



THORNTON THUNDER

Thornton Public School and its local community.
Government Road Thornton 2322 Ph 49641369

www.thornton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Mr John Millburn

"Developing Learners for Life"

Term 1, Week 9
No 9

28 March 2014

Debate Sparks around NAPLAN

It has been interesting to read the media debate around NAPLAN testing this week. The issues revolve around the test being stressful for students, the data being used to rank schools and the over use of valuable class time to prepare for the tests.

On the other hand, the NAPLAN testing regime occurs for a few hours every two years, provides valuable information to the state and also provides a snapshot of how the school is faring in relation to a common assessment administered across a number of schools.

It appears there is little evidence that coaching for the test necessarily improves individual scores although some familiarisation of the test style certainly reduces student anxiety.

At Thornton, we run the students through a few old NAPLAN tests so they get used to the style of the test and then support the students on the test day by keeping it as low key as possible.

The results are used to target support across the school, determine areas in which we excel and identify areas we need to focus on.

It is in effect one test on one day. It is important to the school and parents and one that allows students' progress to be tracked from year 3 to year 9.

Keep an eye out for further debate on the issue.

Photo of the Week

Stage one at Newcastle Museum



Dates for your Diary

Monday March 31

Prefects to Young Leaders Day

Tuesday April 1

School Cross Country

Thursday April 3

Zone Cross Country

Wednesday April 9

Bronze Lizzy Day

Friday April 11

Easter Parade, 11:40 am

ANZAC Service

2:30pm

Monday April 28

School Development Day

Tuesday April 29

Students return

Friday May 9

Mother's Day Breakfast

Notes that went home this week:

Enrolment Information

Over the coming weeks, parents will be asked to check and confirm the information the school has on our computer system. It is particularly important that the areas of education and employment category are accurate as this information is used to determine the level of funding the school receives.

A more detailed explanation will be sent home with the current information.

Prompt completion and return of these forms would be appreciated.

NAPLAN Dates

Parents of students in Year 3 and 5 are notified that the NAPLAN tests will be held between Tuesday May 6 and Thursday May 8, 2014.

For further information, please make contact with the school.

Road Safety is Everyone's Business

Please be careful when driving and walking around the school.

Stick to the speed limit, use the crossings, watch the spaces between parked cars and park in the correct zones.

Such important messages that may prevent a terrible accident.

School Cross Country Postponed

Unfortunately, due to the rain on Friday and the very wet grounds, the Cross Country has been postponed to next Tuesday.

Students are to wear or bring appropriate running clothes.

Easter Parade

On the last day of term, (April, 11) we will be holding our annual Easter Parade from 11:40am to 12:30pm.

Parents are warmly invited in to come in and share a picnic lunch with their child before heading out to the oval to watch their child parade around the area.

The canteen will be available for lunch for both parents and students.

Students in K-2 can bring in an Easter Hat from home while students in years 3-6 can bring in a hat from home or use the poster or mask made in class.

Looking forward to a n Eggcellent Parade.

ANZAC Day

In the afternoon of the last day of April, the whole school will come together to recognise ANZAC Day. The service will happen from 2:30pm. Parents are welcome to attend.

If any parents are interested in experiencing ANZAC Day at Beresfield Cenotaph, keep in mind that the school prefects and interested students attend the service on ANZAC Day. Meet at the Cenotaph at 5:15am.

See you there.

Young Leaders Depart

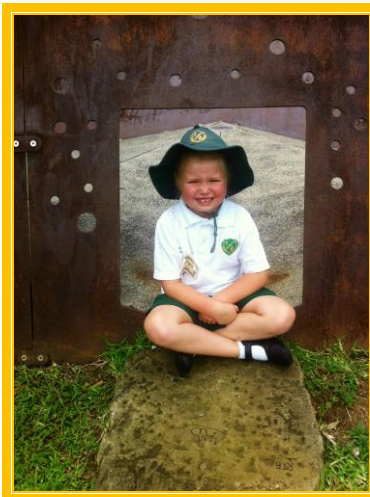
Think of our prefects on Monday morning as they head to the Sydney Entertainment Centre to experience Young Leaders Day. With guest speakers like Ita Buttrose, it promises to be an excellent experience for all involved.

