Dear Parents and Friends,

I am so proud of all our students for settling back into 'school life' so quickly. They are working hard and it is wonderful to walk into classrooms and see the hard work occurring. We have incredible teachers and incredible students.

Re-structure of Classes

Last Friday (February 5th) was our Day 8 enrolment data collection day and as a result of our student numbers we will be restructuring our Year 3 and 4 classes. Currently we have two Year 3 and two Year 4 classes with reduced student numbers, which has resulted in an imbalance against our staffing allocation. To correct this we will be collapsing 3B and forming three Year 3/4 classes. To enable a successful transition for all parties involved we will be working closely with students, staff and parents to make this move as smooth as possible. Support from our families and the staff involved will assist us in this process. Parents with students in Years 3 and 4 are invited to attend an information session this afternoon at 4:00pm in the school library, where further information will be provided. The aim of the evening will be to provide parents with information that will support students to transition into their ‘new’ classes, and to answer any questions that you may have in relation to the change. I wish to assure parents that the decision to alter classes is not made lightly, and is always made for the best interest of the students. Also, I wish to assure that there will be no effect to the quality of teaching, learning or curriculum implementation that will occur as a result of this restructure.

Attend And Achieve

This is an exciting focus that we are implementing for 2016. Attend And Achieve is a targeted approach to support students to attend school and be successful. It is a focus that has been developed as a result of our continuing drop in attendance data. Our data identifies a significant reduction of attendance with our indigenous students which is deeply concerning. Continuation of this trend will result in a widening of the gap rather than closing it and we want to work with families to alter this trend. I would like to invite all interested parents to attend an information evening regarding this initiative on Thursday the 18th February at 9:00am in the library computer lab.

Townview Pride

At Townview State School we encourage all our students, staff and community to be Townview Proud. As we have so many new families to our school, it is a good a time to let all our community know and be aware, that our work as a school and community is to always strive towards being Townview Proud. I encourage all our parents and community to join us in using some of the words and phrases we use at the school on a daily basis. We refer to the way we do things, as the Townview Way. A phrase we use with our students is, Every Day in Every Way, we do Things the Townview Way. The Townview Way is based on our collective beliefs about behaviour and learning. I encourage all parents and community members to use this language with your students as well, so it can become embedded as the way we do business here at Townview SS.

Ready For Learning: Be at school 8:30am

Our $4 Tuckshop vouchers are continuing this year. Students who are at school by 8:30 am, Ready for Learning, place their name in the draw. One lucky lower school and one lucky upper school student will be drawn.

Important Dates

12th February - Open Classrooms
12th February - Book Club Closes
17th February - NQ Cowboys Visit
18th February - Attend And Achieve Information Session
Developing Assessment Literate Learners
At Townview we are committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to be successful. In each classroom students are able to engage in Learning Walls that identify ‘what they need to know and be able to do to be successful’. Our teachers use these walls everyday when implementing the learning intentions of the Australian Curriculum. Students are taught the curriculum content across a 5 week juncture and then assessment is implemented to track their progress. Assessment is used to inform teachers and implemented to monitor learning. Assessment can be formative, diagnostic and/or summative. Formative assessment is when teachers use information such as incidental running records, anecdotal notes or observations to make balanced judgments against student performance, diagnostic assessment is where we are able to measure student performance against a target or ‘benchmark’, and summative assessment is the assessment task that is implemented and marked against a set criteria (A-E Level of Achievement) that directly aligns to the learning intentions of the Australian Curriculum. We are aware that not all students have the same learning needs or learn at the same rate as others. Through the assessment process teachers are able to engage in formative conversations with students about their learning to support them to be successful. Students are encouraged to ask the question “What do I need to do to achieve an A, B or C ?” in the task and achieve success.

To support students in their learning, we have adopted these 5 questions for students in all of our classrooms. Teachers refer to these to gauge where student’s understanding of the learning that is occurring in classes is:
1. What are you learning?
2. How are you going?
3. How do you know?
4. How can you improve?
5. Where can you go for help?

Reading: Decoding and Comprehension
This week we began our focused teaching of reading in all classes. Reading and decoding strategies are explicitly taught to students and then they break into groups with teacher aide support. This time is a very important teaching time for all our students as Reading continues to be a focus of our explicit improvement agenda.

