

# 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 1, Week 3**  
**No 3**

**13 February 2015**

## **Parent Teacher Information Evening**

Next week, the Parent Teacher evenings will be held. At these evenings, parents will hear how the whole stage work together to run sport, library, daily PE, choirs and whole stage focus areas. Parents will then be broken into class groups and hear how English, maths, science, HSIE and creative arts are covered in the busy day to day classroom routine.

Being informed of how classes, stages and schools operate, allows parents to engage their child in meaningful conversation about their experiences at school. Knowing about the sport routine, the PE routine, the reading group process or the stage focus areas opens up the opportunity for rich discussions. This benefits the child as they feel their learning is valued. It also benefits the parents as they connect with the learning of the child.

One of our key statements is ***Clear Communication***. This is one way that the statement becomes a reality!

### **Wednesday February 18**

Stage 1 5:30

ES1 6:30

### **Thursday February 10**

Parent Teacher Evenings

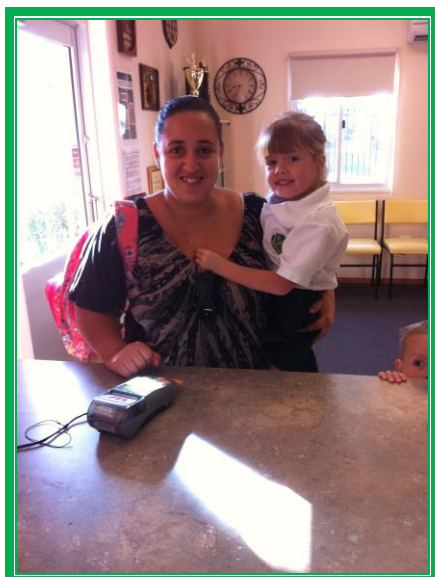
Stage 3 5:30

Stage 2 6:30

*Looking forward to seeing you all there!*

## **Photo of the week**

*Yes, it is an EFTPOS Machine!*



## **Dates for your Diary**

### **Tuesday February 17**

Little A program starts yrs 3-6

### **Wednesday February 18**

Parent Teacher Evenings

Stage 1 5:30

ES1 6:30

### **Thursday February 19**

Parent Teacher Evenings

Stage 3 5:30

Stage 2 6:30

### **Wednesday February 18**

Environment Meeting 11:00am

### **Thursday February 19**

Zone Basketball Trials

### **Friday February 20**

Gateway Leadership Day

### **Monday February 23**

P&C Meeting

### **Tuesday February 24**

Zone Swimming Carnival

### **Wednesday February 25**

School Council

### **Claim the Date**

The school Athletics Carnival is scheduled for the Wednesday 18 March. Further information will follow.

### **Remember the APP**

Search in the APP Store for Thornton Public School

**User name : community**

**Password : thorntonps**

### **Stage 2 Assembly**

3Z will be hosting the first Stage 2 assembly on Wednesday 18 February at 2.20pm. All welcome

### **What a Great Swimming Carnival!**

Congratulations to all students who attended the swimming carnival on Monday. The behaviour from students was exceptional and the sportsmanship and team spirit shined throughout the day. A big thank you to all of the wonderful parent helpers. Swimming champions will be announced at Monday's assembly.

Congratulations to Teagan Douglas for being selected in the Australian Futsal team.

### **Can you help?**

Hunter Ice Skating Stadium is hosting the 2015 International Ice Hockey Friendship Games in Newcastle NSW.

Players are coming from USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and other parts of Australia. There will be 10 teams of 16 kids between the ages of 12 and 15. The organisers are desperate for homestay families who would be willing to take in 2 kids from March 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. A small amount of Coles vouchers for help with groceries will be provided. Requirements for billets are beds, meals, transport to and from the ice rink (in Warners Bay) for hockey games, and some entertainment (trip to Blackbutt, etc.) if possible. If you are able to help please contact Dawn Watt at [Dawn.Watt@coffey.com](mailto:Dawn.Watt@coffey.com) or on mobile number 0431242576.

### **Road Safety Information**

A comprehensive Road Safety Pack will be sent home with students next week. Information on parking, bike riding, road crossing and bus travel are included in an informative pouch. This has been supplied by the Maitland City Council.

### **Apology Anniversary**

Today, the students in years 1-6 came together for a short recognition assembly of the apology to the stolen generation. We also created our Thornton Candle for the year by recognising the past, appreciating the present and looking forward to the future.

