

Tunable Creek Public School

Respect - Integrity - Participation



Tunable Creek Road The Channon

ph: 66886212

Tuesday 24th February, 2015



Greetings all,

How nice it is to welcome Mrs. Bath back.

We had of course another busy week last week. We received a soil delivery and purchased some new gardening tools for measuring air and soil temperature, PH levels and moisture content. These have been inspiring us to engage in garden activities, and to have discussions about soil quality. We have planted more seeds and hope our wee seedlings can survive the wet they endured over the long weekend. We had fun harvesting sweet potatoes and look forward to cooking them.

We have begun to purchase a school set of gumboots, to save potential damage to the students' shoes, and to save time we have spent cleaning them after gardening.

Students have listened to many Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories. Students were required to write one titled "How the moon got in the sky". Some of them have published some great examples, we hope you enjoy them.

In math we have been practicing subtraction and are trying to grasp the idea of borrowing and trading. We are seeing some progress.

In music the students have been singing beautifully, reading music to play recorders, playing Ukuleles and creating a music shower curtain as part of our 'Music is Everywhere' unit.

The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held this Thursday. We are proud to mention, that if Ruby was not off enjoying a holiday, she would have been representing our school. I will be attending as the supervising teacher for our zone representatives.

After two Fridays away from school, we have finally shared our classroom certificates for the last two weeks. Congratulations to Lilly: for engaging in all of her swimming events, to Ruby: for being so motivated in the garden, to Hailey: for creative writing skills, to Mia: for Math's and to Venus: for editing skills in writing.

Upcoming Events

March 8

The Channon Art & Crafts Market

March 13

Stage 3 Enrichment – SCIENCE DAY @ Tuntable Creek

March 27

Easter Scripture Presentation 12.30pm

April 2

Last Day of Term 1 2015

April 3

GOOD FRIDAY

April 6

EASTER MONDAY



In this age of technology I am a huge believer in fostering a love of books in children. Please help the students get into a library borrowing routine, by **returning books to school on Thursdays**. We encourage them to keep them in their purple cloth bag to save 'losing' them.

Our turn at The Channon Markets is getting closer- 8th March. Please make yourself available to help out.

Look forward to seeing you soon, Miss Jodie ×

Thank you Miss Jodie for looking after our school while I was away on sick leave. The students have completed lots of fantastic work. The garden area is looking really neat and tidy, with lots of new plants in. I think we've had enough rain now too!

I would also like to thank everyone for their organization during the heavy rainfall and subsequent closure of the school last Friday due to flooding.

We have started extending our use of technology in class to include blogging. Blogging is not just about putting down our thoughts, but we can post our work, including videos, music and pictures. It is like a website that showcases our school.

As with any online technology, security is important. The students do not have their full name printed and have chosen their own avatars to use whenever they blog. At this stage, I have not opened the blogging page "Tunable Tigers Blog" to the wider internet. Currently, the only way to view this page is with a password. When we have added some posts and other information, I will advise parents of the password. Students also need to learn the specifics of blogging and security as well.

For those of you not sure of blogging- here's a little diagram to help. (wordpress = blogging)



Alison Bath



Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition 2015

Competition's theme is "My place in today's world". Entries can be nominated in four age groups: under 6 years, 6-8 years, 9-12 years and 13-15 years. The deadline for participation in the contest is **Thursday, 2 April 2015**. For more detailed information about the competition, please visit the MSIA website <http://mappingsciences.org.au>.

All about apostrophes

Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here's an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now.