Remember prefects, be at school at 5:30am...

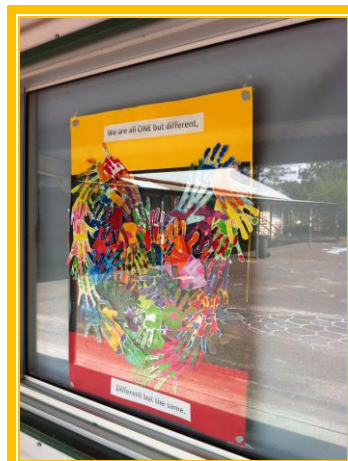
What a great Day We Had

A huge well done to our Year 1 and 2 teachers and students who enjoyed a terrific excursion to the Newcastle Foreshore and Newcastle Museum on Tuesday and Wednesday.

By all accounts it was a terrific excursion and one in which every child represented their school with pride.



Harmony Day Pics



Clothing Pool

Clothing pool will now be operating on Thursday mornings from 8.30am to 9.30am.

P & C News

Congrats to the New P & C Executive!!!

On behalf of everyone I would like to welcome Gillian (President), Alissa (Vice President), Alison (Canteen Treasurer), Tracey (Uniform Shop) and our other soon-to-be-nominated and voted in members of the new look P & C Exec!! Thanks to much for your commitment – we are all looking forward to the new ideas you will be bringing with you!

Hippity Hop – Easter Raffle 2014

Tickets for the Easter Raffle Egg-stravaganza should be in the school bags?!? So we are now asking for donations of Easter Eggs for the raffle prizes – to be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade at the end of term. This will be Gillian and her team's first crack at fund raising and it's always a popular event so please help support the girls in their new venture.

All donations can be left at the office and are very gratefully received!

Apology

I have to apologise for my extremely brief newsletter blurb last week – I had intended to rabble on for pages about the AGM etc but I had a VERY sick little man at home so I hope my brevity and lack of information didn't influence your interest level???

BUT NOW I SHALL FINISH OFF MY TERM AS P & C PRESIDENT WITH.....

A snappy rundown of our last 12 months!

The P & C Executive for 2013 are extremely proud of the results we have achieved over the last year. After an action packed year, we were able to donate a total of \$35000 to the school and were thrilled to have been recently informed that the money has been used to purchase 50 computer notebooks and the necessary charging station, the completion of the wireless connectivity around the school, funds for the upkeep of the library as well as a new BBQ for use at school functions and fundraising.

We were also able to lend support to our school's State Sporting attendees, purchase some fabulous sporting team uniforms and our wonderful Landcare Volunteer group, who continue to do an amazing job beautifying our school grounds, but, more importantly, engaging our kids and teaching them invaluable skills.

The Canteen continues to offer healthy affordable food – with some fun days thrown in for good measure – for our school members to choose from and our supervisors, Cheryl and Paula, along with our trust band of canteen volunteers, ensure that the canteen continues to be open every day of the school week.

Our second annual 'Reverse Breakfast' was again very well attended and we hope that it will become a tradition within Thornton Public School. This event is held around international Teacher's Day where the P & C cook breakfast for the staff and they are served by our School Leaders – just a small way of thanking the staff for all of the wonderful work and care they put into the education of our children.

The money was raised over several events, including our 'staples' such as the Mothers and Fathers Day stalls, Easter Raffle, Christmas Raffle and Carols Night BBQ and Sydney Shopping Trip, but our main fundraiser this year was our extremely successful Biennial Spring Fair. The 2013 Spring Fair included carnival rides, school and community stalls and an increased number of Professional Market Stalls. Not only was the Spring Fair and Markets immensely popular with the students and families of Thornton school and the general community but the vendors also expressed their pleasure with the atmosphere and organisation as well as their individual successes over the day.

Of course none of this can be accomplished without the support of the Thornton Public School staff, children and families, greater community and sponsors. There is always a dedicated band of volunteers that continually offer their assistance and we thank them for their continued efforts and also welcome the new faces that made a massive contribution as well – thank you! The constant support that the P & C Executive members and their families offer each other cannot be understated and I would personal

like to thank all the members of the P & C Exec and their families for all of their assistance over what was yet another bustling year.

