TOORAWEENAH PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER — 19.11.14

School News Week 7, Term 4, 2014

Semester 2 reports

As in past years we used a DEC template for reports in Semester One this year. The DEC has added a new one in line with the full implementation of the National Curriculum for English this year. The wording and strands are really quite different and will only confuse parents. To avoid this, we will be sending reports home in a few weeks in the format that school community members know and understand. Early next year we will educate parents as to the new areas and language.

CWA recipients

The entries of the local winners in different age categories of the Tooraweenah CWA International Country of Study-Botswana were sent off for judging to the Macquarie Group which covers large schools including Dubbo schools. Congratulations to: Georgia Peart – Highly Commended and $10 cash. Sophia Moppett (Year 1) and Charlotte Ferguson (Kindergarten) received Encouragement Certificates and Sam Duff (Year 4) and Heidi Ferguson (Year 3) received Participation Certificates.

Mrs. Smith's leave

Mrs. Smith will be on Long Service leave from next Monday 24th November and will return on Monday 15th December.

Front fence

Our 1600 Christmas lights weren't scheduled to be turned on until 1st December. We might as well start spreading the cheer early. First night was Monday night. If they get a decent solar charge during the day, they come on at 8.10pm and last until at least 5.30am. Enjoy!

Name the foal.

Brooke French has a list of suggestions from the students. Some are very clever. Brett will decide upon a name or choose his own and let us know the outcome.

Library

Reverse cycle air conditioning was added to the library today.

Nothing lasts forever

Our school ride-on tractor has served the school well for 9 years. It is reaching the end of its useful life as repairs are becoming more frequent with extended periods of down time. Dennis has been bringing his own zero turn Cox mower to do the mowing at the school. Accordingly, I have purchased a Toro 23 horsepower (nearly double the old ride-on), zero turn ride-on for less than what Mrs. Munns paid for the old one nine years ago!! This seems extravagant but highly necessary. Finances will be set aside each year ready to replace the multi-function machine in the office and the mower, which are two of our "big ticket" items.

Year 6 gift to the school

We are starting a new tradition at Tooraweenah P.S. In most schools the outgoing Year 6 present the school with a gift or gifts, usually something practical and lasting to remember them by. We only have Georgia this year!!As Georgia is a pretty levelled individual with a flair for the academic but also likes a bit of fun I chose the gifts this year. The senior room is short on board space so the Year 6 gifts are two mobile double-sided whiteboards that are also magnetic. That's the serious gift. The fun gift is the new multi-function lights on the front fence.

School Leaders for 2015

The voting by absentees last week has now been finalised. All Years 3-6 students are to be congratulated on the fact that all had a go and nominated for positions. This year there were 5 candidates for School Captain. Voting was very close with the votes being 8, 7, 6, 6, and 4. There will be a surprise for the Librarian's candidates on Presentation Night.

Presentation Night Changes

There's no such thing as a free lunch. Unlike the sign at local shows on just about every sideshow that read "Every child player wins a prize", life is not like that. Creeping into society in general, which infiltrates schools, is an insidious belief that everyone is a winner and that they should expect something for just the mediocre. This basically means getting gold stars for turning up or even breathing. Life is not like that. Like respect, all things must be earned. We are seeking to strive for excellence not just reducing everything to some common denominator. This year there will be no Kindergarten graduation certificates. Attending school is the law between certain ages. No other year is afforded this luxury. This year in the sports awards category, in one age grouping, in one particular sport, no award will be presented because the competitors did not display the required effort or commitment to the event. You can't expect the victor's spoils just for turning up.

The Harrison Trophy for the Dux of the School has been replaced by the Zell Award for Academic Excellence. If in future years there is no suitable candidate for one of the major awards that meets standards, then the award will not be made that year. Book prizes for the major awards have been replaced by substantial plaques which will stand the test of time. Book prizes remain for class awards. The Lions Club Awards will be awarded for Creative and Performing Arts. There will be one award for attendance across the whole school, not one for each class. Awards have been reallocated for different purposes as there was duplication of awards.

"Go Team Toora !!"

