



# Tungamah Primary School Newsletter

## Term 1 Week 6

**29/02/2016**

**Tungamah Primary School**

15-17 Tower Street

Tungamah 3728

**Phone:** 03 5748 5627

**Mobile:** 0457 485 627

**Fax:** 03 5748 5629

**Email:**  
tungamah.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

**Web:**

www.tungaps.vic.edu.au

**Office Hours:**

8.30am– 4.30pm

**Acting Principal:**

Mr Phillip Brown

**Upcoming Dates**

**March**

Thursdays-Breakfast club– 8.30am

Mon 14<sup>th</sup>-Labour Day Holiday

Tues 15<sup>th</sup>

School Council meeting 6.30pm-AGM

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>-Cultural Performance

Excursion-Devenish PS

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>-Last day of Term One.



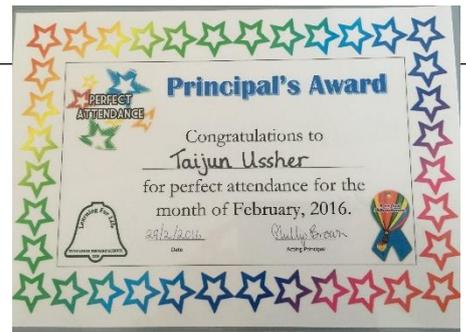
**Dear Parents and the wider school community,**

It sounds simple, but it's true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment. When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, most teachers will tell you, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned. It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children. That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage. And as we move into the new age of work, it will become more crucial for all students to successfully engage in 13 years of successful education.

**P.T.O**



These students are the winners of "Not having a day away in February" Principal Award. Hopefully next month there will be many more winners.



# Learning for Life

“Don’t be upset by the results you didn’t get with the work you didn’t do.” - Unknown

## That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school events. This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

In all my time as a Principal and Teacher, I believe that there is no one reason for student absence. A safe secure and welcoming school environment is vital, but equally as important is strong support from parents in making sure that children are at school unless genuinely sick.

Our aim at Tungamah Primary School is to have our absence data consistently trending downward or toward lower student absence rates, we aim to work closely with parents where students have unacceptably high levels of absence.

Regards  
Phill Brown



The Tungamah PS Parents Club Footy Tipping Competition is on again this year. All fixtures need to be back at school by March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cost is \$25



Last week, our swimming program continued successfully. It’s great to see how much the students improve in such a short period of time. It’s also great to see the older students helping the juniors.

## SLEEP TIGHT

I want to remind everyone about the importance of sleep in everyone’s life, especially children. Coupled with a healthy diet, the importance of a good night’s sleep for children is only now becoming better understood. During sleep the body rejuvenates and for young growing bodies, children need at least 8 hours. The crucial thing here is that the eight hours needs to be good quality.



At Tungamah Primary School, we encourage our junior students to learn good getting along skills and how to play nicely with others. Last week, the senior students were helping teach these skills through the use of board games. The students had lots of fun learning together.

Student Representative Council sell 50 cent icy poles each day at lunch time.