

# Tacking Point Public School Newsletter



6 March 2009  
Week 6, Term 1

## Victorian Bushfire Appeal

### *To Dear Students and Parents of Tacking Point PS*

I write this, still in awe of the generosity of Port Macquarie families. I felt honored to take your gifts to the children in Victoria. The donations of pencils, pens, stationary and books touched so many hearts in the Whittlesea, and Wandong areas. The principals, parents and children were at times speechless and were very touched that so many people were thinking of them from so far away! The schools most affected by the fires (there were many) were Upper Plenty PS, Wandong PS and Marysville PS. The first two schools resumed on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. The students had been back at school for 3 days when I arrived. Marysville PS only received demountable classrooms on Monday and do not expect to be up and running until this week.

Some of the children spoke openly to me about their losses, family members, homes, pets, toys. At one point when we were handing out the gifts and a particularly great item, like a set of highlighter pens were up for grabs, the children would break into a fairly logical debate about who should get it, based on who lost more - "I lost a shed and my pet dog", "Well, I still have my house, so I guess you can have it." How could you argue with that???

The principals I spoke to told me how exhausted they already felt. They have been managing staff who have also lost loved ones, their own homes plus trying to support their student's families. I have met strong, resilient people!

As you all know, the death toll in Victoria has exceeded 210 lives. Today, 4 major fires continue to burn uncontrollably, especially around the

township of Wangaratta. The landscape across Victoria was simply depressing. If fires have not destroyed the landscape, severe drought has left the State looking like a war zone. The ground was hard and cracked. Not a blade of green grass could be seen, and boy did I want to find some because that meant hope! There was a smoke haze everywhere I looked. I first noticed it about 100km north of Albury and it was a constant throughout my time there.

The smoke haze permeated every thing! It was thick; it felt like it was stuck in my throat, especially around the concentrated fire areas, and it has not yet diminished.

Sore, watery eyes, laboured breathing, a thick layer of dust and ash on my skin, (inside my ears too), and bleeding noses are some of the physical symptoms I had of the fire state when I was there. The water is contaminated with ash. You cannot drink it. Masks are fairly common to see, especially in the clean up areas.

We know of the lives lost, the homes destroyed. What impacted on me was the number of business that were also destroyed. In Wandong alone, approximately 60 income earning businesses were destroyed.

There will be an opportunity for me to present more of what I have seen, explain in greater detail the impact of your kind donations on the children and most importantly what we can do to continue to support three schools in particular for the future.

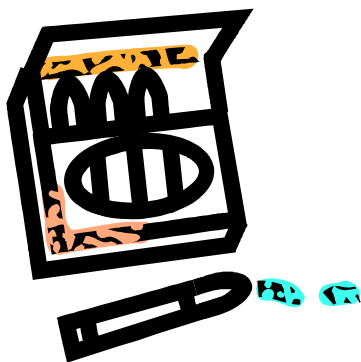
- Upper Plenty
- Wandong PS
- Marysville PS

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Meaghan Biron

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Tues 10/3  
NC Swimming
- ◆ Fri 13/3  
LNC AFL
- ◆ Wed 18/3  
NC Basketball
- ◆ Fri 20/3  
HCH League
- ◆ Thurs 26/3  
Y2 Grandparent Day
- ◆ Fri 27/3  
LNC Hockey
- ◆ Mon 30/3  
NC Tennis (Sawtell)
- ◆ Tues 31/3  
Stage 2 Public Speaking  
11.20 - 1.00pm
- ◆ Thurs 2/4  
Stage 3 Public Speaking  
2.00 - 3.00pm



### ASSEMBLY ROSTER

NEXT FRI 9.10am	Yrs K-2 Hosted by 2P
NEXT FRI 2.00pm	Yrs 3 & 4 Hosted by

### UNIFORM SHOP

8.30am 9.15am	Mondays
8.30am 9.15am	Wednesdays

### UNIFORM SHOP ROSTER

Monday 9/3	R Williams
Wednesday 11/3	S Wallace

New uniform price list will be sent home end of Term 1.