Col Hare, Principal

Garage Lunches – (Each Monday)

Traveller Pie	$3.00
Sausage Roll	$3.00
Sauce	$0.30
Ham or Corned Beef Sandwich	$3.50
Cheese/Tomato extra	$0.40
Chocolate/Strawberry milk 250gm	$2.50
Juice Apple or Apple/Blackcurrant	$2.50

Dates To Remember
Term 4 – 07.10.14 to 19.12.14

24.11.14 - 5.12.14	Swimming Lessons –Gilgandra Pool
05.12.14	Reports sent home
09.12.14	Year 6 Farewell
11.12.14	Presentation Night
17.12.14	Party – last day of school for students
28.01.15	First day back to school - Term 1, 2015
29.01.15	First day Term 1 - Kindergarten

MERIT AWARDS

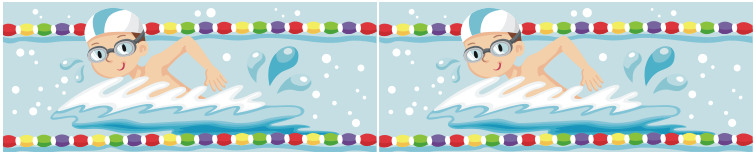
were presented to;

Tyler Mayall-working hard with Mrs. Ferguson
Kayne Hanney-outstanding writing
Breanna Dann-application in Maths
Heidi Ferguson-40 night's home reading
Isabella Worner-improved results in multiplication

Proud Tooraweenah Public School students displaying their awards for their CWA Botswana projects – Heidi Ferguson, Sophia Moppett, Georgia Peart, Sam Duff and in front Charlotte Ferguson.

Swimming Lessons-Gilgandra Pool
24.11.14 to 5.12.14

Commencing on Monday 24th all students will be attending the Gilgandra pool by bus for learn to swim lessons. The cost of pool entry this year is reduced. Please return your permission note and $8.00 CASH per student prior to Monday 24th to enable teachers to organise a bulk cash payment each day. Please bring your normal food for the day, swimmers, towel and sunscreen.



Canteen Roster Term 4

Date: Fri. 21/11/14 Sonia Bonham
Home Cooking Sonia, Mel. Peart, Bindi Haling

Date Fri. 28/11/14 Ashley Starr
Home Cooking Ashley, Steve Watt & Ben Mayall

Merit Awards – Please check your child/children's awards to be sure they are not eligible for higher awards. If you discover that your child has reached the level for further award please send them into their class teacher ASAP.

Old LP Records – during a recent tidy up of the Multipurpose Room, the Preschool staff located a large stash of very old LP records. If anyone is interested in these please call in to see the school. First in best dressed. If these are not claimed within the next week or so, they will be disposed of.

Book Club orders need to be returned by Monday 24th November 2014

Swim and Survive – summer is just around the corner and Sport and Recreation will again be delivering Swim and Survive lessons throughout regional NSW.

Sport and Recreation's Swim and Survive program caters for children from 18 months through to 12 years of age. Our lessons provide intensive water familiarization and learn to swim classes, generally held over eight or nine consecutive weekdays.

Our friendly, qualified instructors will teach basic skills on how to enjoy the water safely and the techniques needed to become a strong and confident swimmer.

Children need lots of practice, so our lessons are an excellent opportunity to reinforce the skills they learn through a school-based program.

All enrolments for Sport and Recreation's Swim and Survive program should be directed to www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/swimandsurvive or our client service center on 13 13 02. Should you have any further queries, or require additional copies of the flyer, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6766 1200.

Paul Kelly
Swim and Survive Project Office

Foster Carers make a difference

Life Without Barriers is seeking compassionate and motivated people who are capable of providing care and support to children and young people.

- Carers can be male or female, single, married, defacto, same sex or a family;
- Carers may come from Aboriginal and multicultural backgrounds;
- Carers will receive support, training and financial reimbursement.

