Dear Parents,

It is with a sense of real pleasure that I write the first Newsletter of Term 1. I have found myself smiling like a Cheshire cat on the way home each day, feeling delight that our school is really beginning to thrive and our community to expand. Our Rose Ceremony was a treat for me (so many smiling faces and lovely children) Thankyou all for coming along and bring a sense of occasion to our first school day of the year.

The children in my Primary class are settling in beautifully; it feels as if we have been together forever! Our days are beginning to form rhythm and pattern. Last week saw the beginning of our first Main Lesson on Local History. We began our studies with the Aboriginal creation stories of Nambucca Heads and the Rainbow Serpent story. We are focusing on draft writing of story recount, sentence formation and for the older students, paragraph formation. The artwork the children are creating to accompany their written work is lovely. Wood work with Geoff began on Thursday and despite the heat, the children were heartily engaged. The new children started weaving their recorder cases and Gumbaynggir lessons with Michael Jarrett began on Friday. The heat has been intense so our swimming afternoons at the river are a real treat. The children have been building rock dams, racing stick and leaf boats and the younger ones have been building rock fairy houses by the edge of the water. A very sane way to spend sport lessons in such high heat!

Next week we will begin recorder lessons and on Monday, we will receive a visit from Uncle Larry, an indigenous ‘old timer’ who will help to deepen our appreciation of old days and old ways. As the Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard wrote, “While life has to be lived forwards it can only be understood by looking backwards”!
KINDER-1

Heather is busy this weekend with Professional Development in regard to Board of Studies curriculum compliance. She does not yet have her computer up and running so for this week I will write a little about Kinder-1 for her. Heather has been concentrating in her first week on building a strong daily rhythm for the children, ensuring they develop a sense of security and well-being. The children planted flower seedlings in the garden, began their first craft project and the delightful smell of freshly baked bread has been wafting on the breeze each day. The new sandpit is proving to be very popular and the children also had their first visit from Michael Jarrett last Friday. As I see the children’s (and their parents) happy faces each day, I know that all is well in the K-1 world and that the children will thrive under Heather’s capable and experienced care and teaching.

BOARD NEWS:

Last week also saw a visit to Tallowood from AIS (Australian Independent Schools) Executive Michael Carr. Michael is helping Tallowood form new Management and Governance structures which will help us move forward as a Steiner School, and protect and guide our Steiner school philosophy and new direction. The new Constitution work has been completed by Geoff and Craig and the Association Meeting will be held on 17/2/11, to formally vote the new Constitution in. We understand the difficulty some people have in attending meetings and to ensure that this process can go ahead Anissa has arranged proxy forms for those unable to attend. Please fill yours out and give it to either me or Anissa as soon as possible.

The School has received Megan White’s resignation from the Board. Tallowood School thanks Megan for her considerable
time and effort as Board President over the past two years and we wish Megan all the very best for the future.

During the next couple of weeks the Board will be in a position to give you all a clear picture of our financial status for 2011 and a full report on the building and budget developments.

WORKING BEES:

Anissa has drawn up a calendar of Working Bee dates which will be sent out to every one shortly. The working Bees for this term will be held on the following dates:

Saturday 19-2-11
Saturday 6-3-11
Saturday 19-2-11.

We look forward to seeing as many people there as possible.

Thanks to all for the consideration everyone is showing for the school dress code and our healthy lunch box policy. For a treat, we are providing the children with pure juice ice-blocks (which we make up at school) on ‘Fabulous Friday’ afternoons.

Take Care and Best Wishes to all,

Warm Regards,

Sue