



Tunable Falls Community School

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19 May 2020, Term 2, Newsletter 6

Next Issue Due 02.06.2020

From the Committee:

Welcome back to all the families who are returning to school for the first time this term. This week sees those families who have chosen to keep their kids at home, providing distance education, return to school for two days per week. I can only speak for my child, but he is bursting at the seams to see his mates and run around at school, a place in which he feels safe and gives him a sense of connection.

Whilst parents may not have seen committee members around the school of late, as a parent run school, the management committee have continued to meet weekly via Zoom, to ensure the smooth running of the school. Many of you may be unaware that, this year, the school is due for its five-yearly registration. The committee, along with our Coordinating Teacher, Joe, and our wonderful teachers, have been tackling this monumental task whilst being inhibited by the challenge of not being able to meet face-to-face due to the restrictions of COVID. Whilst you may have noticed small things like increased signage and increased safety work being done, much of the work is behind the scenes, which includes **lots** and **lots** of documentation. The registration process will be completed in June with the assessors conducting an inspection of school documentation. There are a few things parents can help us with to ensure this process goes smoothly. We ask that parents **not** park in front of the school at **any time** and ensure all children come to school with a pair of shoes, these must be worn in the kitchen and whilst attending Science lessons with Emmy.

For those that may have missed the last newsletter or aren't able to access their emails, the committee has decided that due to the current stresses of COVID, families will not be charged school fees for this term. This includes no fees for the family workday nor weekly roster days. However, if you do feel the urge to spend some time at school, there are always jobs that need doing, like weeding 😊. Thank you Narelle. We are all grateful for the time you put into the garden and your efforts do not go unnoticed. The new sign looks amazing!

We look forward to catching up with you all as we slowly emerge from our bubbles.

Blessings, Cushla

School Calendar

- **Term 2 Ends**
Friday 26th June
- **Term 3 Begins**
Tuesday 21st July

AGM:

Friday 19th June, 9.30 am,
in the Art class

Winter Solstice:

Thursday 18th June
Details to be confirmed
closer to the time.

Reminders:

We are a Nude Food School. Please avoid using plastic wraps or packaged items in school lunches.

Drink Bottles: Please pack a drink bottle as cups and bubblers are not recommended atm.

Contact a Committee Member if you have any questions or feedback.

Committee Meeting:

Tuesday 19th May 2020

Parent Meeting:

Postponed until further notice

Parent Workdays:

Families are not required to attend work levy days for this term, but it would be great if you can still drop in to help with the garden.



BURIBI (Kindy class)

Hello Everyone,

Thank you to our wonderful parents for the enormous efforts in helping your child with learning at home and for reading with them whenever you can.

This term, we have been focusing on Changes. This broad term can be applied to nearly everything from The Very Hungry Caterpillar to the Seasons and to ourselves as babies to now. We have been reading some great stories about different families, such as 'The Pirates Next Door' by Jonny Duddle. Others include 'Possum Magic', 'Stellaluna' and 'Stone Age Boy' which are terrific for learning about real and imaginary stories.

ABC: At school and at home, the Kindies have been consolidating important foundational skills like learning the sounds of the letters in the Alphabet. We have been singing, dancing, drawing, building and exploring to make learning fun.



Djuna learning from home - hello praying mantis



Willow practicing her writing.

123: Students have been practicing writing, identifying and counting numbers. They have enjoyed creating coloured chalk number arrays and comparing less and more amounts. We are all getting really good at knowing our days of the week and telling the time by the hour on a clock. Some afternoons we do arty-crafty things and reflect on our learning together.



Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss anything about your child's learning at home or at school. Keep on reading and let me know if you need more home readers.

Thank you,
Fiona

Azariah and Gipsy playing with playdough.



GOOARNJ (Middle class)

Hi Families,

I am really looking forward to seeing all the kids starting to come back to school. It's been an interesting time, and everyone has been doing a wonderful job adapting and growing through this experience, including your kids!

It has been wonderful to see some of the great learning they have been doing at home. With those that have been at school some of the time showing good progress in their reading, writing, and math. Everyone is getting a good grasp on their friends of 10 and realising how once we know this it makes a lot of other things in maths easier.

In writing we have been writing letters – writing to each other, and letters persuading bus drivers to not let pigeons drive buses! In class the kids will look forward to writing letters to each other with our new letter writing station and post box.

