



TAROONA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Principal Report for TPSA 9/2/2021

2021 Classes & Staffing

- Very positive start to the year. Classes are extremely settled, and engaging learning is happening right across the school.
- We had a number of students who did not start the year with us as anticipated, taking our enrolment down to 315 students (K-6). Census day is Friday 19 February and these reduced numbers will have implications for our whole of school budget (draft tabled tonight).
- New staff: Last week we welcomed 2 new teachers to the team Clare Russell (3-4D) and Nicole Taylor (Music) as well as a new Teacher Assistant Samara Jenkins, one day per week, and Cathie Gillam (Library Technician, Monday and Fridays). Sam Hyatt joins us as in the role of school psychologist from this week (Tuesdays). We also welcomed Kylie Frost who returns to the team after taking 18 months maternity leave.
- Aboriginal Education Worker (AEW), Nicole Smith – Nicole was fortunate to be offered a 6-month project with Parks and Wildlife for the first half of 2021, developing educational resources for Freycinet Park. However, Nicole's appointment means that we do not have an assigned AEW for the first half of 2021. We will be working closely with Aboriginal Education Services (AES) during Terms 1 & 2 to access support for programs, especially assistance to progress our work on developing and implementing actions for our TPS Reconciliation Action Plan.

2021 Budget

- The Projected 2021 Budget has dropped approximately \$30,000 less than the figure generated at the end of 2020, due to decrease in student numbers.
- Approximately 67% of the School Resource Package has been allocated to staffing in 2021.
- Areas where the TPSA has supported the school in previous years have increased, including the following:

Online programs	\$11805
Growing up program	\$4200
Learn to swim	\$13100
Total	\$29105.00

2021 School Focus - Belonging: Identity and Diversity

- The 2020 TPS Annual School Review highlighted the need for us to continue our work in the area of wellbeing, specifically engagement and belonging. As a result, the team's focus for 2021 is Belonging: Identity and Diversity.
- TPS Staff Professional Learning February 1 & 2 - Prior to children returning last Wednesday, the teaching and teacher assistant teams joined together for 2 x PL sessions to support this work.
- 1 February, the team worked with Xris Reardon, the DoE LGBTIQ school's inclusion officer who works across the state, in primary through to college contexts. The session included an overview of gender diversities, the Anti-Discrimination Act, a review of language and what is age appropriate, and discussion about why belonging for all students and families is critical. Resources were also shared and the TPS library is in the process of purchasing picture books and reference materials to support discussions in classrooms and connections to the Australian Curriculum. Xris will be working with the TPSA to schedule a parent session during Term 1 and the teaching team look forward to working further with Xris and engage in more learning.

- On 2 February, the team worked with Nindarra Wheatley & Nerissa Waterfield (Aboriginal Education Services, DoE), engaging in the 'From Gumnuts to Buttons' program, a visual and interactive simulation activity that assisted us to gain understanding and empathy for the history of the Aboriginal community. The activity introduced us to new knowledge and awareness of important events and occurrences in the history of Tasmania that have contributed significantly to the social, political and economic situation for the Tasmanian community today. The team will use the knowledge gained through the session to support learning across the Australian Curriculum and during Nature Play.

Covid Update

- Parents and carers are allowed onsite and in classrooms with Tas check in now being available to our school for those who stay longer than 15 minutes onsite. Visitors still must sign in at the office during the school day for safety and security purposes.
- The welcome BBQ and open classroom activities on Friday 19th February will need to follow physical distancing requirements (1.5M outside) and room capacity requirements.
- Home-made birthday and cupcakes are still not allowed to be brought into the school. Individually packaged treats can be brought in to be shared for those families who wish to provide a treat on their child's birthday.
- Assemblies will still have restricted visitor numbers and will be open to those classes who are scheduled to present an item on that day.