Showcasing our talent
**Awards**

**Students of the Week**
- Pre-Kindy - Sebastian
- K-2 - Mikayla
- 3-6 - Riley, Nicholas, Jonathon, Uriah, Jessica, Caitlyn, Sophie, Kanayah, Tamar and Grace

**Values Award**
- Pre-Kindy - Kyrah
- K-2 - Luis
- 3-6 - Caitlyn

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**General News**

**Principal’s Message**

I really enjoy the newsletter and the pictures of activities at our school. Last week, the pictures of the children working in the garden was just outstanding!!

Gardens are interesting things. You can get all enthusiastic but if you don’t follow up with regular water and TLC the weeds can choke out all the good growth or the plants just shrivel and die. It is a bit like our value prayer and our relationship with God. Do we only talk to “our friend God” when we are in a tough space or is it something we do as habit, like watering the plants?

It is part of our Christian tradition at Toronto, at the beginning of the day to commit our day to God in prayer. God’s work is usually done behind the scenes in the ordinary things of life. Every day God is busy shielding us from danger that could directly impact. When trouble does come, He is making exit ramps for us so we can escape.

When we put our head on the pillow at night, we should pause to thank God for the amazing things He has done for us that day in the midst of our ordinary lives. We see staying connected to God in prayer as important as watering the plants.

Enjoy the news for this week!!

Dr David J Faull
Principal

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**Art Show**

Toronto Campus students have the opportunity to participate in this year’s Avondale School Art Show. The event will take place on 10 September at 6:30pm in the Collaborative Learning Centre, Cooranbong Campus. The theme is “My Family” and students can enter by completing a form and attaching it to their artwork. Artworks need to be dropped off to the Cooranbong Campus office by Monday 5 September 2016.

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**Fundraising**

You have another opportunity to make a difference at Toronto Campus. By ordering yummy vanilla slices and lamingtons you will be supporting our school. Please encourage your friends and family to place an order! Order forms need to be returned to school by Friday 9 September. Thank you!

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**Open Day**

We have an Open Day planned for Thursday 18 August, 2-6pm. We will have the Tower of Terror here from 1-4pm and Pastor Darren Pratt will be here 2:30-4pm sharing his balloon art. Please promote this event to your friends and family.

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**Pre-Kindy Extra Day - Expressions of Interest**

We are pleased to share that all positions are now filled for our Pre-Kindy classes. Therefore we are calling for expressions of interest in opening for another day - Friday. Should there be sufficient interest we could present a case to the Avondale School Principal for opening an extra day. So far 5 families have shown interest. Please share this information with family and friends and register your interest at reception. Thank you!

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**School Photos**

This year’s school photos have been distributed to the students to take home and proudly show you their smiling faces.

If you wish to purchase a Whole School photo it is available for viewing and ordering at the office. The cost for the Whole School photo is $17.

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**School Fees**

The prompt payment of school fees is appreciated. Please note that the School depends on your payments to pay its bills for wages and school improvements. If you have an outstanding balance on school fees, please settle your account promptly.
Pre-Kindy

This week we would like to give a warm welcome to Alpine and his family. Alpine will be joining our Thursday class. On Tuesday, we had Mrs Lord teaching us, as Mrs Thompson needed to take the Year 3-6 class on an excursion to Sydney. Thank you Mrs Lord for teaching Pre-Kindy! And incase you were wondering, this Mrs Lord is not Thomas’ mum.

We have been seeing how many stars we can get on our maths rockets this week. We have some good counters in Pre-Kindy. Our chapel was taken by Pr Brock. He told an interesting story about going on a go-kart ride.

In the gardens, we planted some potatoes and we learnt the correct way to plant them. It will take about 4 weeks before the potatoes come up out of the ground, and another 3 months after that before they are ready to harvest. We also got to eat our peas that we planted a few weeks ago. They were yummy!!

Our story this week was called, The Very Hungry Caterpillar. See if your child can retell it to you.

It was lovely hearing the children give their news about a time when they were kind. Kyrah told a story about finding some money that a man had dropped. She was kind and she gave it back to him.

Have a great week everyone.

K-2

This week we would like to give a warm welcome to Alpine and his family. Alpine will be joining our Thursday class. On Tuesday, we had Mrs Lord teaching us, as Mrs Thompson needed to take the Year 3-6 class on an excursion to Sydney. Thank you Mrs Lord for teaching Pre-Kindy! And incase you were wondering, this Mrs Lord is not Thomas’ mum.