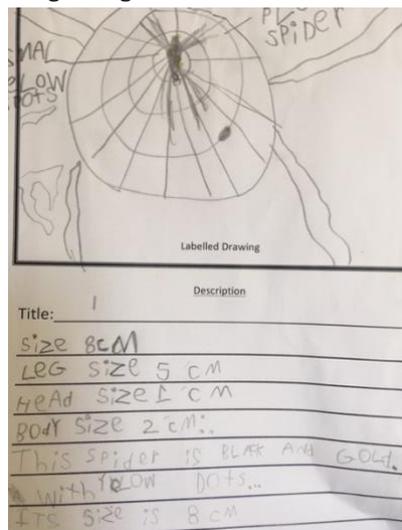
The kids are doing their best at implementing social distancing and have been great at regularly washing their hands and being aware of their self-hygiene.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in the weeks to come, Ishta

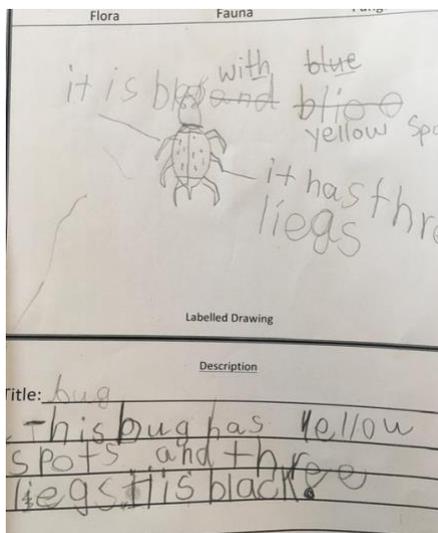
Some of the wonderful learning happening in our “Living Things” unit this term.



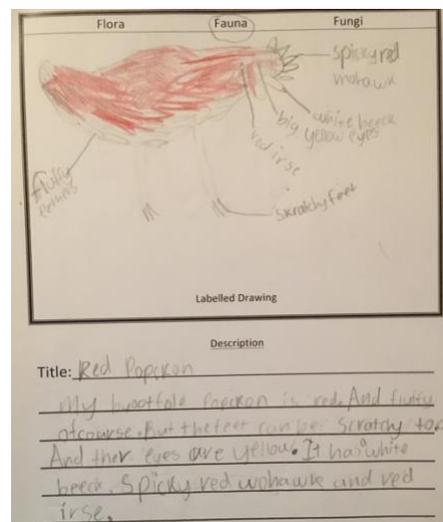
A school of spiders catch two lady bugs by Miela



Observation of fauna by Kai



Observation of fauna by Sunny



Observation of fauna by Lieka



Guruman (Upper class)



In this time of remoteness and distancing, we have been continuing our investigation into Podcasts, a medium of communication that has boomed in the last months. So far, as a class, we have developed our recording skills, creating a News Podcast, which is a very informative presentation, and a Podcast Play, which is still in the editing process with our Technical Branch (Aron). The class is working on a Narrator's Introduction to the play. Next we are looking at The How-To Podcast, which will be very enlightening, I think, with regard to getting a deeper understanding of the need for clarity when giving instructions. In addition to being enlightening, it promises to be very entertaining.

The class's abilities in Poster Creation are proving to be very impressive as they put together a collective portfolio of works to send off to the Say-No-To-Bullying 2020 Poster Competition. "This national competition is open to all primary schools across Australia and coincides with the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence in March. The aim of the competition is to raise awareness of bullying and to assist schools and organisations to identify and address bullying behaviours in their communities. In 2019, over 38,000 students registered to take part with thousands of posters sent in for judging." (interrelate.org.au).



One of the situations where I have observed some positive outcomes of our PDHPE focus on Empathy and Inclusion, is in our Friday afternoon whole-school sport sessions. It is very heartening to see bigger students putting aside any sense of competitiveness to make sure that they are playing carefully and giving consideration for the safety of smaller, younger students with bare feet and tiny toes.

Joe.



FROM GINGER

Hello lovely parents,

I hope that those of you at home are finding some time and space to sit with nature and acknowledge the change in the season.

We have been harvesting mega crops from the garden, including rosellas, cucumbers, pumpkins, basil and carrots. The children have been cooking light meals on Friday including rosella jam accompanied by damper, fresh pesto pasta & pumpkin scones. They have been practicing extreme safe food handling and hygiene and experimenting with new and different flavours.



Aragon working on his digeridoo.

At school the **Buribi** class have been exploring their family's similarities and differences and what roles different members have in their family and what they can do to help at home.

The **Gooarnj** class has been learning about tradition indigenous practices and how humans use animals and plants for food and fibre. They have explored traditional didgeridoo making practices, using the fire to cure and preserve their bamboo didgeridoo's and the girls practiced their weaving skills by starting a woven mat from wool.

