TOWNSVILLE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE – A STATE SPECIAL SCHOOL
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Staff Changes
Lorrae Head in J2 has relinquished her contract and Tania Nance-Smith will be the new class teacher commencing Monday 19 May, 2014. Tania was on staff throughout 2013.

P & C Day
Friday 23 May, 2014 is P & C Day. This day, held each year during State Education week, is a chance for the school to recognise the contribution made by the hardworking volunteers on the P & C.

TCLC P & C Association - Amendment
Please note that the next P & C Association meeting has been changed to Monday 19 May, 2014 at 6.30pm.

KidsMatter
TCLC has introduced the KidsMatter initiative into the school community. An Action Team comprised of administration, teachers and teacher-aides was formed to represent the whole-school community. On Tuesday 13 May, 2014, staff met to discuss the first component of the four focus areas “Positive school community”.

KidsMatter is an Australian Primary Schools mental health initiative that aims to:
- improve students' mental health and well-being
- reduce mental health difficulties amongst students and
- increase support for students experiencing mental health difficulties

Although KidsMatter focuses on children's mental health and wellbeing, a positive sense of community is important for everyone at school. This includes staff, families and members of the broader community. When the adults in children’s lives feel valued, they will be most effective in supporting children’s mental health and wellbeing. Every face has a place, every voice is valued and everyone has something to contribute.

Attached is an information sheet outlining the KidsMatter initiative.

Parent Feedback – Positive school community
In 2013 as part of the school review process, the following was raised.
- Arrival / Departure procedures
- A disco for students
- Suitable outside hours school care
- More swimming
- Parent IT workshops
- Playground resources

You are encouraged to view this list and add further ideas. All responses are welcome. Please submit your ideas on the attached slip and return to the school or alternatively email the school at:
admin@tclcspecs.eq.edu.au

Ideas for the entire school community to enhance our positive school community:
Introducing KidsMatter Primary

Good mental health is vital for life. Children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life's challenges and have stronger relationships with the people around them. They are also better learners who are more likely to succeed at school. Good mental health in childhood provides a solid basis for managing changes as they grow.

On the other hand, children who are exposed to multiple stressors – such as a family breakdown, poverty, abuse, racism, bullying or the mental illness of a parent – are at a higher risk of developing emotional or behavioral problems that can continue into adulthood.

It is not always possible to tell which children will develop difficulties, so it is important to consider the wellbeing of all children.

The good news is that KidsMatter Primary is all about growing healthy minds. KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing framework that helps schools focus on the development of all their students in partnership with families. It was developed by mental health and education experts and has already made a big difference to the lives of Australian children.

Does KidsMatter Primary work?

KidsMatter Primary works because it unites all the people that influence children's mental health most – families, school staff and the wider community.

KidsMatter Primary can help improve:

- the mental health and wellbeing of students
- the quality of their school work
- the ability of parents, carers and teaching staff to help children deal with problems
- NAPLAN results – when schools implement KidsMatter Primary well.

KidsMatter Primary was developed in collaboration with beyondblue, the Australian Psychological Society, and the Principals Australia Institute, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and beyondblue.

How does KidsMatter Primary work?

When schools take on KidsMatter Primary, they build on the work they are already doing to support students' mental health and wellbeing.

Firstly, they form an Action Team to represent the whole-school community and to coordinate and lead the implementation of the initiative. The Action Team reviews the schools' current efforts across four focus areas (or 'components'). They look for ways they can strengthen these efforts, and then take action using a step-by-step planning process.

Every school is different, with different needs for their students and families. The KidsMatter Primary framework covers four components that have shown to be highly successful in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children.
How can families help?

Families are the biggest influence on children's mental health and play a very important role in KidsMatter. Children benefit when the important people in their lives work together and have a shared understanding of their development and their needs.

KidsMatter Primary has developed a range of information sheets with parenting tips and strategies to help all Australian families support the wellbeing of their children. View them online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

If your child's school is participating in KidsMatter Primary, there are many things you can do to help make it a success:

- Read the KidsMatter Primary information sheets to further your understanding about children's mental health.
- Develop relationships with staff, so you can share knowledge and information about how they can support your child.
- Get involved in the Action Team.
- Ask staff how KidsMatter Primary is being implemented.
- Participate in school activities to build a sense of community.
- Respond to any school requests for ideas or information.
- Talk to other parents and carers about ways the school can support your needs.
- Let the school know what skills or talents you are happy to share.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

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**Student Arrivals & Communication Reminders**

The school day begins at 8.30am. Students arriving late to school can cause disruption to class and may miss important aspects of the lesson. If your child is late, they must report to the office.

Communication with parents is seen as vital to the success of each student’s program. Close communication is maintained between staff and parents through:

- Home/School Communication Books – a message book that travels between home and school each day
- Emails – parents can contact the school by email at admin@tlcseq.edu.au
- Meetings are held with teachers and/or therapists to discuss individual student programs and progress. Parents are encouraged to visit the school, however, to minimise class disruptions please make a suitable time before or after school with the class teacher.

