

# School Newsletter

## TAPS STUDENT VOICE

### The Importance of **ACTING** like a **FRIEND** to **ALL**

Being a good friend isn't just something you do for those close to you. It is something you can practice with everyone you come across.



Being a good friend is helping someone who is close but sometimes its about helping someone you don't know well or helping someone you don't know at all.

Being a good friend means being there for others. It means listening really listening not just saying what you think or want all the time. It is being kind and respectful. Being a friend is someone who is

encouraging and supportive. A good friend tries to stay calm, positive and helps others make good choices. A good friend tries to work with others and understands that everyone is a little bit different and accepts others for their differences and stands up for people who are being bullied or treated poorly (without fighting).

We interviewed two students who received this weeks award for being a good friend. Brylee said "Being a good friend means helping others." Rayan said, "A good friend is someone who is nice and is always there for you."

In conclusion it isn't hard to be a good friend, often its about doing the small things that are kind and make others feel better and valued.

**Natarsha and Alisha**



#### Jokes for Kids

Why did the chicken cross the road? He was good with drumsticks.



What happens when you feed spiderman corn? He makes cobwebs.



The difference between a teacher and train is... a teacher tells you to spit out your gum. A train says chew chew

(by Alisha & Riyaad)

## New Playground for Students @TAPS sure to make playtime FUN.

TAPS is building a new and improved playground. This has been possible thanks to P&C gaining a grant from the NSW Government, along with fundraising (P&C funds) and school funds. A special thanks too to Mrs Bryce for her organisation.



The new playground has a twirly slide, a double slide, a fireman's pole, a spider web that you can climb on, bridges and so on.

Our students got a great surprise to see this construction taking place. This is a great step towards making a better environment at TAPS and giving our students something else to do at

play time. Mr Pope told us the playground is for all students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. He thinks it'll be so popular initially that the school will have to have different days for different grades as we can't fit 560 students



there in one go. We also think its nice that the school has gone with our school colours as we can see from the above 'construction' photos.

**Niki and Wyatt**

## Debating finally comes to and end but boy were we good for our 1st Year

What a journey for Grace, Lacey, Kiara, Jane (our debate team) and even for Alisha and Natarsha our mcs/timekeepers. Over the year

### ABORIGINAL STUDENT NEWS - ATSI AWARD NIGHT: TAPS CLEANS UP & MICROSOFT PROJECT: ATSI STUDENTS CREATE AUGMENTED REALITY - THE 1ST IN THE STATE.

Across South West Sydney hundreds of schools were asked to nominate Aboriginal students in learning, culture and citizenship. Our school was one of the most awarded, with 18 of our students receiving recognition.

Last week 4 of our year 6 students, Hope, Bailey, Eli and Sarah completed an augmented reality project with Microsoft, 16 other students, Miss Flamos, Mr Marsh and Aboriginal education and community support to create characters and a technological dreamtime story. It was unveiled at the Powerhouse Museum in front of media and high level representatives from all of the organisations mentioned. There were also a lot of proud parents in attendance.



the girls have debated all kinds of topics. Each time they got stronger. Each time they rebutted (argued back) better. I am very pleased that I (the Principal) got to see some of their debates and how they became more expert at producing clever arguments about topics like ‘assessing



students and the pressure involved, the value of beauty pageants and so on. They became so good that they started facing very experienced schools and finally in one of the semi finals we were knocked out narrowly to Mount Annan High School.

Well done and thanks to Mrs Punterio and Miss Collins for your hard work.

## Principal Message

### Less Brief this time

#### Celebrations

- **Hosting other schools** – We have been sharing our Formative Assessment work with other schools. This is showing pleasing impact on our student learning and other schools are interested in seeing what we’ve been doing.
- **Students - Drumming** continues to be run by Mrs Williamson, Miss Moisey and Mrs Ballard. I’d like to thank them for the opportunities they’ve given our students. It was great for them to perform at a parent Conference last term and the CAPA performance at school recently for parents and carers.

