



TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Safe ♦ Respectful ♦ Learners

26 April 2023

WEEK 1 MINI NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

Welcome to Term 2, Tacoma!

I hope you all had a restful and wonderful holiday. Many thanks to Mrs Stuckey, Mrs Sammut, Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Fletcher for their capable leadership whilst I was away in the last week of Term 1.

Anzac Day

Yesterday, the immense pride I felt as the principal of this wonderful school community was immeasurable! From watching Pippa and Billy lay our wreath on the cenotaph at Wyong, to seeing our staff



and 38 students, their siblings and families attend the Club Wyong ANZAC Service, to marching proudly with our school behind our Tacoma Public School banner through the streets of Wyong.

Although we are one of the smallest primary schools in our area, we had the largest number of students (and siblings!) marching. Almost 20% of our school. I am so thankful and grateful to our staff and families for making such an effort to commemorate such a special day in our Australian calendar.

Today, we held our school ANZAC Day Service in the hall with staff, students and families which was very moving. Congratulations to Billy and Pippa for leading our school so wonderfully. Our students were so respectfully behaved and again, I am so proud. A huge thank you to Mr Kirk for his organisation and dedication to our school and community.



Welcome Mrs Clark

We welcome a new staff member, Mrs Chloe Clark to Tacoma. She was successful through interview in gaining our 1 day a week APCI. Mrs Clarke and Mrs Fletcher will work closely to support our K-2 teachers implement the new English and mathematics curriculum. We are excited to have Mrs Clark, as she brings a wealth of experience, skills and knowledge to add to our executive team and staff.

Professional Learning

All NSW Department schools engaged in a staff development day on Monday to strengthen staff understanding of Aboriginal Peoples, culture and histories. We are so lucky to have strong Aboriginal staff who are willing to share their culture and knowledge to strengthen outcomes for all our staff and students. Many thanks to Mrs Fraser for leading this day – we are so grateful. Thank you also to Mrs Fraser and Mrs Simpson for also sharing resources to embed Aboriginal perspectives throughout all we do.

Attendance

Our attendance focus will continue this week, as we saw a drop in our brilliant attendance rate at the end of last term.

Our attendance team is myself, Mrs Stuckey, Mrs Nicholson and Miss Tuff. We will be contacting and working with all students' families whose attendance is below 85% as the term progresses. This will be an attendance improvement plan with specific goals. A quick way to see your child's attendance is through Sentral. Let's continue to improve our attendance, Tacoma, together.



Message your Teacher K-4

We have opened the Sentral portal for two-way communication between your child's classroom teacher and yourself. Please remember the following points from our policy:

- Teachers will check Sentral Messages (once per day between 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday - Friday) when they are at school.
- Teachers will respond to parent messages (where needed) within 48 hours.
- Respectful language to be used at all times.
- Parents will contact the office for any urgent messages
- Parents to contact the office/text for absences.

How to access your class teacher:

1. Open Sentral App. Click on MESSAGES
2. Use the pencil icon to start a new message.
3. Select your child's class teacher and a subject. Press continue.
4. Write your message.



To *

Baliba: MR Scott Webster

Oval Works

As you would have seen, we have some drainage work in progress on the oval and by the hall. It was meant to be completed by Term 2, but the rain has delayed the completion. It is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

Cross Country

Our cross country will be run Thursday, Week 3. Due to the drainage works being incomplete, we will be running the course used in 2022. Because of this, K-2 students will not be competing on this same day (unless they are 8 years old or turn 8 this year). We will have a fun cross country run for them when the oval is back in action. Thank you to Mr Webster for his communication and organisation of the event this year! We need parent volunteers, so please fill out the section on the note coming home if you can volunteer a couple of hours of your Thursday.

Crossings

I will be continuing to monitor the Braithwaite Rd and Hillcrest Ave crossings for illegal parking. You will be asked to move if you are in the no stopping zones. The council have contacted me regarding a crossing supervisor as they have had many complaints. Unfortunately, they have directed me back to the unhelpful information that tells us we do not qualify for a supervisor as there are not 50 'crossings' in the desired timeframe. This is very frustrating! I will continue to work with the P&C to address this issue. Have a wonderful fortnight, Tacoma.

Nicole Burgess

Message from the P&C

Mother's Day Stall –
Wednesday May 10th.

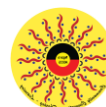
Mother's Day Breakfast –
Friday May 12th @ 8am.



Education

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Proudly part of the Ngara AECG





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Sentral Communication Policy (shortened)



This is a shortened policy version. Please contact the school for the policy in its entirety.

Rationale:

Sentral Messages is a communication app for the classroom which aims to connect staff and parents/caregivers through a private messaging feature between teachers and parents in the Sentral App.

Expectations of staff: Class Teachers will:

- communicate to parents, as needed, via the Sentral Portal. E.g. Whole class announcements/reminders and private messages for the parents/caregivers of individual students.
- **will check Sentral Messages (once per day between 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday - Friday) when they are at school.**
- not need to respond to messages outside the hours between 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday - Friday.
- communicate of negative incidents and other concerns will be done via phone call or face-to-face meeting.
- **respond to parent messages (where needed) within 48 hours.**
- use professional language and comments at all times.

Expectations of parents/caregivers:

- Parents are requested to turn on notifications for Sentral messages to ensure they receive all information from their child's teacher in a timely manner.
- Parents must understand that Class Teachers cannot respond to Sentral messages while they are teaching and therefore will not respond immediately to messages sent. Response time is up to 48 hours.
- Class Teachers will check Sentral messages once per day Monday – Friday between 8:00am – 4:00pm. In the event that the Class Teacher is absent, you may not receive a reply until they return to school.
- Parents will contact the office to inform school of student absences. Sentral messages is NOT to be used for absences.
- Parents will contact the office for any urgent messages, e.g. same day change in pick up arrangements. This will ensure that urgent messages reach students in time. If the message cannot wait 48 hours, call the office.
- Parents are to request a phone or face-to-face meeting to discuss their child's progress, complaints or any enquiries about any school incidents. Parents can send their request for a phone or face-to-face meeting via Sentral messages and the teacher will respond with their availability. Alternatively, parents can leave a message at the office for their child's teacher to call them at their earliest convenience.
- Any image containing a student other than your own child, e.g. whole class or small group photo, may not be published or shared digitally in any way. This includes publishing or sharing on social media apps such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat or any website.
- Behaviour or language that is not appropriate in a school or classroom setting is not appropriate on Tacoma Public School's Class Dojo. Communication must be respectful at all times.
- NO COMMUNICATION IS TO BE SENT ON WEEKENDS.

