



# THORNTON THUNDER

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

[www.thornton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.thornton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

*Principal: Mr John Millburn*

**"Developing Learners for Life"**

**Term 3, Week 5**  
**No 24**

**15 August 2014**

## Music and Kids

Researchers have found that young children who take music lessons show different brain development and improved memory over the course of a year compared to children who do not receive musical training.

It is very interesting that the children taking music lessons improved more over the year on general memory skills that are correlated with non-musical abilities such as literacy, verbal memory, mathematics and IQ than did the children not taking lessons. It suggests that musical training is having an effect on how the brain gets wired for general cognitive functioning related to memory and attention.

*Dr Laurel Trainor, Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior at McMaster University*

Some ways to introduce music to your kids include,

- Play music as often as possible. Rotate between different genres: pop, country, jazz, classical, etc.
- Encourage singing, dancing and moving to a beat.
- Go to a live music event.
- Encourage music participation at school.

At Thornton school, we have stage singing, stage choirs, the Harmony choir and the music ensemble. Music for everyone!

## Good for Kids, Good for Learning

## Photo of the Week

*Our wonderful Girls Touch Team*



### Notes that went home this week:

Disco  
Year 6 T shirt  
Year 6 term 4 calendar

## Dates from the Planner

**Monday 18 August**

Book Week

**Tuesday 19 August**

School Disco

K-2 at 5:30pm - 6:30pm

3-6 at 6:45pm - 8:00pm

**Wednesday 20 August**

Maitland Library Visiting story tellers

Infants Pizza Day

**Thursday 21 August**

Primary Pizza Day

**Monday 25 August**

P&C Meeting

**Tuesday 26 August**

Kindergarten 2015 parent information session

**Wednesday 27-29 August**

Year 5 to Great Aussie Bush Camp

**Thursday 4 September**

Father's Day Stall

Sports Teams Photos

**Friday 5 August**

Big Blokes and Ankle Biters Breakfast

## **Get Those Disco Clothes Ready to Dance**

A reminder that the school Disco is on again next week.  
The theme is Kids in Space

\$5:00 per head gets a drink, some chips and fabulous disco.

K – 2 5:30pm - 6:30pm  
3 – 6 6:45pm - 8:00pm

Parents may use the rear entrance.

*Please be mindful of the narrow gate, bumpy road and two way traffic.*

## **School Council Update**

At the last school council meeting, a number of changes occurred.

Carly Elers and Heather Flanighan have come onto the council as parent members.

Chris Soklaridis has come onto the council as a staff representative.

*A huge thank you to Lynne Howard and Sharonne Moore who have served in various roles in the school council over a number of years. Your service has been appreciated.*

Congratulations to Kim Kircher who is now School Council President and to Carly Elers who is School Council Secretary.

## **Concert Working Bee**

What a productive day we had on Wednesday! A big thank you to our creative helpers - Michelle, Leanne, Rachel, Ann, Lisa, little Paige, Peta, Suzanne, Sandra and Mel. There will be another working bee day scheduled some time in Week 7.

Thanks Mrs Burgin

## **Winter is Flu Season**

The Flu season has really hit Thornton this week with many student and teacher absences.

Parents are asked to please keep their children home if they are displaying the effects of the flu virus such as a temperature, headaches, runny nose etc.

If a staff member is sick, every effort is made to find a replacement teacher. However, sometimes this proves impossible and we have to split classes.

Parents are thanked for their understanding.

Hopefully, this virus may soon start to be less prevalent.

Influenza is spread from person-to-person through the coughing or sneezing of infected people. Remind your child about these good hygiene practices to minimise the spread of infection:

- Anyone who is sick with influenza symptoms should stay home until their symptoms are gone.
- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the garbage bin after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you or your child develops influenza-like illness, seek the advice of your family doctor as you would with any other illness.

The seasonal influenza vaccine, which protects against the pandemic influenza strain as well as two other influenza strains, is now available free to eligible people. More information about the vaccine is available from the NSW Health Immunisation Unit's [vaccination page](#).