Following our resignation and the opening of the P & C Executive to new members I would like personally like to thank Allison, Angela, Ann, Deanne and Jackie for the hard work and commitment they have shown to their positions and the school and its students and their families.

Each of you is wonderful and you all have a specific skillset that has seen our team function beautifully through many different scenarios and challenges – I feel that each of you has supported me and each other through some extremely busy times and I appreciate that more than I can say. Without decreasing the impact that each of you has had – I really need to single out Ann for a moment to thank her for her ability to know exactly what to do in any given situation and for always being there to keep the train steaming ahead – basically for keeping the whole thing afloat when I have been unable to – with no desire for recognition but just because she is one of the most civic minded individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with.

I am sad to see the team disbanded but life has a habit of 'getting in the way' and the past two years have seen so many changes in all our lives. So again thank you team and thank you to all those who have supported us in our time as Exec and, importantly, good luck to the incoming Thornton Public School P & C Executive.

Thanks heaps everyone!!

Take care and have a great weekend!

Sharonne ☺

Munch n Eat News

The roster for next week is as follows:

Monday	31.3 – Leanne F, Gillian C (am)
Tuesday	1.4 – Tanya H
Wednesday	2.4 – Elaine
Thursday	3.4 – Kerrie B
Friday	4.4 – Toni, Kylie

Thank you to all our helpers over the past week.

Cheryl and Paula

Community News

Important Notice: Community Safety Project

Taekwondo Australia
100 Scholarships Available Now
Korean Art of Self Defence / Olympic Sport
Quality Training with Experienced 6th Dan Black Belt Master Instructor and
Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Taekwondo Management Team Member.

Training Monday and Wednesday 6.00pm-7.30pm
Now at Somerset Park Sporting Complex
Somerset Drive, Somerset Park Thornton.

FREE Uniform valued at \$65 on presentation of this flyer.
Fully insured, qualified, professional and safe.
Phone: 0429 021 558

* Registered TKDNSW, Taekwondo Australia, and World Taekwondo Federation.

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Proud Sponsors of the Barclay Rock Ensemble

Barclay Property is proud to be supporting the Barclay Rock Ensemble again in 2014. We feel our partnership with your school is a great way to provide support and opportunity to children in our local area. The Rock Ensemble in particular not only teaches children skills for life but also showcases talent on a different stage (pardon the pun!). We look forward to seeing the many hours of practice and dedication that each student puts in through their improved performances as the year progresses.

You will also hear from me regularly throughout the year regarding the property market in your area. I will keep you up to date with how your local market is performing as well as offering handy hints and tips for buying, selling and general tips for around the home.

The local property market has had a very positive start to the year. Buyer confidence is up and we have been seeing what we call 'strong numbers' coming to open houses and not just out of curiosity. Several homes have seen fantastic results at or above their asking prices whilst there is still value for money for savvy buyers. 7 Bunbury Street Thornton was one of those exceptional results with a large number of buyers still looking to purchase 3 and 4 bedroom homes within the Thornton area and we see this trend continuing in the short term at the very least.

My property tip this week is an easy one...de-cluttering. A great way of reducing unwanted clutter is to use the 12 month rule. If you haven't used an item in your home for over 12 months, ask yourself if you really need it anymore. If the answer is no then either throw it away or give it to someone who will make use of it. Having a clutter free home not only provides extra space, but also makes your home more appealing when it comes time to sell.

Until next time...

