Dear Parents,

It is with a lovely sense of satisfaction, gratitude and optimism that I write this Newsletter. The work that has taken place at school during the past two weeks is a credit to everyone involved in the transformation of Tallowood and is a testimony to the healthy, dynamic school community we are growing. The energy generated by these working bees is tangible and the positive comments I have heard from visitors to the school confirms this.

2011 will bring many changes to our school. It is a real pleasure for me to welcome Heather Bell. While there will be some sharing of the different classes between Heather and myself, Heather will be carrying the work in the Kinder-1 class and we are so fortunate to have such a talented, experienced and dedicated Steiner teacher on staff at Tallowood.

We also welcome the expansion of Kim Shannon’s time in the office for three days per week. Kim will be managing the office administration work on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, from 9pm to 3pm. Kim has had a long association with Tallowood and brings a great deal of skill and professionalism to her role.

LOTE:

This year will see the inclusion of a LOTE (Language other than English) program across the school. We are fortunate to have Michael Jarrett coming in on Friday’s to teach the Gumbaynggirr language to the children. Michael will be working with the 2 classes separately, to accommodate the different learning styles and needs of the younger and older children. This program is possible due to funding from the Australian Independent Schools and we are very grateful for
this. Michael is keen to hold an afternoon lesson for adults also, so that we can share in the learning of the Gumbaynggirr language. If you are interested in being part of these lessons, please let me know.

SWIMMING:

Weekly swimming lessons for the whole school will begin on Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} April and continue until the end of term (6 sessions in all for term 1). It is highly possible that we will continue on into term 2. This has yet to be finalised. The fee for these sessions is $12 per child, including bus travel. Kim will send you an invoice when she sends out the school fee invoices. Many thanks to Lisa Schmidt (Ethan’s mum), for volunteering to drive the bus, thus cutting the cost to parents.

EXCURSIONS:

You will be receiving a form which asks you to give your permission for your child to leave Tallowood campus to participate in spontaneous excursions in our local district. This could include visits to the local creek and surrounding areas. If you have any questions about this, please contact me.

OPENING CEREMONY:

Next Tuesday, 1\textsuperscript{st} February, we will be having a Welcome Ceremony at school, to acknowledge our growth and expansion, and to welcome new children, families and staff. We will begin at 9.30 sharp, after the 9.15 bus arrives. If you are bringing your children to school please have them at the classrooms at 9.15. The assembly will be held on the basket ball court. I look forward to seeing you there. I will include a copy of our school verse so that you have the opportunity to either learn it or print it out and bring it along, so that you can speak it with us on Monday, if you wish.

With Warmest Regards to all,
Sue
OUR SCHOOL

THIS IS OUR SCHOOL

LET PEACE DWELL HERE

LET OUR ROOMS BE FULL OF CONTENTMENT

LET LOVE ABIDE HERE

LOVE OF ONE AND OTHER

LOVE OF HUMAN KIND

AND LOVE OF LIFE ITSELF

LET US REMEMBER

THAT AS MANY HANDS BUILD A HOUSE

SO MANY HEARTS MAKE A SCHOOL.