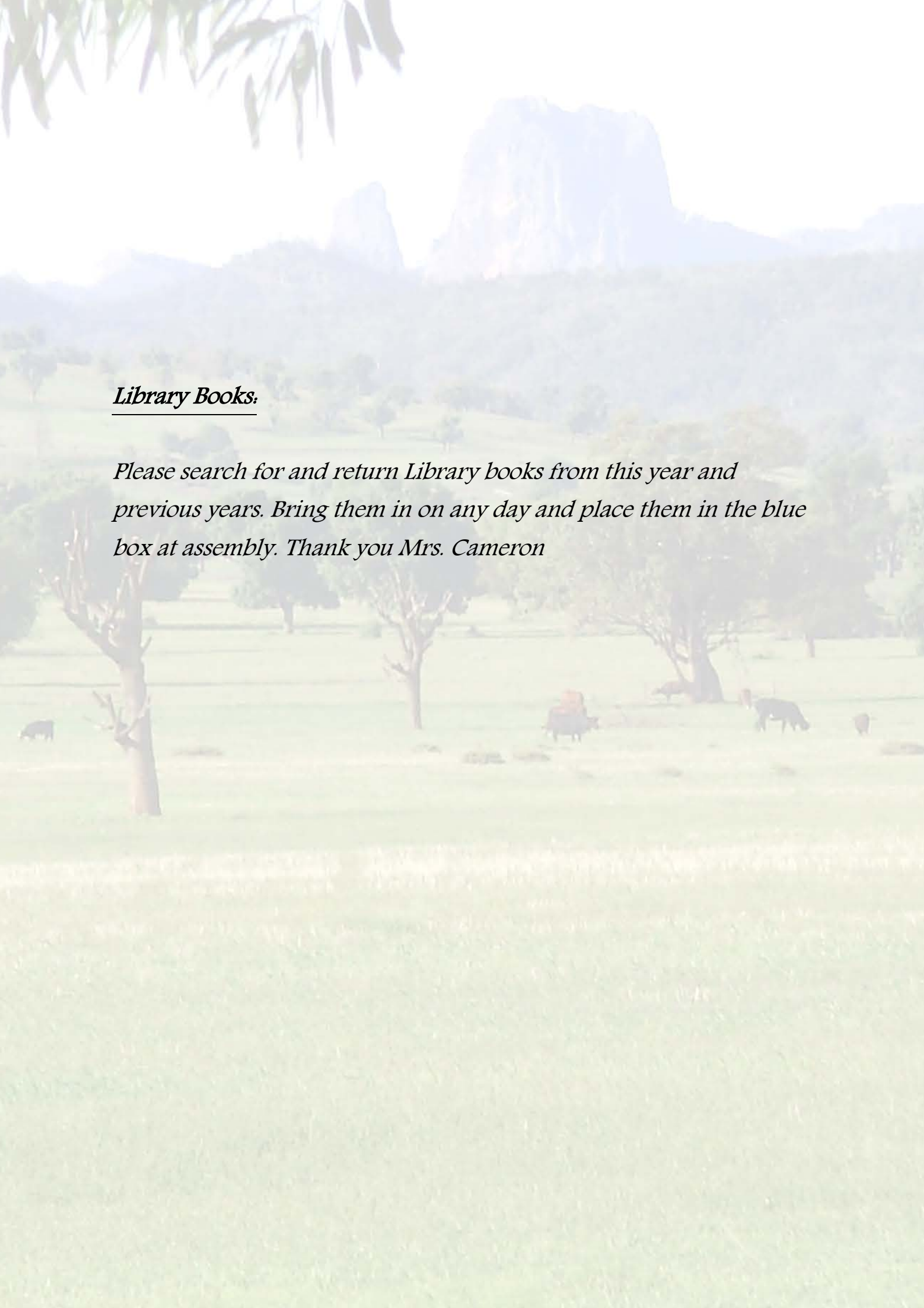
If you are interested in joining our caring team and enhancing a young person's quality of life, please contact Shayne on:
Ph. (02) 6809 9500 Mob. 0407 062 020 Email. shayne.primmer@lwb.org.au or www.lwb.org.au

Parent tips for use in school newsletters and on school websites – 14 November 2014

Primary school
Kids, homework and lies
Do you think your child is lying about their homework? Listen to psychologist Anne Hollonds chat with James O'Loghlin on what to do when the dog eats the homework.
Homework tips: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/kids-homework-and-lies

Maths at home
Kids' early experiences with measurement are often based on watching their parents. Seeing mum or dad measure and pour ingredients for a recipe or weigh items at the fruit shop will often become part of their play.
Maths at home: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/mathematics/mathematics-tips/helpling-your-child-measure-mass-and-volume

Primary and High school
Comprehension help for teens
Some kids will read perfectly in primary school and then suddenly struggle with comprehension in high school. Here's why.
Comprehension help: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/reading/comprehension-strategies-you-can



Library Books:

Please search for and return Library books from this year and previous years. Bring them in on any day and place them in the blue box at assembly. Thank you Mrs. Cameron