- **BAND, DANCE, CHOIR**- speaking of CAPA performances and opportunities which continue to provide engagement for students at school. Thanks to Mr Thompson for band (who also ran the school **talent quest**), Mrs Brown for band, Mrs Archer Band and Mr Budden too. Thanks Miss Vamvas and Mrs McKay for taking dance and also to Mrs Kalgovas and Miss Pollard for your work with the choir. Many of our students have performed, grown and enjoyed these activities. With the up coming Christmas concert many will also continue to perform in various areas of talent and interest. Thanks teachers.
- **EDVENTURE**- returns for Term 4 ... Over 90% of students requested this. Many are doing a new area of study/passion. Others sticking with the same. We are looking at increasing opportunities in 2019.
- **STEM Club** – thanks Mrs Rocchetto for the opportunities for our interested & talented students on Thursday afternoons. Stem and coding is a definite interest for many of our students. Who knows what amazing job prospects this might spark for our students in the years to come.

#### Other

- **School Directions for 2019** – for more detail see the School plan on our Webpage. But I am excited to say Formative Assessments, Connect Meets and other initiatives will help us to **know** your children. Wellbeing programs, Character Education and PBL help us to **care** for and support your children and our excellent professional learning will continue to drive great **learning** for our students.
- **Playground**- almost complete – thanks P&C
- **TTFM – Tell Them From Me**
  - Students 198 completed – results to school in a few weeks
  - Parents 94 surveys completed
  - Teachers 33 completed
  - The information you’ve provided will help us to keep our best programs and improve others. Results will be shared in the coming weeks.
- **NAPLAN** –
  - School Growth Yr 3 to 5 better than state in Numeracy
  - School Growth Yr 3 to 5 equal to than state in Grammar & Punctuation
  - Writing results Year 5 19% of students in top 3 bands 9% in bottom 2 bands

- Writing results Year 3 39% of students in top 3 bands 14% in bottom 2 bands
- Reading results Year 5 37% of students in top 3 bands 18% in bottom 2 bands
- Reading results Year 3 38% of students in top 3 bands 22% in bottom 2 bands
- Numeracy results Year 5 28% of students in top 3 bands 9% in bottom 2 bands
- Numeracy results Year 3 38% of students in top 3 bands 23% in bottom 2 bands

## • STAFF CHANGES

- Firstly I'd like to let all know that the wonderful Mrs Kalgovas has decided to put away the chalk. She has been an important leader and educator at our school. In recent times she has effectively made a difference to many through her deliver of Reading Recovery / Rocket Reading and in class support. She's around for a few more weeks yet but we wish her much happiness in 2019 and beyond.
- Mrs English who has been away on holidays too has decided to have some peace and fun in retirement. She has been a part of our school community for more than 30 years impacting positively on the lives of students (many now grown up) and then their children, the community and the staff. She will be greatly missed and we wish her well also.
- Recently Mrs Michalowicz saw me and she too has opted for retirement. She has been on leave travelling and recently returning to volunteer in classrooms (she can't help caring about kids) but is making it official now too. Mrs Michalowicz has served and changed lives at TAPS for 23 years. We wish her happiness and good health also.
- Mrs Wilkinson who has been part of our support unit since its beginning has just been given a transfer to a brand new Support School in Narellan. We thank her for the care she has shown her students and wish her well in her new endeavours.
- Finally a few other changes for 2019 is that Miss Collins will spend much of the

year travelling, however she may be around for some casual work. Mrs Rochetto is off to try a few new experiences also (but we hope to have her back soon) and Mrs Lischer will be easing off a little next year but will still be around to do casual work for days and blocks so we won't miss out on her or all of their excellent skill for long.

- **What about the rest of this year? I hear you say.** Well Mr Caffrey continues to do duties elsewhere and as such Miss Houlton is the Assistant Principal for stage 3. I (Mr Pope) am going on leave at the end of this week. Travelling overseas with my family. While I'm gone for the last few weeks of the year Mrs Flamos will be Principal, Mrs Williamson will step up to Deputy with Mrs Bryce and Mrs Ponterio will be Assistant Principal for Year 1 and 2. For these weeks Mrs Hunter will become full-time on 2W.

Mr Pope

## DANGER - PLEASE CROSS THE ROAD AT THE CROSSING

**It has come to my attention that some students are running across the road. In some cases parents are with them or even waving them across. This is dangerous. I have advised the police. Please note fines apply. More importantly we want our students**



## COMING UP

Kindergarten Excursion 13.11.18, **Kindergarten Orientation 20.11.18**, Colour Run 20.11.18, **Performing Arts Afternoon 26.11.18**, Kindergarten Graduation 6.12.18, **Christmas Carols 29.11.18**, Sports & Service Assembly 11.12.18, **Stage 3 Camp 12 - 14th December**, Yr 6 Farewell 17.12.18 and **Presentation Assembly 18.12.18.**

## STUDENT WRITING

### The Adventure Of Billy

In the jungle there was a monkey named Billy. Billy eats bananas. One day Billy was swinging in the trees. Suddenly Billy saw a zookeeper with a dart gun. "BAM!" Billy got shot and fell fast asleep.

