Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Senior School. This is an exceptionally exciting time in the schooling of your children, with their entry to secondary schooling drawing near, a rapid growth in their levels of independence and a heightened focus on different forms of leadership. We look forward to working with you and your child during 2012 to make their year a successful one. To assist us in this process, the Senior team have put together a ‘snap shot’ of the year in order to help inform you of our approach, as well as expectations we hold for students. We encourage you to keep this information as a reference. This can provide the basis for further discussion at parent-teacher interviews or other meetings throughout the year. Whilst much planning has already taken place to develop our curriculum, it is vital that we work together to ensure your child receives the best possible education. Where students, teachers and parents truly work together and support each other, the benefits to all increase dramatically. As a team, and as individuals, we are continually striving to improve all aspects of our teaching. We are open to feedback and look forward to your suggestions and your assistance. The Senior team will be working hard to deliver a challenging, stimulating and safe environment, and this is undoubtedly enhanced by the huge support our parent community offers. Effective communication is essential in this process and we encourage you to share any concerns or issues so that we can work collaboratively to solve them.

Whilst children are allocated to a particular classroom, we work closely as a team and share ideas, resources and activities. Throughout the year, your child will work in a variety of classrooms, and with different teachers, so that we can enrich the learning experiences offered and allow them to work in a varying mix of social groupings.

**KEY TERM DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 27/29</td>
<td>Biolab Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Biolab Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Clean up Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>A.F.L Football Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Soccer Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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**TORQUAY SCHOOL VALUES**

Torquay has embraced 3 core values which are reflected in classroom activities and displays.

**FRIENDSHIP**  **DOING YOUR BEST**  **RESPECT**

We encourage families to talk about these values in relation to your child’s
Preparation

Regular school attendance is vital if students are to feel success as a learner and develop important social skills. A note, phone call or email is expected with any absence from school. If your child arrives late, they will need to go to the office to obtain a late pass. Any child more than 15 minutes late must be signed in at the office. Please do not send your child straight to their classroom.

Children need appropriate amounts of sleep and sufficient rest to be able to function productively in class. In the mornings, it is vital for children to eat breakfast to maintain concentration throughout the morning and follow it up with a balanced lunch that will sustain them for the day.

At specified times, students are encouraged to eat fruit and healthy snacks in class. This is important so that students maintain energy and concentration levels.

We also encourage students to drink water throughout the day. Water bottles are encouraged and will be located in the classroom for easy access. Fruit juice and other soft drinks cannot be put into drink bottles.

Rubbish free lunches are encouraged and students will bring rubbish home in their lunch boxes to reduce the amount of waste at school.

NETBOOK DO’s & DON’Ts

These guidelines will ensure your net book is ready to use for learning every day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO</th>
<th>DO NOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charge your computer AT HOME every night and bring it to school every day</td>
<td>Share games or music at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a USB to store games or music at home</td>
<td>Put personal details on the web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be careful that you don’t download or open a virus</td>
<td>Take photos or videos of other students without their permission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See your teachers if you think you have a virus</td>
<td>Ever put photos or videos of yourself or other students on the internet (e.g. YouTube, Facebook, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save any inappropriate / abusive emails and show to your teachers</td>
<td>Respond to any inappropriate / abusive emails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep your net book in your school bag when going to and from school</td>
<td>Get your net book out on the bus or leave it visible in the car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the internet at home only with adult supervision</td>
<td>Use your net book outdoors (e.g. before school) or near food / drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use resources like iTunes, Creative Commons and flickr at home</td>
<td>Access inappropriate sites or click on ads and pop ups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel free to download free or paid music at home if your parents allow</td>
<td>Use any peer to peer (P2P) programs such as lime wire or bit torrent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask your teacher to store your computer over night if your bag is too heavy etc.</td>
<td>Ever download illegal music, games or movies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel free to change your wall paper or screen saver</td>
<td>Use Skype or Groove at school, unless authorised by classroom teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back up your work regularly on the classroom hard drives</td>
<td>Put stickers on your net book or graffiti the case (a small name sticker is acceptable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play with your net book at home and school</td>
<td>Cry if you lose all your work because you did not back it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Let other people play with your computer at home or school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Communication
If you need to speak to a teacher, please don’t hesitate to make an appointment before or after school by writing in your child’s diary (and reminding them to show the teacher) or ringing the office to ensure that the teacher does not have a previous commitment. Minor matters can be often resolved with a quick chat at the classroom door, but please be considerate of the need for teachers to focus on their classroom duties.