**School Name**  
Tacking Point  
Public School

**Address**  
77-105 Bangalay Drive  
PORT MACQUARIE 2444

**Phone**  
02 6582 3478

**Fax**  
02 6582 2326

**Website**  
<http://www.tackingpt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

**Principal**  
Mr Terry Robinson

## Message from Victoria

Hi Terry, thanks for the email. Meaghan visited last week and delivered a car load of goodies which I believe your school contributed to. Your generosity and thoughtfulness was wonderful. Our Junior School Council decided to divide the materials among all the grades so that all children would get a much needed boost. The materials are now being used for special publishing projects. The children felt like it was Christmas and the materials have inspired them to work hard to produce writing pieces worthy of publishing. It was wonderful to see the wave of excitement around the school dominating the sadness that has been present since the fires. We have had extraordinary support from communities close and distant. I would like you to know that your contribution did make a difference and please pass that on to your community. Meaghan was a special lady and I am sure that you must appreciate having her as a community member.

Thank you again.  
Kim Tierney, Principal  
Upper Plenty Primary School

## Lower North Coast Swimming

The Tacking Point Swim Team travelled to Kempsey last Friday to participate in the Lower North Coast PSSA Carnival. The swim team won the overall shield, such a great achievement meaning Tacking Point has won it 8 out of 9 times.

Sam won the Senior Boys Champion and Lachlan the Junior Boys Champion. These boys are having a dream run at the moment, taking out Junior and Senior champions at their last three carnivals. Three out of our four relays teams won their divisions with the senior girls coming a close second in their race. Things are looking great for next Tuesday's North Coast Carnival held at Kempsey again.

A big congratulations to all these swimmers; Samuel, Lachlan, Joe, Lewis, Dane, Sam, Joel, Matthew, Max, Angus, Nick, Reid, Max, Caitlin, Amelia, Elly, Bianca, Kayla, Amy, Rebecca, Ashlee, Molly, Sarah, Courtney. Congratulations for your efforts and beautiful manners and sportsmanship. Good Luck to those swimmers who made it through to North Coast on Tuesday.

L. Kirkland

## Stage 3 News

### School Uniform

After discussions at our Stage 3 Parent Information night last week I would like to pass on that both parents and teachers have been concerned about how many students are wearing navy blue basketball shorts to school everyday. These shorts are NOT the school uniform so please do not send your child to school in them. NB. Friday sport days are an exception to this. Also, footwear has been an issue at the beginning of this year with students wearing coloured canvas types shoes and white sports shoes. These are unsafe and/or not acceptable. Black shoes should be worn. NB. Again, Friday sport days are an exception to this.

Thank you to all the parents that covered Year 5 and 6 work books. What a difference it made to getting the year started.

Thank you for your co-operation.  
Kelly Boag, Assistant Principal

### Year 6 - 2009

Port Macquarie High School in conjunction with Westport High School will be offering "taster" lessons on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March here at our school. The High Schools will be working with us in the areas of music, drama, PE and Japanese. An invitation for students and parents to attend the High School Showcase evening on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm will be sent home next week.

Kelly Boag, Assistant Principal

## P & C News

### P&C Membership

The P&C has three major functions:

- ◆ To promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, teaching staff and interested people together;
- ◆ To assist in providing equipment to the school;
- ◆ To assist the teaching staff in establishing school policy and managing school activities.

The P&C also runs the school canteen and the uniform shop.

Recent projects that the P&C has funded include:

- ◆ 5 interactive whiteboards (2008's major fundraising project)
- ◆ The covered walkway from the administration area to the school entrance
- ◆ The senior's seating area next the canteen
- ◆ Literacy programmes for the library

Current projects include the installation of cricket nets in the park behind the school and the introduction of the Cancer Council Sunsmart Programme.

As well as being able to have a say about what new facilities, programmes you would like to see at the school, each meeting you will hear directly from the Principal about plans for the school and get the opportunity to ask questions about what is happening around the school.