Carpark Safety
To ensure all of our school community has a safe start to the year, I would like to remind all parents and carers that the car parks next to prep and at the top of the school next to the ‘drop and go’ zone are for staff only. At Townview, our traffic moves very quickly both in and out of the school and I recommend that if you are having trouble finding a car park, arriving 5 minutes earlier or 5 minutes later can often be the best times to get a park. Please be vigilant and watch out for children at all times and remember that the school zone is a 40km speed limit. Thank you for your support with this.

Uninterrupted Learning
Education of all students is a priority at Townview State School. Uninterrupted teaching and learning is the greatest opportunity for facilitating students to reach their potential. To assist us with this, parents are encouraged to make appointments to see the classroom teachers.

Prime Learning Time is between 8:30am-10:30am and 11:15am -1:15pm. During this time we request that any messages, delivery of items e.g. uniforms, food, glasses or homework should be delivered to the school office and not the classroom. This procedure ensures students have the best opportunity to engage in the teaching and learning and their education is uninterrupted.

EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY WE DO THINGS THE TOWNVIEW WAY.
At Townview we are amazing because we are;
• Responsible
• Respectful
• Safe

Yours in Education,
Loretta
Hello everyone,

It’s great to be back! The first three weeks have been fantastic so far! It has been wonderful to see all of our students return from holidays and already working very hard in their classrooms. Keep it up everyone!

Welcome to all the new families. We know you will love being part of such a great school just as much as we will love having you here.

Open Classrooms
This Friday afternoon from 2:00pm till 3:00pm, families are welcome to come and meet their child’s teacher, view their child’s classroom and learn about the curriculum. We encourage all families to come along.

Student Leadership
Our Student Leader Induction will be held on Monday 29th February from 8:45am. Parents and families are most welcome to attend. At this ceremony we will be presenting our Student Leaders, House Captains and Student Councillors with their badges.

Instrumental Music Program
Townview SS offers a wind and brass program. Lessons are held once a week during school time. Letters of interest to play a musical instrument have been handed out and need to be returned to the office ASAP.

NQ Cowboys Visit
On Wednesday 17th February the NQ Cowboys will be visiting the students in Years 3 to 6. We are yet to be advised on times so stay turned for more information.

Swimming
This term our Years 1 - 4 will participate in school swimming lessons as part of their HPE program. Letters will be sent out next week regarding times, days and costs.

Interschool Sport
Soccer and Cricket carnivals will be held in Term 1. Dates of the carnivals are yet to be confirmed.

Vision Testing
Next week, One Sight will be coming to Townview to test the vision of our students. If you have not already signed and returned the yellow permission form please come to the office or see Miss Kempin in the SEP.

Student Absences
We would like to thank all of our parents and carers who have contacted the office to advise of their children’s absences, whether due to illness or other circumstances beyond their control. This allows us to ensure that students have no “unexplained” absences attached to their enrolments. It also indicates our families commitment to their children’s learning and education.

I am looking forward to the busy term ahead and working with teachers and parents/caregivers to provide a great education for you children!

Wishing everyone a fun and enjoyable week,

Yvette Phillips
**Library News with Mrs Rigby and Miss Patty**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to another school year. The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school. Our school is participating once again in Scholastic Book Clubs. Scholastic offer a convenient way for your child to select and purchase worthwhile and appealing books, and are offered at very reasonable prices.

Scholastic Book Clubs operate eight times a year. Simply select books your child would like and fill in the Order Form on the back page. Return the order and the correct money (if possible) in a sealed envelope with the child’s name and grade clearly marked on the outside to your classroom teacher by the closing date. Should you wish to pay your order by cheque please make it payable to TOWNVIEW STATE SCHOOL not Scholastic. Orders can also be paid by calling 1800 557 908 or “online” www.scholastic.com.au/payment. A receipt number will be issued. Please complete the credit card receipt at the bottom of the form (this is a security measure for all concerned, as no credit card numbers are shown on the form). Then return the completed order to the office where the library staff will collect it. The orders will be forwarded to Scholastic in Sydney and should arrive back at the school within two weeks. They will then be distributed by the classroom teacher for your child to bring home.