Hats at Torquay are compulsory during terms 1 and 4 and students are to wear hats at all times when outside and when attending sport and excursions. School Council has passed a resolution that all hats must be school hats. Students are no longer to wear hats bought from surf shops or other retail outlets. Please make sure your child has a school hat that is clearly named.

Buddies
Each Grade 6 student has been allocated a buddy Prep student. They have an important responsibility to ensure that they keep an eye out for their buddy and are there for them in times of need. Buddies are a lot of fun but also a great way of helping our Prep students feel a sense of belonging at Torquay College. We hope students enjoy their time with their buddy and show them the right way to do things here at Torquay.

Homework is your child’s responsibility
Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

The Homework Guidelines have been developed by the Education Department, with the assistance of parents, teachers and students in primary and secondary schools in Victoria.

Following these guidelines, Years 5 /6 homework at Torquay College for students will consist of:

- Independent reading - students are to read a minimum of 1 hour per week
- Regular practise of spelling words
- Tasks set by the class teacher for the week
- Reinforcement of common maths concepts e.g times tables, calendars, money.

Classroom teachers will set due dates for homework. It is important for parents to make sure their child is managing their homework around extra curricular activities and that it is a positive, rewarding experience. Please discuss any concerns with your child’s teacher to ensure homework expectations are appropriate and beneficial for your child and your family circumstances.

Excursions
Excursions and incursions organised this year will be ones that support the curriculum we are studying at school. Children are:

- Expected to attend both incursions and excursions when they are organised
- To be on their best behaviour, as they are representing the whole school community.

Please talk to your class teacher if you are having difficulties financially, we are here to help. Payment systems can be organised so your child doesn’t miss out on events organised for their education.

Swimming
This year’s School Swimming Program will take place in term 2 at Geelong’s Leisure Link Centre. The dates are Monday June 4th – Friday June 15th. Students will be placed into appropriate swimming levels and will undertake a comprehensive 10 day program. Our swimming program will cater for a variety of levels from beginners to squad. It is important for all students to attend this school activity as it is part of our curriculum. Swimming permission notes will be handed out to the children before the end of term 1.
Meet our 2012 student leaders

School Captains: Olivia Evans — R31
Doyle Madigan—D14

Vice Captains: Harry
Ellie Nigro - D15
Poyner—D16

Congratulations on your appointments!
CORE CURRICULUM

LITERACY

Writing structured and emotive **Persuasive Texts** is a major goal we are all working towards in term 1. Skills will be focusing on including powerful language, paragraphing, sentence structure, punctuation, linking words and sequencing. Students are encouraged to write for a range of audiences and to proofread both their work and the work of others.

Classes will also be using **Writer’s Workshop** this year. It has been shown to be an effective tool in engaging students in their writing by allowing them to have the freedom to write personally and to self-reflect.

**Speaking and listening** like all curriculum areas is taught in a range of contexts in order to cater for individual needs and abilities. Role plays, literacy rotations, speeches and presenting work are just some of the activities your child may participate in.

All Year 5/6 classrooms are currently operating **Classroom Libraries**. Students will read for pleasure, to find information and to proofread work. They will read a broad variety of genres across the year. Students will read every day they are at school. It may not be from a book, but they will read.

NUMERACY

Key areas we will be looking at this term include:

- **Place Value**
- **Statistics and Data**
- **Building Mental Maths capabilities**

Maths is best taught using real life, hands on experiences in a variety of meaningful contexts. Each teacher will use different approaches but our curriculum is based on a common planner developed in conjunction with leading maths educator, Rob Vingerhoets.

We will also continue to use Mathletics to engage the students, setting specific tasks to reinforce concepts being taught in the classroom.

Maths is all around us and plays an important part in our lives. Encourage your child to work hard at it and use the skills they learn at school in the outside world. Happy Mathsing!

INQUIRY LEARNING

During terms 1 and 2, the children will be studying “The Big Bang”. The focus questions which lead our unit are: How do scientists know that the Big Bang happened? How have our views changed over time? What are the alternative beliefs? What is the scientific explanation of what happened?

This unit is heavily linked with Science, as children perform experiments, read explanation texts and make models that teach concepts such as physical and chemical changes, force, gravity, atmosphere and layers within the Earth.