Billy woke up in a cage at the zoo. People saw Billy and took pictures. Suddenly Billy broke out. The alarm went on. Boom! Beep! People panicked, they went, "Aaaahhh!"

Next Billy found a car. He started the engine and drove to the jungle. Billy was happy to escape. He was safe in the jungle once again.



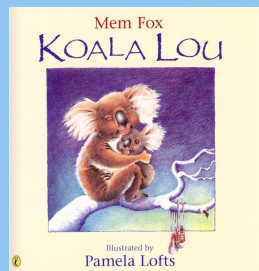
Tyler. 2L.

## KOALA LOU

Koala Lou's mum had so many babies that she didn't have any time to say to Koal Lou that she loves you. But she said to herself of course mum loves her! She had bothers and sisters to say that she loves you to her.

Then Koala Lou came up with a great idea in her head. Her idea was that she'll compete in the Olympic games (bush olympics).

Brandon 1C

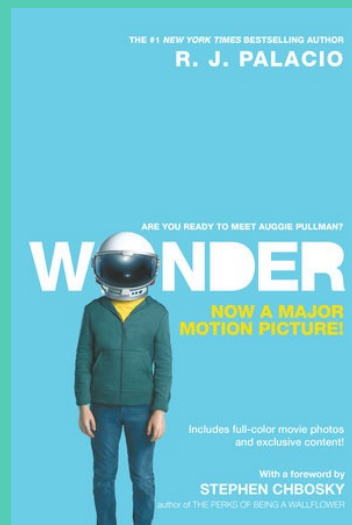


## RJ PALACIO

R.J. Palacio is a world selling children's book author who hasn't had many books come out. R.J. Palacio lives in New York with her husband, two sons and two dogs (Bear and Beau). Her husband's name is Russel Gordan. She has been an art director for more than 20 years and she has also been a graphic designer, designing book jackets of other people while waiting for the perfect time to make her novel.

### How it all started

One day several years ago, a chance encounter with an extraordinary child in front of an ice cream store made R.J. realise that now was the time to write a novel. Her first novel was 'Wonder'. She did not design the cover but really loves it.



### Real name & school

R.J.'s real name is Raquel Jaramillo (Palacio was her mother's maiden name). She attended the High School of Art and Designs in Manhattan and then majored in illustration at Parson's School of Design.

### Some books

Some of Palacio's books are Wonder, Auggie and Me, 365 Days of Wonder,

We're all Wonders, The Julian Chapter, Pluto and Charlotte.

These days R.J. Palacio is working on another book that is also based on Wonder.

Prabhleen 4L

## The Magic Hat



Oh the magic hat spun through the air and it landed on a mermaid. I'm going to do my magic so I can be a human and make my hair sparkle. When the hat flew off my head I Turned back into Paityn

Paityn KT



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT**

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Girls Squadrons also located at Albion Park, Beverly Hills, Blacktown, Doyalson, Mudgee, Penrith, Southern Highlands  
www.airleague.com.au Facebook: aal nsw girls



Give the gift of reading this Christmas.

Our Scholastic Christmas Book Fair opens on Tuesday 20th November

Cash & EFTPOS



**Starting A Child in Kindergarten 2019**  
**Thomas Acres Public School**

Thank you for considering enrolling your child at Thomas Acres PS. For us to get to know each other we would like to invite you and your child to the following events in 2016



**Kindystart Sessions**



Date	Time	Children	Parents
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	2pm - 2.50pm	Kindergarten rooms	School Library for Welcome Afternoon Tea
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	2pm - 2.50pm	Kindergarten rooms	School Library for Literacy Information Session
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	2pm - 2.50pm	Kindergarten rooms	School Library for Maths Information Session

**Orientation Day**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am – 11am

Children: in the Kindergarten classrooms

Parents: in the School Hall where you will receive Information as well as an Orientation Pack



**THE SILVER COIN PROJECT**

Our school is partnering with this amazing group in 2019 to help our students in need.

Check it out. <https://www.thesilvercoinproject.com/>

Like their Facebook page.

**COINS FOR KIDS**



*The Silver Coin Project*

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