Dear Parents/Care Givers,

It has been a busy start to the term both academically and on the sporting field. We have seen our Year 3 and Year 5 students sit the NAPLAN tests during week 3 and our students have participated in school cross country. Selected students have also travelled by bus to participate in Zone Cross Country on Friday 23rd May. We wish them the best of luck.

Mother’s Day Stall

Thank you to families who supported our Mother’s Day Stall. We raised $184 for the school, which will be used to buy reading books for the students.

Pedestrian Safety

Recent news events have highlighted the need for pedestrian safety. It is vital that parents and students enter and leave the school through the correct gates to avoid any traffic hazards and unnecessary accidents. The double gates leading into the school from the staff car park should not be accessed by the community. Please use the Administration gate and/or bottom gate on Harris Road or the pedestrian gate on Portadown Road enter and exit the school. Ensure your children do not enter or exit the school using the driveways into the car park and encourage your children to walk on the footpaths and/or pedestrian crossing in the car park.

School Attendance

Recently notes have been sent home to parents regarding school attendance. Recording absences is a legal requirement of all schools and 100% attendance for students is required at school between 8:55am-3:00pm. We understand that children do get sick and when they are, they should be kept home. If your child is sick please send in a medical certificate to inform the school of their illness. To promote school attendance at the end of each term we will present awards to students, who have 100% attendance.

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**Last Day of Term 2**
School Vision
The teachers have been working hard on Staff Development Day and after school during Staff Professional Learning to jointly construct a new School Vision. Our School Vision reflects the diversity of our community, the demands of the new curriculum and the increasing demands of an ever changing technological society. We are proud of our vision as it reflects what we want our students to achieve at TEPS. We have included a copy of the new School Vision in this newsletter.

Ms Vicky Wallace
Relieving Principal

School Cross Country

Our students did a fantastic job at our School Cross Country.
Good luck at Zone Cross Country!!!

In the Classroom
Heroes have been participating in a newly introduced mathematics program. TEN (Targeted Early Numeracy) is conducted each day to help students to develop faster mental numeracy skills. The program is differentiated so that students are working at a level suitable to their own learning needs.

Update of Family Information
In order to have the most up-to-date information for your child we are in the process of sending home forms to update the information held on file.

If you have not yet returned the ‘Permission to Publish’ forms sent home towards the end of last term, can you please return these as soon as possible.

Another area that we are required to update is the parental education and occupation information. This information determines our school’s funding loading for social-economic backgrounds and incomplete or incorrect information can impact our funding. These forms will be sent out to families over the coming weeks with further information.
Stewart House Clothing Appeal
Advance notice for the Stewart Housing Clothing Appeal. In mid-June the clothing appeal bags will be sent home and it is a good opportunity to clear out cupboards and drawers of unwanted items such as clothing, blankets and quilts. Bags will be collected from school on Tuesday 24th June.

If you would like to know more about the work that Stewart House does please visit their website www.stewarthouse.org.au.

2015 Kindergarten Enrolment
Enrolments are being taken for Kindergarten 2015 of children, who will be turning 5 years old on or before 31st July, 2015. Please pass this information on to friends or neighbours who do not receive this newsletter. Enrolment forms are available from the school office.

Too sick for school?
As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It’s often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety's sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice.

School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school. Find it by typing this link into your web browser www.bit.ly/1hytn2E

Mental maths strategies
We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we’re helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them. School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies, here: www.bit.ly/JkiUsY

Does speaking another language at home confuse children?
Are your children fortunate enough to be growing up in a home where two or more languages are spoken? Many parents worry that bilingualism can cause confusion and even delays in learning for their children, but according the Raising Children Network, that’s not the case at all. A good knowledge of your native language can actually help your child with learning English. Bilingual children who are read books and spoken to in their native language find it easier to learn to read and write in English when they get to school. More information is at www.bit.ly/1m0agnk

Teenager’s seeking more independence
Knowing how much freedom and responsibility to give your teenager is difficult, especially if they’re your eldest or only child. To become capable adults, teenagers need to learn to make good decisions on their own and have opportunities to show you they can. The Raising
Children Network website has a wealth of expert information and guidance for parents of teens and younger children. If your child is testing the boundaries and pushing for more independence, you may find the article ‘Shifting responsibility to your child’ worth reading. Go to http://www.bit.ly/1JcXKhe

Information from Department of Education and Communities

The following information is from the NSW DEC regarding reforms to the NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens associations.

"The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day to day operation of individual school P&Cs', they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations.

Each school's P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation's Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation's Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php

Smoking

Smoking on school premises, including school buildings, gardens, sports fields and car parks, is prohibited. This includes students, employees, visitors and other people who use school premises, including community groups.

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to manage fussy eating

Kids can get anxious when trying a new fruit or veg, so try providing a smaller serving for the first few times.

This approach is less overwhelming and you might find that they will ask you for more.

Did you know it may take more than 10 times before your child accepts a new food?

Give your kids two options that you’re happy with. Rather than saying “Would you like any vegetables?” offer a limited choice, for example “Would you like peas or beans?”

Stay calm + persistent in your approach!

For more information visit www.eattobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eattobeatit

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Lily West School Program.