Previous vaccination with the pandemic influenza vaccine, Panvax® is not a barrier to also receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine

### **Banish the “I’m bored” complaints these holidays**

It’s harder in winter to keep kids occupied with anything other than a small screen. Here are some websites that have great tips for things your family can do these school holidays, whether you’re staying put or taking off on a holiday across the state:

[Destination NSW](http://bit.ly/1niJ7sI) (http://bit.ly/1niJ7sI)

[Winter school holidays in Sydney](http://bit.ly/1nQsVC6) (http://bit.ly/1nQsVC6)

[School holidays in Newcastle](http://bit.ly/1nljlpq) (http://bit.ly/1nljlpq)

[Winter school holidays Central Coast](http://bit.ly/1ingSwX) (http://bit.ly/1ingSwX)

[Attractions for kids in regional NSW](http://bit.ly/1lE8vMw) (http://bit.ly/1lE8vMw)

[Sydney Olympic Park – What’s On](http://bit.ly/1lXUJ7Z) (http://bit.ly/1lXUJ7Z)

[Australian Museum](http://bit.ly/1uEBhxD) (http://bit.ly/1uEBhxD)

[Movie Reviews – Raising Children Network](http://bit.ly/1pKNjb6) (http://bit.ly/1pKNjb6)

[Kids Camps – NSW Sport and Recreation](http://bit.ly/1hWxTra) (http://bit.ly/1hWxTra)

### **Library News**

I always love Term 3. While I enjoy teaching inquiry skills and collaborating with teachers to achieve curriculum outcomes..... in Term 3 it is all about focussing on LITERATURE, in particular the 2014 books nominated for Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) awards. The theme this year for CBCA Book Week is ‘Connect to Reading’. Our aim in the library is to discuss the shortlisted books and find connections.

I’ve included suggestions students could use to ‘Connect to Reading’ at home -

*Connect with your Family* - Read a book to a family member, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle or perhaps even your pet! Talk to your parents or grandparents about the books they read as a child or had read to them.

*Connect to Reading and Create* - Cooking or crafting is a great way to engage with some purposeful reading. Choose a recipe book from home or the library and cook a recipe from this book or choose a craft book, read and follow the instructions and create!

*Connect with an Author or Illustrator* - Look up one of your favourite authors or illustrators online. Leave a message on their web page telling them why you love their work.

*Connect with a Text* - Read a text you don’t normally read, or even explore books in other formats such as braille or audio to experience how others connect to reading.

*Connect with History* - Read an historical fiction book or a non-fiction book about a particular time in history which you are interested in.

*Connect with Technology* - Read a text using a Kindle, iPad, computer or other device. Many libraries allow you to borrow e-books.

HAPPY CONNECTING!

Next Wednesday we have a special presentation at 10.30 down at the hall to launch Lex James and Geoff Trescott’s new book ‘Nautical Nonsense’. This is a great book that looks at the unusual names and peculiar features of ocean creatures. The book is written to appeal to children’s sense of humour while enjoying some fun facts. Please feel welcome to join us. Mr James will be present on this morning to sign any purchased books.

We will also have Maitland City Library’s expert storytelling team present a selection of the best stories from the 2014 Children’s Book Week Awards Short List. The children will enjoy interactive storytelling and games in three sessions between 11.40 and 1.40.

A quick reminder that all students in K-2 need library bags to borrow books. There are quite a few students who are forgetting their bags and missing out on borrowing the quality literature available in our library.

For students in years 3-6 the next week is the LAST WEEK for you to log books read for Premier's Reading Challenge. I'm looking forward to handing out many certificates for completion of this challenge this year.

## **Birth Order: Some interesting research results.**

### **Firstborn**

As the leader of the pack, firstborns often tend to be:

- Reliable
- Conscientious
- Structured
- Cautious
- Controlling
- Achievers

### **Middle Child**

"The middle child often feels left out and a sense of, 'Well, I'm not the oldest. I'm not the youngest. Who am I?'" says therapist Meri Wallace. This sort of hierarchical floundering leads middle children to make their mark among their peers, since parental attention is usually devoted to the beloved firstborn or baby of the family.

