

TABLE TOP PUBLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 5

Wednesday 17th August 2016

CALENDAR – What's on?

Friday 2nd September

Riverina PSSA Athletics Carnival
(Selected Students only)

Wednesday 14th September

Kinder Orientation
9:15 – 11:30am

Wednesday 21st – Thursday 22nd Sept

K/1 Echuca Excursion

Friday 23rd September

Quizworks Puppet Show 9:30
Last Day of Term

Monday 10th October

First Day of Term for
Staff and students

This report will show you which questions your child answered correctly. Data from the assessments is utilised by the school to inform future learning programs to best address the learning needs of your children.

Tell Them From Me Student Survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. 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.

You may remember that our **Year 4/5/6** students also participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN student report is being sent home today with the Year 3 and Year 5 students who sat these assessments in May this year. The NAPLAN reports show your child's results in the key areas of reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The report will also show the national average, the range of results for the middle 60% of students nationally and your school's average for each test. This means you will be able to compare the performance of your child against other students in the same year of schooling. The additional student report will list all the questions in each test, along with a brief description of each question.

complete. It will be administered during school hours between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A **do not consent** form for parents/carers for the survey is being sent home with Year 4/5/6 students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **24/8/2016**. Copies of the form and a FAQ sheet are available from the website above.

The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey

This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Parents and carers can complete their survey from the 22nd of August here:

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/6xkgf>

CSU Pre-Service Teachers

We welcome Charles Sturt University pre-service teachers, Miss Joyce (K/1), Miss McAliece (2/3) and Miss O'Donnell (4/5/6), to Table Top PS as they complete their final five week teaching placement. Staff and students are looking forward to working and learning in partnership with the next generation of educators.

The Wizard of Oz

Our whole school play, the Wizard of Oz, will be performed on the evening of September 14th, the second last week of term. The show will follow up the Eisteddfod winning dance performed at the Albury Entertainment Centre a couple of weeks ago. Write the date on your calendar. Come along and enjoy watching your children perform on the stage in the TTPS bi-annual whole school musical!

Kindergarten Orientation Days

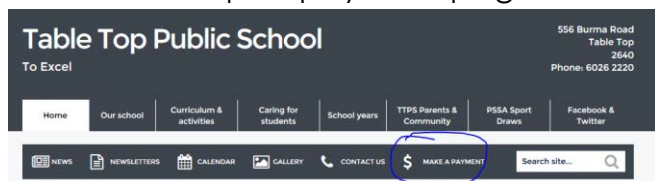
The first of our Kindergarten Orientation days last Wednesday was a wonderful success. It was lovely to meet the 2017 Kindergarten students and their families. The next orientation day is scheduled for the morning of September 14th. All children eligible to begin school in 2017 are encouraged to attend. Future orientation days will take place on the 30th November. Additional transition opportunities can be arranged. Please contact the school for further details.

Lunch Orders

Parents please note that due to a power outage at the Ettamogah Café there will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS on Monday 22nd August.**

Parent Online Payments (POP)

Parents can now access the school's website via computer, mobile phone or tablet to make online payments through a secure Westpac payment page.



The payment process is intuitive and follows the format of many other online payments that are used every day.

Please find attached a full set of instructions for POP. We would appreciate all parents using this option from now on instead of direct debit. In 2017 the school will be changing to a different accounting system and direct deposit will no longer be available.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Gayle in the office.

Friday Sports

We have only two weeks remaining in the PSSA Friday sport. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making these activities such a success for our students.

The junior and senior soccer teams will play Lavington East at Sarvaas Park this week and Lavington at Alexandra Park – North Street next week. The junior netball team will play their last game for the season against St Anne's this week. The juniors have a bye next week. The senior team will play St Anne's this week and Albury next week.

Friday Assembly

For the next two weeks, whole school assemblies are held on Friday, from 12.00pm to 12.30pm. From Week 7 (2nd September), whole school assemblies will return to the usual 2.20pm timeslot.

Eisteddfod DVD Orders

Please make sure you have your orders in for the Eisteddfod DVD by this Friday. Orders will be placed with The Occasion Studios on Friday afternoon.

Eisteddfod Costume Contribution

Could all families please make sure they have paid the \$5 per student costume contribution so that costs can be covered.

If you are unsure if you have paid please contact Gayle in the office.

School Assemblies:

Students of the Week:



Billie

Special Encouragement Award:





TJ

Teacher Merit Cards - (Green cards)

K/1

Week 3: Jyden, Abi, Alex, Harry

Week 4: Lyla, Jamie, Aidan

2/3

Week 3: Anthea, Hope, Aimee

Week 4: Mia M, Boyd, Clifton, Ryan S, Anthea, Stefan, Sheya, Esher

4/5/6

Week 3: Jake, Bill S, Jack, Toby, Grant

Week 4: Caleb, Ned, Denzel

Medium Sudoku for 17-8-2016

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 9 | 1 | | | | | | 8 | 3 |
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| | 4 | | 2 | | 1 | | 6 | |
| 7 | 9 | | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | | | | | | | | 8 |

Sudoku provided by Sudoku.com.au

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Sharyn Hill School of Drama and Murray Youth Performing Arts presents

12 Places Only. Book Now!

Let's Make A TV Show!

April holiday workshops run by NIDA graduates!
Singing, acting, dancing to Gamora!

Our teachers are professional music & theatre actors from the prestigious WAAPA, having appeared in many Australian tours, teaching at NIDA and ATYP.

Performance Classes Off the Beaten Track

NIDA & WAAPA Graduates come to Albury / Wodonga

Venue: Murray Youth Performing Arts Unit 15, 419 Townsend Street Albury

Ages: Years 6 - 11

Dates: Wed 28th, Thur 29th, Fri 30th Sept

Time: 9am - 3pm

Cost: \$295

3 Day Singing, Acting and Dancing to Gamora

No matter what your strengths are, if you sing, or dance, or act, or all 3 we will tailor the workshop to your strengths combining them all to enhance your TV skills and together come up with a TV show on the final day to perform to an audience.

Call Olivia on 02 8005 6711 or email performanceclasses@gmail.com to enrol today

Albury UNIFORMS & SCHOOLWEAR

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Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child's behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend's children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

But it's hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child's progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends' kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child's improvement and effort and use your child's results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. "Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago" is a better measure of progress than "Your spelling is the best in the class!"

Gender matters

It's no secret that boys' and girls' brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills.

Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

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.



... The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks ...

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can't hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour's child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It's better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child's performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children's performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn't have too much personal stake in your children's success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim "You are not your child" is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as "unconditional love".

Michael Grose



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.