The **Guraman** class has been learning and discussing the different perspectives of the Australian invasion. Learning about how different cultures record or share their history in different ways to preserve key historical moments.

They have been carving soap stone totems based on dreamtime stories and were assigned with animal totems that suited their personality and personal traits.

They have also explored indigenous symbology and how symbols have deep meanings and how their drawings told their stories.

Sending warm hugs to you at home and hope to see you soon.

Lots of love, Ginger



FROM EMMY



Hello budding scientists and assistant scientists!

I hope that you have all been indulging your curiosity over the past couple of months with some science fun. Back at school we are beginning to investigate all things bat related (Buribi), sound energy (Goanj) and energy transfer (Guruman).

If there's anything science related that you ever want to chat about or get involved with let me know. Emmy

Goanj cartoon on matter



Buribi Bat Feast- mosquitoes for insectivorous microbats, colourful fruit for megabats and some tasty blood for vampire bats.



Student's drawings of themselves as scientists



Hello families!

I have really missed seeing you all. It has been wonderful talking to some parents and teachers about what has been happening in the learning zone at school and at home. People's commitment to continuing children's education has been incredible. I have heard of some diverse and interesting learning happening at home, from cooking to building, writing and presenting. Incredible!

Sometimes, parents undervalue themselves and the amazing role they play in their child's life. They feel bad for being too busy, too distracted, too inexperienced to be their child's teacher. We all go through periods of difficulty. Sometimes we lack understanding, skills, empathy, humility, patience; children are no different.

You are your child's first, and most important teacher. You teach them so much through interactions and behaviours. Your values and beliefs and the way you articulate these, your everyday rituals and practices, and your explicit and meaningful interactions with your child send them strong messages about who they are and how things are done in their family. What an amazing gift! Your mere presence and being is shaping your child. Strong attachments with significant adults serve children well throughout their lives, but especially when they face adversity. They tend to be more resilient and accepting, more willing to "have a go".

The things we do with our children such as playing games, modelling things, cooking, puzzles, and gardening are all rich and authentic activities loaded with educational concepts and skills. All you do with your child is valuable. Your child does not learn only from books and worksheets.

You are doing a valuable and important job raising your child. If there is any way you feel I might support you, I am at school on Tuesdays. If you cannot see me Tuesday and wish to chat about your child, give me a call.

During this time I have felt so privileged to work with such a committed and professional team of teachers and school officers. The children are always their primary concern and they work tirelessly to ensure each child is supported. It is wonderful to be a part of this Professional learning community.

Take care,
Lisa

COVID-19: What we are doing to address Health & Safety at school

Due to COVID 19 school is being run rather differently this term with a blended approach of face to face and remote learning.

Remote Learning:

Currently teachers are delivering remote learning to students with a timetable structured around families' circumstances. Teachers are delivering the coursework by dropping off hard copies of learning materials, sending by email, posting on google classroom, texting by phone and phone conferences.

School Attendance:

For the students who are attending school we are using our timetable from Term 1 as a base and teaching the same curriculum as those at home. The class timetables will, however, be flexible due to the fluctuating attendance of students. There will also be times when the regular teacher will be replaced so that they can share their time and support the home learners.

Our Daily COVID-19 Hygiene Procedures

1. As usual a major clean is done after the school week by our lovely cleaner Mel, but we have extended the length of time now to include more surface cleaning.
2. TFCS has also employed Mel to sanitise and wipe down all classrooms and publicly shared areas at the end of each day.
3. Staff are wiping down classrooms at recess, lunch.
4. Hand sanitiser dispensers are available in all classrooms and public areas.
5. Children are washing their hands before eating and before entering and leaving the classrooms.
6. Teachers are making hygiene education part of daily activities and are reminding children of good hygiene practices and explaining why it is important.
7. Students are maintaining social distancing in classrooms and outdoors.
8. To ensure safe play time, staff are providing active supervision during recess and lunch.
9. Any staff member or child who displays any cold or flu like symptoms are being instructed to please stay home and will be sent home if deemed unwell.

We ask you to help us by:

1. trying to make the settling in process as quick as possible so as to avoid too many people in the school. To help us limit the number of children and adults in the school setting, please don't hang around and try to avoid bringing other members with you.
2. not allowing your child to bring in toys from home.
3. ensuring you are packing enough food for the day. No communal food is being provided, instead all children are bringing their own packed lunches and water bottles. Students have fruit at munch and crunch, a recess and a lunch. It is preferred that the bubblers are not used.
4. on arriving home, getting your child/ren wash their hands and change their clothes to avoid spreading anything to your family.
5. keeping your child/ren at home where possible.

**Please contact staff or a committee member if you have any questions or concerns.*