In general, middle children tend to possess the following characteristics:

- People-pleasers
- Somewhat rebellious
- Thrives on friendships
- Has large social circle
- Peacemaker

### **Last Born**

Youngest children tend to be the most free-spirited due to their parents' increasingly laissez-faire attitude towards parenting the second (or third, or fourth, or fifth...) time around. The baby of the family tends to be:

- Fun-loving
- Uncomplicated
- Manipulative
- Outgoing
- Attention-seeker
- Self-centred

### **Only Children**

Being the only child is a unique position in a family. Without any siblings to compete with, the only child monopolizes his parents' attention and resources, not just for a short period of time like a firstborn, but forever. In effect, this makes an only child something like a "super-firstborn": only children have the privilege (and the burden) of having all their parents' support and expectations on their shoulders. Thus, only children tend to be:

- Mature for their age
- Perfectionists
- Conscientious
- Diligent
- Leaders



*Now sit down quietly girls!*



### **Munch n Eat News**

#### *Pizza Day*

Wednesday – Infants **including** 2/3N

Thursday – Primary **including** Year 6 that were previously going to be changed to Wednesday due to a FGHS visit

The roster for next week is as follows:

Monday	18.8 – Leanne
Tuesday	19.8 – Janene
Wednesday	20.8 – Elaine, Jan
Thursday	21.8 – Kerrie
Friday	22.8 – Toni, Kylie

Thanks to all our helpers over the past week.

Thank you

Cheryl and Paula

# Parents Caregivers & Community Members

## Thornton Public School Information Session

**Come and find out about our wonderful School.**

*Learning Caring Opportunities*

*Do you have a child starting Kindergarten in 2015?*

**This information night is for you!**



**When: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August  
6.30pm-7.30pm**

**Where: Kindergarten Classroom (far end of big shelter)**

**Meet our School Principal and hear about the many opportunities Thornton Public School offers.**

**Ms Moss our Kindergarten Assistant Principal will present information on  
"Kindergarten and Thornton PS"**

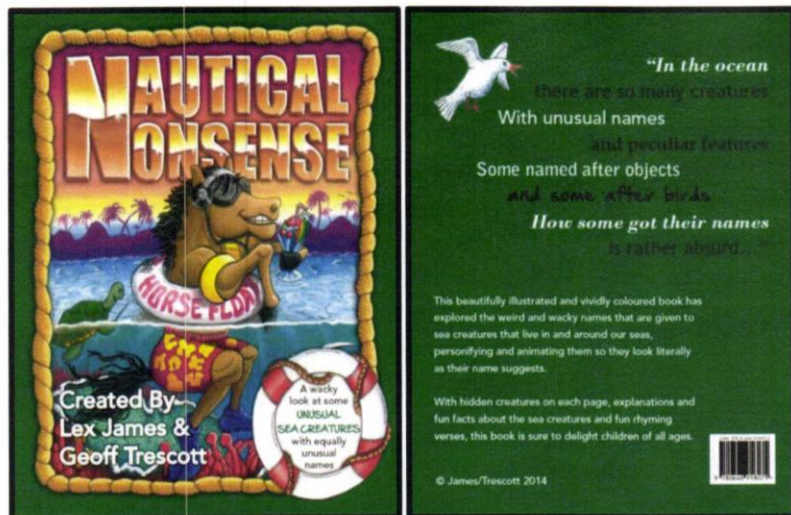
This information session is aimed at helping families to make informed decisions about their child's education.

This will be the first parent information session in our  
**"Transition to School Program"**