As the children have studied planets in earlier grades, in 5/6 we will then move onto how humans interact with space and how it affects our lives - space travel, satellite images, satellite phones, GPS and tides. The most amazing thought is that this chain of events is still occurring and Earth is a part of it.
SENIOR SPORT

Term 1 Sports Dates:
BELLARINE AND GEELONG NORTH DIVISIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL - Thursday 1st March
CITY TO SURF DISTRICT TENNIS TOURNAMENT - Friday 2nd March
SUMMER SPORT LIGHTNING PREMIERSHIP - Thursday 22nd March
TORQUAY COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY - Tuesday 27th March (to be confirmed)
DIVISIONAL SURFING CONTEST - Wednesday 28th March

SEPEP Sports Program
In 2012 the grade all grade 5/6 students will be participating in the Sport Education in Physical Education Program (SEPEP) each Friday. Below is a brief summary of the program:
The Sport Education in Physical Education Program (SEPEP) is a curriculum model for use in school PE/Sport Programs. During the program the students participate in a competitive sports competition that has many parallels with community sport.
Teachers shape the learning environment to enable students to assume greater responsibility for their own learning. In this environment, students are developing social and cognitive skills along with sport skills.
SEPEP enables students to fulfil roles such as umpiring, acting as team coach or captain, scorers/timekeepers, serving on a sports board (e.g. tribunal to settle disputes), record keepers (match results & ladders) and announcers of match fixtures.

Transition Program
Our transition coordinator is Di Dendle. Please contact Di if you have any questions about this process. More information will follow throughout the year regarding this area.

Bali Chill
We have expanded the lunchtime ‘Bali Chill’ program to every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime in D16. Students have the chance to come in and relax in a quiet environment with some Balinese music playing in the background. They can join in a range of relaxing activities, including construction works, game playing or simply grabbing a cushion and reading a book. Entry Fee is a big smile!

Camp Update
Once again our camps will be held in term 4, with Year 6 students going to Camp Howqua and Year 5 students going to Cave Hill Creek. These camps were certainly a highlight for all students and staff in 2011 and the excitement is already building for 2012! Stay tuned for more information in term 3.

Stephen Henderson & Adrian Bassett

Thank you for reading and we look forward to working with you this year!

The Senior Team

HAVE A GREAT TERM 1!
**Netbooks**

It is always great to see the excitement of the Year 5 students when they receive their netbooks and begin to get them set up for use in the classroom. They are a great learning tool and both students and teachers are continually finding new ways to use them to work more effectively in all areas of the curriculum.

To ensure the netbooks are ready for use every day all classes have a consistent set of “Do’s and Don’ts”. These rules were included in the “ICT User Agreement” that all families have signed and we encourage you to display these at home. Another copy of the “Do’s and Don’ts” is also included in this newsletter.

In addition to our “Do’s and Don’ts” for students, we are also compiling an FAQ for parents. Please read through the list below and return the slip to your classroom teacher if you have additional questions.

**FAQ**

Q: Who should I contact if the netbook is not working?
A: The first point of contact is your classroom teacher. If the problem cannot be resolved in the classroom then the teacher will refer it on to our technician.

Q: Who should I contact if I have questions about netbook payments?
A: Please direct all payment enquiries to the office.

Q: What does the $50 netbook admin fee cover?
A: This fee covers the cost of the on-site technical support provided by our technician. Having this support available on-site minimises the time it takes to resolve issues and saves families from having to pay an insurance excess for minor issues.

Q: Are the netbooks under warranty?
A: All netbooks purchased through the school are covered by a three year warranty from their date of purchase. This warranty covers hardware defects, but not damage or theft.

Q: What happens if the netbook is damaged (either dropped or mistreated)?
A: The netbook will be assessed by the technician and, if necessary, sent for repairs. An insurance excess of $110 is payable if repairs are required.

Q: Can my child leave their netbook at school even if I have paid for it in full?
A: Yes, negotiate with your classroom teacher to find a suitable location for it to be stored and charged overnight. However, please note that while the netbook will be kept in a locked classroom, the Education Department insurance policy does cover the personal property of students or staff.

Q: Can my child or I download programs or files from the internet?
A: Please direct your child to the “Do’s and Don’ts” list for information regarding games, music and programs. Installing a small number of legally downloaded programs should not adversely affect the performance of the netbook, however we have found that netbooks with large amounts of additional software run significantly slower.

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Do you have an additional question regarding the netbooks that may also be of interest to other families? Please write your question below and return it to your classroom teacher. We’ll provide you an answer and also add it to our FAQ.

Name: ______________________________________ Class: __________________

Question: _________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________