**My Future, My Life – Information session**

All students with a disability in Year 11 and Year 12 have the opportunity to apply for financial assistance to help them pursue their vision and goals for life after school.

Year 11 students – up to $1000 and Year 12 students – up to $2000. In total, your child could get $3000 to assist them with achieving their goals after leaving school.

**Presenter:** My Future My Life team members from Brisbane

**Who should attend:** Parents, carers, family members, educators

**When:** Wednesday 21 May, 2014 from 6.00pm to 7.30pm

**Where:** Townsville Community Learning Centre – Resource Centre

**How to register:** Ring Admin 4759 4111 and give numbers

**Curriculum News – Mathematics**

Students have been participating in activities that focus on number and place value. There are many opportunities throughout the school day to see numbers in action: such as, how many cups we need for everyone in the class to have a drink or who is 1st in line to go to play. Some students are learning addition and subtraction. Students in D1 show that they can identify numbers and do addition activities.

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Monday 19 May, 2014**
- TLC C & P Association Meeting
  6.30pm

**Wednesday 21 May, 2014**
- My Future:My Life Workshop
  6.00pm – 7.30pm

**Friday 23 May, 2014**
- Whole School Assembly
- State Education Week
Stepping Stones Triple P Project – Survey
The Stepping Stones Triple P Project is developing an online parenting programme for caregivers of children with a disability. However, they need your help. They have developed a very short survey for parents and caregivers of children with a disability, that will provide them with valuable insights in relation to their current use of the internet and other online communication and social media tools. This information will be used to shape the nature of the online supports that caregivers will be offered as part of the online parenting programme. The survey will take between 5-7 minutes to complete and can be accessed via the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MLNK37QQ
This link can also be located on the Project website in the “What’s News” section – http://www.triplepsteppingstones.net.au/en/home
The survey can be completed anonymously, but as a small token of their appreciation caregivers can choose to leave their details and go in a draw to win a $100 gift voucher (drawn 30 June 2014)
At the end of the survey, caregivers are also able to express their interest in participating in the online parenting programme. As part of the broader Stepping Stones Triple P Project, this programme will be offered at no charge and is anticipated to commence in the second half of 2014 (with programmes continuing to run through 2015).
If you have any questions about the online programme specifically, or the Stepping Stones Triple P Project, more broadly, please do not hesitate to contact sharon.burke@uqconnect.edu.au or mobile 0430 111 970

----- Deadly Families are Happy, Safe and Strong! - Family Fun Day ----- 
Date: Saturday 17 May, 2014
Venue: Pioneer Park, Riverway Complex Townsville
Time: 10.00am to 2.00pm
Join in for this very important Family Fun Day for the whole family and the whole of the community
Food – Fun – Entertainment
Education Information and Activities
Messy Play
Women’s Business – Men’s Business – Young Persons Business

Dyslexia, Learning and Reading Difficulties – Free Information Evening
Have you wondered why seemingly bright children have trouble reading and writing? They may have a Learning Difficulty which, once diagnosed and understood, can be dealt with appropriately. One area of Learning Difficulties which parents and teachers will be interested in learning more about, is DYSLEXIA. Another relatively common difficulty is a Visual Processing Problem, also known as Asperger Syndrome. A free information evening will be held at the centre below to help teachers and parents understand that these students are not dumb, stupid or lazy, they just learn differently.
A free information evening will be held on Thursday 29 May, 2014, from 7.00 to 8.30pm at the Townsville RSL Stadium, 40-48 Murray Lyons Crescent, Annandale.
The Speaker is Peter Freney, B.Ed., M.ED., FACEL Qld who has been working with children with these problems for the past 20 years. Peter will outline symptoms and management strategies for children with Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia, describe two different types of Dyslexia, and show that the various strategies recommended are evidence based.
For more information contact Peter Freney Ph: 07 5445 2458 / 0416 136 293

----- Athletes with a Disability Open Day ----- 
Sunday 25 May, 2014
1.00pm to 3.30pm
Jubilee Bowls Club
Great social atmosphere – Fun for you and your mates
No experience necessary - The sport for all abilities
Be bowled over
For more details or to register contact: Tim Blake : 0403 577 779 Email : tim@bowlsqld.org
Jono Orman : 4721 4881 Email: townsville@sportingwheelies.org.au
News from E1

E1 has been very busy this year exploring our community on our weekly excursions with E4. We are learning about appropriate behaviours when in the community, walking with friends and listening to and following instructions. Declan, Mark, Natasha, Richard and Hayden all love hopping on the bus every Tuesday to go and have fun at one of our local parks or businesses. This year we’ve been to the Pet HQ, Pallarena Conservation park, The Soroptimist Park, Queens Gardens and Aplins Weir Rotary Park. We all love being active and enjoy getting out and about in our community.