**Please phone the school office to confirm your attendance on: 49641369**







## NAUTICAL NONSENSE BOOK LAUNCH THIS WEDNESDAY

20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2014 10.30AM @TPS HALL

PURCHASE A BOOK FROM THE  
OFFICE OR ON THE DAY AND

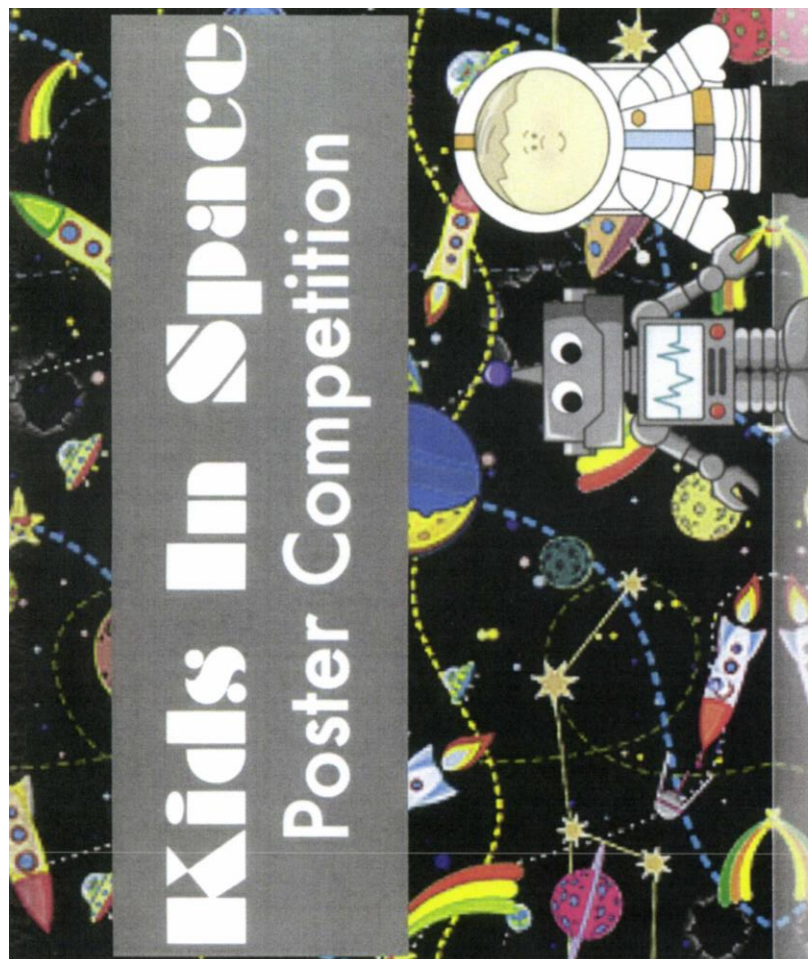
BRING IT ALONG TO  
HAVE IT PERSONALLY  
SIGNED BY THE  
AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATORS

**\$20.00** per book

Hard Cover picture book. 36 glossy pages. 280mm x 215mm Portrait  
ISBN # 9870646918075

Written and illustrated by artists LEX JAMES and GEOFF TRESMOTT  
This beautifully illustrated and vividly coloured book has explored the  
weird and wacky names that are given to sea creatures that live in and  
around our seas, personifying and animating them so they look literally  
as their name suggests.

With hidden creatures on each page, explanations and fun facts about  
the sea creatures and fun rhyming verses, this book is sure to delight  
children of all ages



### What to do:

Create a poster for our musical Kids  
In Space!

Your poster must include the  
following dates of performances:

Wednesday September 10, 12-1pm,

5:30-6:30pm, 7:00-8:00pm and

Thursday September 11, 12-1pm,

5:30-6:30pm, 7:00-8:00pm.

Your poster must be A4 in size,  
colourful, include exciting pictures  
and the title 'Kids In Space'.

Be creative!

THE BEST  
POSTER  
WILL WIN A  
\$20 ITUNES  
VOUCHER!

DUE FRIDAY AUGUST  
17 TO ROOM 16  
THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT  
THE FOLLOWING MONDAY ASSEMBLY.

We have now sponsored the Barclay Rock Ensemble for 12 months and it has been very satisfying to be involved with such a positive program and enthusiastic group of young people. Once again we thought we'd take the opportunity to shine the spot light on some of the members of the ensemble.

Yolande Atkinson, 10, plays the clarinet and loves singing along to Katy Perry's 'Roar'. Ella Acland is 7 and plays the flute! We're sure her mum Alise is proud of her achievements so far. Aiden Spencer, Jacob Briers and Mackenzie Whiting are the budding rockers of the ensemble. Aiden plays bass guitar, Jacob is on the drums and Mackenzie is an up and coming guitarist. The trio are all 10 years old and will be playing out of a noisy garage near you this weekend!



I am looking forward to seeing these five and the rest of the ensemble at the Fathers Day breakfast. Keep an eye out over the coming weeks as we feature more of the members.

Just a quick note on the property side; we are gearing up for the traditionally busy spring period. History tells us that activity in the market increases in Spring and for many it can be an opportune time to sell your home. For those thinking of relocating for the New Year now is the time to get the ball rolling.

Until next time...

Craig Rolls

Barclay Property