During garden time we divided the class into 4 groups.

Group 1 – planting potatoes, and checking the rain gauge. They also picked some very yummy snap peas which we all enjoyed eating.

Group 2 – garden scavenger hunt.

Group 3 and Group 4 – science experiment, we poured water onto different surfaces outside and observed if the water ran off, soaked in, pooled or would dry up. We then discussed why this might happen.

The theme for show and tell for this week was: Tell about something kind you have done for someone else. We have had some interesting responses for this one.

Next week the topic for show and tell is: The class is going to ask each other some questions. For this topic students will choose one person and ask them questions such as: How old are you? Do you have any pets? What is your favourite colour? It would be a great idea if the students were to write their questions down so they have something to work with.

Congratulations to the following students:

Star of the Week – Mikayla
Value of the Week Award – Luis
Super Improver Wall – Ioana, Isobel, Georgia
Speedy Maths – Daniel, Eden, Grady, Georgia

We are starting to collect plastic milk bottle lids for word building activities, so please if you have these to spare send them in with your students.

Georgia has lost her size 8 sports jacket, please check to see if your child has taken the wrong one home by mistake.
Wow! What an amazing week it has been! We had such a great time when we went to Sydney on Tuesday. What a great privilege it was for us to share what we do in TCN with a group of teachers at an Association of Independent Schools Conference at the State Library. They were blown away by the great things that are happening in TCN. A big thank you to Mrs Thompson and Mrs Ryan for taking us on this excursion and to Mr Drury for driving the bus. We also want to thank Mr Safaleupolu and Mrs Robins for coming along to help look after us. Our congratulations go to Mrs Thompson for the fantastic job she did of the presentation. A report about the excursion has been prepared and you can see it on the following link: http://www.torontocampusnews.com/#current-edition/i9p59

We wrote recounts of our excursion and we would love to share them with you. Please come along to our Open Day on Thursday 18 August, 2-6pm to see our great work. There will also be some exciting activities here on the day so we would love you to come and join in!

Well done to everyone for being great ambassadors for Toronto Campus this week!
### Chaplain’s Message

**God and Our Brains**

I was doing some reading over the holiday break and came across a book called, “How God Changes Your Brain”. It was a brilliant book, written by an atheist and agnostic neuroscientist, speaking in terms of how the idea of God changes the way our brains function. While for them God may simply be an idea, from a Christian perspective, God can indeed change our brains. In fact, a man by the name of Paul (the guy who wrote the majority of the New Testament - the back part of the Bible) wrote the following: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” - Romans 12:2

What we see here is a claim that God can transform/change our brains. Neuroscience tells us that our brains are in fact able to be changed. They are pliable as opposed to being static. This is known as ‘neuroplasticity’. The authors of “How God Changes Your Brain” stated that how we view/picture God directly impacts the functioning of our brains. For example, if we picture God as vengeful, vindictive and judgemental, blood flows to our amygdala, creating a sense of anxiety and fear. However, if we picture God as loving, accepting and forgiving, blood flows to our anterior cingulate and our frontal lobe. This creates a strong sense of empathy and compassion, and in turn surpasses the amygdala, lowering our anxiety and fear. Isn’t that incredible!

All of this tells me that God can change our brains. By holding a picture of God who is loving, caring and compassionate, I become more loving, caring and compassionate. The scary thing is that if my view of God is that He wants to punish me, judge me and torment me, I become a more fearful, angry and anxious person. Thankfully, the Bible paints a picture of God who is for us. He is on our side. By remembering and focusing on this, we in turn become people who will have our minds transformed and renewed.

Pastor Brock.

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### School Term Dates 2016

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<td>Tuesday April 26 - Friday July 1</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday July 25 - Friday September 23</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Monday October 10 - Tuesday December 13</td>
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### Calendar - Term 3

- Open Day 2 - 6 pm.............................................Aug 18
- Book Week commences....................................Aug 22
- Newcastle Maths Comp Yrs 5 & 6 ....................Aug 24
- Father’s Day Stall ..............................................Aug 30

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### Campus Information

**Office Hours**

- **Monday**: Closed
- **Tuesday**: 8:30am - 12:30pm
- **Wednesday**: 8:30am - 12:30pm
- **Thursday**: 8:30am - 01:30pm
- **Friday**: 8:30am - 12:30pm

**Uniform Shop Hours**

*(Cooranbong Campus)*

- **Monday**: 8:30 am - 4:30pm
- **Wednesday**: 8:30 am - 4:30pm