Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our second newsletter for the year. We realise some parents didn’t have access to the first edition so we have repeated some information for you.

**Inquiry Unit**

This term our Inquiry topic is ‘Wanted – Dead or Alive’. In this science based unit we want our students to:

- Investigate, think about and develop a better understanding of the world they live in
- What makes something living or non-living
- Understand classification systems, the diversity of life and how species are dependent on each other for their survival
- Model and explain life-cycles of a plant or animal
- Work collaboratively to conduct experiments, make predictions and record observations
- Describe how science is used in people’s occupations.

We Want Parents! We love to involve parents in their children’s learning. If you have expertise in the areas of Biology (plants and animals) or Geology we’d love to have you visit the classroom this term and share your knowledge and experiences with our students. Please contact your child’s teacher to make arrangements. A big thank you to Robert Skehan for coming in over the last couple of weeks to speak to the students about our local environment and introducing a local environmental competition for the Quicksilver Foundation.

**NAPLAN**

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy Tests in May of each year. This year’s dates are May 10-12. Students in Years 3 and 5 complete four tests covering numeracy, reading, writing and language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar). The NAPLAN test results and student reports are released in August. Each child will receive an individual report of results to take home at that time.

**Timetables**

The Year 3 students will be attending Art, P.E, Music and Indonesian with the specialist teachers as well as ICT, Library and the Environmental Centre with their classroom teachers. Each student requires a Library bag and an Art Smock.

**Diaries**

Every student should have a school diary that they bring home each night. The diaries are a great way to communicate about daily matters between home and teachers. Teachers will endeavour to sign the diaries each week. These diaries are to be used to log nightly reading which is being completed by some students very well.

**Homework**

There is an expectation that students in the middle area complete homework activities at least 4 nights per week. At Torquay College we expect the Year 3 students to be reading for up to 20 minutes every night, ensuring they read a broad range of literature; fiction, non-fiction, newspaper articles, comics, poetry, etc. We also expect students to be practising spelling and maths skills that are being covered in the classroom that will be sent home by your child’s teacher. From time to time teachers will ask students to complete tasks at home and we encourage their collaboration with parents.
Excursions
To link in with our Inquiry topic we are planning a trip to the Werribee Zoo later in the term. Once dates are confirmed permission forms will be sent out. We will be asking for parent helper volunteers at that time as well. (Parent helpers must have a Working with Children Check).

Swimming
Just a heads up that we are anticipating that the students will be participating in the swimming program very early third term. It will be for 1 week only, further information to follow later in term.

Assembly
For the remainder of this term the school will be trialling separate assemblies for Prep-2 and 3-6.
The dates for the 3-6 assemblies in Term 2 are:
Friday 29th April
Friday 13th May
Friday 27th May
Friday 10th June

School Hats
Just a reminder that students are required to wear hats while outside until the end of April as part of the Sun Smart policy.

Athletics Day
Athletics Day was a big hit with all of the students that participated on the day. By running the day at school everyone was able to have at least one go at each event as well as having time for eating and breaks. House scores are being tallied up and will be announced at assembly.

Upcoming Events
ANZAC Day—Monday 25th April
Mother’s Day Stall—Thursday 5th May
NAPLAN week beginning —Monday 9th May
Possible date for Werribee Zoo excursion—Thursday 19th May
Curriculum Day—Friday 20th May (no students are required at school)
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday—Monday 13th June
Reports distributed—Friday 17th June
Parent Teacher Interviews—Thursday 23rd June
End of Term—Friday 24th June

Year 3 Team
Tim Rahilly, Bronwen Miller, Tracey Vaught, Lynne Raidme, Adrian Bassett, Jenny Baker and Rohan Craig

Principal: Pam Kinsman
Assistant Principals: Christian Smith, Nadia Tkaczuk