Find out more:

http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home-work-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/-/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership

When older kids struggle with reading

Should you let your reluctant teen reader choose magazines over books? If your child is still struggling to read and write, and they're heading into high school, there are ways to get them on the right page.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home-work-and-study/english/english-tips/when-older-kids-struggle-with-reading>

Multiplication times tables

Does your child need encouragement? Explain to them that learning times tables = instant, painless recall in exams. Here's School A to Z's help sheet:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4024.pdf>

Sorting fact from fiction

Help your child develop their "dodgy website" antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home>

[work-and-study/homework-tips/sorting-fact-from-fiction](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home-work-and-study/homework-tips/sorting-fact-from-fiction)

Solving equations

Struggling to remember what algebra was all about and need to help your kids with their homework? Take a look at this study sheet for examples:

http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home-work-and-study/maths/maths-a-to-z/-/maths_glossary/Rld5/44/algebra

Avoiding injuries

Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain? Experts discuss and give tips on what to watch out for.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/wellbeing/health/ways-to-keep-your-childs-back-and-posture-healthy>

WHY DON'T WE SELL SOFT DRINKS?

In Australia, children are consuming too many sugar-sweetened drinks, which are high in kilojoules and low in nutrients. "One in five (21.2%) 2 - 15 year olds drink at least six cups of sugar sweetened drink a day according to " The Health of Children and Young People in NSW" Report of the Chief Health Officer 2014. Some are having more than 11 cups or 176 gr sugar a day. Since 2007, the Sugar-Sweetened Drinks Ban has been in place in all NSW schools.

This ban applies to soft drinks, energy drinks, fruit drinks, flavoured mineral water, sports drinks, cordials and iced teas.

Be sure to try some of the nutritious and tasty drink options at the canteen instead, or go for the best of all: water.



Hosting Is Fun!

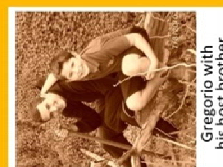
Students Arriving In July



Extend your family with a curious exchange student from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Italy, or the Netherlands. It's fun for the whole family!

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved.

To help you make this important decision, contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.



Gregorio with his host brother

Call Us On
1300 884 733

OR Email: sylviaKelly@wep.org.au
www.wep.org.au



Education &
Communities

Office of Education

***Tell Them From Me* student survey:
Information and consent form for parents and carers**

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation



February 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

This term, our school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, **The Learning Bar**, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will **not** be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes less than 35 minutes to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education and Communities, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), will have access to data from across the State and will run a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research will look at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will **not** be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by **Friday 27 February**.

More information about the survey and the research is available on the CESE website:
<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Alison Bath
Principal
Tumble Creek Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
General Manager
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation



Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students.

The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey will ask students questions about:

Participation in Sports	Homework Behaviour	Expectations for Success
Teaching Rigour	Participation in Clubs	Behaviour at School
Experiences of being bullied	Positive Teacher-Student Relations	Sense of Belonging
Interest and Motivation	Effective Learning Time	Positive Learning Climate
Positive Relationships	Effort	Teaching Relevance

How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open for all NSW government schools to participate in at no cost to them. Your school has taken up this offer.

How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 35 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.

Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the Department's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide analysis. Individual students' data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publication.

What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders may use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school.

CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the Department, including performance data. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE's analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department's continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate.

When will the *Tell Them From Me* survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools between Monday 9 March and Thursday 2 April 2015 (Weeks 7-10 of Term 1).

What is the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE)?

CESE is part of the Department of Education and Communities. It has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in NSW.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all education sectors.

What is The Learning Bar and what is their role?

The Learning Bar is an international education company, with offices in Australia and Canada, that specialises in school surveys and student assessments. They have been contracted by the Department to run the surveys for NSW public schools. Its survey, *Tell Them From Me*, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada's ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years.

The Learning Bar has conducted surveys in Australia before, with schools helping to adapt surveys, ensuring they are appropriate to an Australian context. For purely administrative purposes, The Learning Bar will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than The Learning Bar and CESE researchers within the Department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about The Learning Bar is available at: www.thelearningbar.com.



Contact Details

For more information about the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, please contact us:

@ cese@det.nsw.edu.au

www.cese.nsw.gov.au

***Tell Them From Me* Student Feedback Survey**

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by **Friday 27 February 2015**.

I (*print name*) **DO NOT** give consent
for my child/children (*print name/s*)
of class/esto participate in the ***Tell Them From Me***
student feedback survey.

Signed..... Date.....