Scholastic offers a full guarantee of satisfaction, so that if an item is unsuitable, you will be able to receive a full refund. However there is never any obligation to order. Our School also benefits from Book Club. Reward points are issued and can be redeemed for a wide range of books and other valuable learning resources. These, in turn, further assists in providing your child with a fun and stimulating learning environment. Please take time to peruse the books available in each Book Club. You’ll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read. Issue 1 of Book Club was handed out to the children on Monday 8th and closing date for orders is Friday 12th at 9:00am. Please order on time as NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED.

Sincerely,

Margaret Rigby/Patti Newman
– Book Club Organisers

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**Tuckshop News with Mrs Ronda**

Hello to all our Townview State School Families,

It is wonderful to see all the children in uniforms and also using their lovely manners at the Tuckshop. Tuckshop is calling for student volunteers from Year 6 to help out at 1st and 2nd breaks. If your child is interested in volunteering their time, please come to see me.

**Meal Deals**

- 2 Small Pies w/ Flavoured Milk or Slush Puppie
  $5.00

- Chicken Chips, Popper and Icy Stick
  $4.00
Students of the Week - 8th February 2016

Prep A - Madelyn Brown
Prep B - John Sheard
1/2A - Layla Body
1/2B - Danielle Pitt
1/2C - Julian Eussen
3A - Thelma George
3B - Kesa-Lee Savuro
4A - Eugene Pouesi
4B - Kathleen Coggan
5A - Ebony Lees
5B - Kelly Dalton
6A - Breana Mothe
6B - Kathleen Farrelly

PE Award - Joshua Archie
SEP Award - Nadia Page
The Arts - Cody Clair
Townview Spirit Award -

Class Attendance Winners

8th February 2016
4A
Hello Townview School Community,

What a great start to the school year our students have had. Well done to everyone.

**Looking Deadly…. Loud and Proud!**

Keep it up everyone….coming to school in your uniforms and looking so DEADLY walking around the school and attending everyday show you have a great attitude to learning and achieving your goals.

**Yarn Time**

Parents and Carers you are invited to come and join us in the kitchen after parade this coming Monday morning 15th of February for our “Yarn Time”. This is a time for sharing, meeting and a catch up with what is happening at Townview over a cuppa and a laugh. We look forward to seeing you in the kitchen after parade.

Please come to see me or call me at school if I can help and support you in anyway with your time here at Townview.

I am looking forward to a busy term working with parents, students and staff to support and provide the best possible learning outcomes for our students.

Until the next newsletter, keep reading and keep trying your best with school and home.

Dixie Sarmardin
Community Education Counsellor

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**HEAD LICE: SCRATCHING FOR ANSWERS**

**Can head lice spread disease?**
No. Head lice cannot transmit or spread disease on to people.

**Who is responsible for checking and treating head lice?**
Like similar conditions such as scabies and ringworm, it is the parent or guardian’s responsibility to treat and care for their child.

**Do head lice live in carpets, clothes, hats or sheets?**
No. Head lice very rarely fall from the head. They require blood to survive. Head lice feed 3-4 times a day and without blood will dehydrate in 6 hours in a dry climate and 24 hours in a humid climate.

**Head Lice scratching for answers**

**Is it true that head lice only like clean hair?**
No. Head lice are not selective. They don’t care if hair is long, short, blonde, brown washed this morning or last week. As long as they are warm, and have blood to drink, then they are content.

**Is there a way to prevent head lice?**
No. It is important to check your child’s head regularly with conditioner and comb even when you don’t think your child has head lice. There is no research to prove that chemical or herbal therapies can prevent head lice.
Does your child want to Play Netball??
Come sign up with
Mount Isa Amateur Netball Association
STAY fit and healthy while having some fun in 2016

Sign On Saturday, 13th February 2016
8am-10am

Contact Lenore Kruzfeldt (Junior Convenor)
0438 255 085
mountisanelball@hotmail.com
For further information

Where:
Mount Isa Amateur Netball Association Courts
Wellington Oval

Play Wednesday nights 5.30pm & 6.30pm