older.

Tissue Box Monster

When: Thursday 14 April, 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Price: Free

Bookings: 02 6043 5645

Create your own fantastically freaky monster using recycled materials, pipe cleaners, sparkles and much more! How scary can you make your monster?

Family Fun Night

When: Thursday 22 April, 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Price: \$5 per participant (includes pizza)

Bookings: 02 6043 5645

Games tournament for the whole family! Come along for some family friendly games, competition and pizza.

Get Hooked - Beginner Crochet

When: Tuesday 19 April, 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Price: Free

Bookings: 02 6043 5645

Grab a hook and some bright coloured yarns and learn to crochet. Start with a crochet chain, then move to a mini granny square and beyond.

Paper Pilots

When: Thursday 21 April, 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Price: Free

Bookings: 02 6043 5645

Participate in a fun workshop and learn the basics of aerodynamic design. How far and how fast will your paper plane fly?