All this for just \$2 a year to be able to vote as a member of the P&C! So please join us on the first Monday evening of each month. We would love to see some new faces and hear your ideas about what is important to you at your children's school.

## Easter Egg Raffle

Donations are now being accepted at the canteen for the 2009 Easter Egg Raffle. With every donation you will receive a free ticket into the raffle. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

## Rugby Union Yr 3-6

Boys interested in playing Rugby this year in Years 3-6 can register by collecting a form from Mrs Wall and returning the completed for to her on Fridays. Or, registering at Stuart Park Rugby Club House on 5, 12, 19 March between 4.30 - 6.00pm. Trial matches will be held on 3 April and 1 May. Round One will commence on 8 May. Years 3 and 4 play at 5.30pm at Stuart Park. Years 5 and 6 play at 6.15pm at Stuart Park. School training will commence shortly.

**Sponsorship of Rugby Team.** If anyone/business is interested in sponsoring Tacking Point's Rugby Union teams could they please contact Laura Begbie on 0438 821 209. The P&C is hoping to purchase new team jerseys and this would provide an opportunity for advertising for interested businesses.

Ian Wall & Tony Lower

## Parent Report

Last weekend the Nestle Mini Triathlon for 5-15 years old was held at South West Rocks. Due to rainfall in the weeks leading up to the event the water was filled with silt, debris and even more worrying, sharks. On the day the swim leg was cancelled for competitor's safety. The triathlon come duathlon continued with the swim leg converted to a beach sprint. Angus, 5 years old, competed representing Tacking Point Public School and successfully completed his first ever tri come duathlon, receiving a medal for his effort.

## From the Library...

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their bookmarks this week! The Read aloud bookmarks are a real family affair, including parents, older siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles listening to our children read! Thank you so very much to those members of our school community who support our children at home and invest in their children's future.

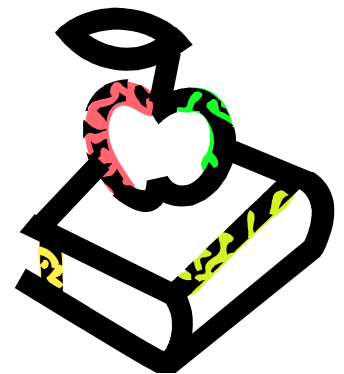
Corey 1/2G, Alex 1/2G, Jessica 1/2G, Nataya 1/2G, Alex 2C, Madalynn 2C, Sienna 2C, Tayla 2P, Isla 2P, Lucy 2MP, Jade 3R, Molly 3C, Alex 3C, Tarnee 3C, Ben 4N, Alannah 4N, Max 4C, Tiah 4K, Ashleigh 4/5M, Ashleigh 4/5M, Tom 4/5M, Blake 4/5M, Thomas 5C, Lachlan 5C, Jake 5C, Josh 5C, Anthony 5R, Ashleigh 6S, Jaki 6S, Ryan 6C and Brady 6C.

**A fluent oral reader - what you are looking for and encouraging:**

- Reads and rereads the text
- Uses different facial expressions to show mood
- Looks up from the text to make eye contact with the audience
- Reads groups of words together
- Changes voices for different characters
- Voice rises and falls to show different moods

*(First steps reading resource book: Rigby; 2004)*

Leanne Tracy, Teacher Librarian



## CANTEEN ROSTER

MON 9/2	R Marquez L Richards
TUE 10/2	K Murray J Hegarty
WED 11/2	K Sanger K Pritchard
THU 12/2	J Rossiter H Taylor
FRI 13/2	H Hingston M Burton

The canteen is still collecting Norco Community cash caps. All proceeds to school!

## Pancake Day - a Great Success!

Thank you to everyone who supported this special fundraising day. It went really well and the children really enjoyed their Pancakes and Ice-cream. A big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the preparation of over 500 pancakes. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Kam Dean,  
P&C Canteen President