Craig Rolls
Barclay Property

t: 4931 4888 e: barclayproperty.com.au



Local Land
Services
Hunter

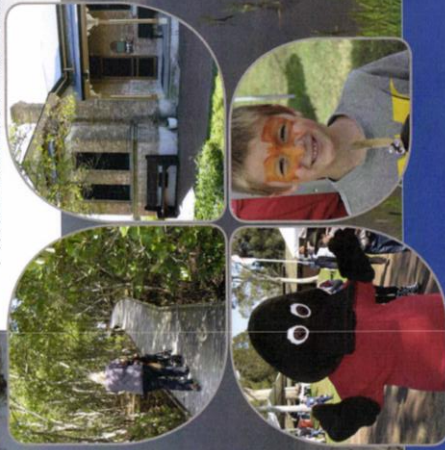
Kooragang Wetlands family festival

- explore scenic board walks
 - meet Platypus Pete
 - enjoy a horse and cart ride
 - tickle a turtle and admire a green tree frog
 - go nuts about nature
 - visit the family history tent
 - ...and much, much more!
- All activities and entry free

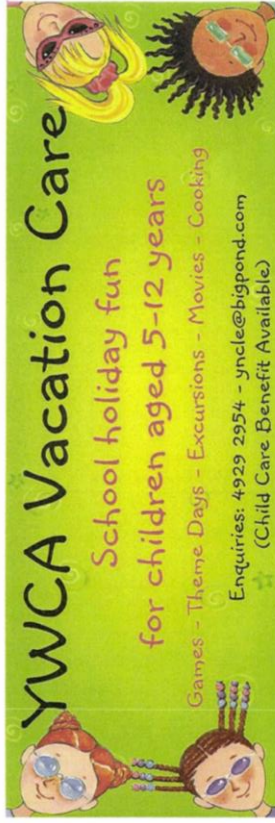
10 am - 3 pm on Sunday 6 April

The Schoolmasters House
Kooragang Wetlands on Ash Island

Phone 4964 9308 for details.



www.lls.nsw.gov.au/hunter



YWCA Vacation Care

School holiday fun
for children aged 5-12 years

Games - Theme Days - Excursions - Movies - Cooking
Enquiries: 4929 2954 - yncle@bigpond.com
(Child Care Benefit Available)

Monday, 14th April 2024 - Friday, 25th April 2024

Monday, 14th April	Tuesday, 15th April	Wednesday, 16th April	Thursday, 17th April	Friday, 18th April
DISCOVER ASIA Japanese drumming workshop Sushi making Yoga...craft...origami...	Easter Eggstravaganza! Cooking...activities... Easter egg hunt and games at Centennial Park Wear a red shirt!	KITCHEN Science Experiments... Activities...Craft... Don't miss the fun!	It's discovery time at hunter wetlands centre Dipnetting Geese feeding Hands-on reptile show Refer to excursion information sheet for full details	GOOD FRIDAY
EASTER MONDAY	EARTH DAY Discover our place in the universe... Recycled crafts... Games...Activities... FUN...FUN...FUN!	MOVIE DAY Drink & snack provided & picnic lunch at Centennial Park Wear a red shirt! Refer to excursion information sheet for full details	EVERYONE BELONGS Cooking - Anzac biscuits Activities...Crafts Anzac Day remembrance picnic lunch Wear a red shirt!	ANZAC DAY
EASTER Vacation Care closed	EASTER Vacation Care closed	EASTER Vacation Care closed	EASTER Vacation Care closed	EASTER Vacation Care closed

YWCA Hunter Region Inc. 24 Dawson Street, COOKS HILL CRN 555 010 881V Centre operating hours 7.30am to 6.00pm Scheduled program runs from 9.30am to 4.30pm	Childcare benefit/rebate available for eligible families. Contact your nearest Centrelink office for information regarding reduced fees and CRN no. prior to returning YWCA Vacation Care Enrolment Form. Annual family enrolment fee - \$10.00
Cancellations available on selection of alternative day prior to day of care if position available. All other cancellations and/or non-attendance deemed as absent and fees will apply.	

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Ph - 4929 2954
Email - yncle@bigpond.com.au
More information - www.ywcahunterregion.org.au



THORNTON Shopping Centre

Name that Duck!

We are running a competition for all local schools to name the famous giant

inflatable Duck on the roof at Thornton Shopping Centre. The lucky School will win \$200.00 in vouchers to use at Thornton Shopping Centre.

To enter simply fill in the
and insert in the barrel



entry form below
at



THORNTON Shopping Centre

School:.....

Class/Name:

Name for the Duck:.....