To hear all those children singing the chorus of Solid Rock (Goanna) was fantastic!

Thanks so much to the parents who came along and supported the occasion.

### **Jargon Busters**

Wanting to start the school year with clarity and wondering about the meaning of some of the school terminology? Here's a list of common abbreviations or terms to make the world inside the school gates seem a little more familiar. School jargon buster: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters>

### **The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey**

We are delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey.

The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

Parents are assured that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey will be sent home with students next week. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 27 February**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.



*Our first class enjoying there art lesson with Lex.*



*Our wonderful House Captains*

### **Clean Up Australia Day**

Our school will be participating in the 'Schools Clean Up Australia Day' on Friday 27 February. In order to minimise impact on the environment I would ask all families to send with their child a pair of gardening gloves and a re-usable shopping bag if they have them. Each class will be given their own area to clean up at a time that suits them during the day. If you would like to come along and help you are most welcome. You will need to contact your class teacher to organise the time with them.

Thank you for your support.

### **Homework and Study Planning**

Most children find planning easier to understand when they have a visual representation of their day or week in front of them. Help your child learn to manage their daily tasks and responsibilities with this weekly schedule template. Weekly schedule template: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/weekly-schedule-template>

### **School's Back**

Life seems to go from zero to 100 during the first few weeks of school. These parents have pooled their years of experience to bring you some suggestions to make the rest of the year run more smoothly.

Good luck! Back to school checklist: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist>

## **Learning to Read**

Learning to read is hard work and can be frustrating at times for parents and their kids. Watch the video to hear what these public school teachers have to say to help, with quick tips on how to make it easier.

Learning to read: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5Om77mluKU&feature=share>

## **Staying in Touch with the School**

As a parent it's much easier to have difficult conversations about your child's behaviour with the teacher if you've established a relationship with them at the start of the year.

Read this article or watch the video to hear teachers talk about the importance of staying in touch with your child's school.

Communicating with your school:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/wellbeing/development/communicating-with-your-school>

## **Maths Questions**

Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child's maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey's Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It's aimed at children from Years 3 to 8.

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/maths-monkey-s-quest>

## **News From The Office Team**

EFTPOS has arrived and is ready for use for any transactions over \$10 (can be for more than 1 child). At the start of each year we ask for a voluntary school contribution to enhance our educational and sporting programs.

Statements have gone home today with your youngest child outlining each families voluntary contribution, resource levy, home reading diary and dictionaries. (Please note that dictionaries are \$20 which includes \$1.82 gst). The statements have been sent home on yellow paper so they are easy for you to find. Payment can be made any of the following ways:

- In person: cash, cheque or eftpos (or complete the slip on the bottom of the statement and return it to the office for processing)
- Over the phone: call the school and have your card details ready

We try to keep any additional costs to a minimum and may be able to assist families who are having financial difficulty paying schooling costs. Please see the office staff or Mr Millburn regarding any financial assistance matters.

### *Attendance*

The school has a legal obligation to monitor and record student attendance. If your child is absent from school it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence.

To explain an absence you may:

- Send a note, fax or email to the school
- Telephone the school, or
- Call in to the office

Class teachers will contact parents or carers of a child in their class who has been away for two or more days and no explanation has been received. Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained the same way as other forms of absence.

## **P & C News**

Firstly I Gillian Cleary, P & C President, would like to personally apologise to each and every family that received a letter about Entertainment Books. The P & C had no knowledge of this letter being generated! We have the books at the school awaiting pick up that has not happened yet. So please take this as a very humble apology and I will endeavour in future to try not to let our families get upset over this again. This was a new way that the Entertainment Book Company asked us to try and we thought ok lets give it a go. So we now know as a Committee this DOESN'T work and we will only sell them at the canteen this year. Again I am truly sorry for any upset caused.

### *P & C Meeting*

Our next P & C meeting is held on Monday 23 February in the SPR at 7pm. Keep in mind we do have babysitting available and a light supper is provided

### *Committee Position Available*

Unfortunately our Secretary Paulina has had to resign her position so we are after another Secretary. This is a highly communicative role that does involve some paperwork. So if you would like to help us out even if you have not had any experience before then please give me a call on 0400832415 or email [thorntonps.p.and.c@gmail.com](mailto:thorntonps.p.and.c@gmail.com).

### *Clothing Pool*

This is open on Monday mornings at 8.45am – 9.15am.

Cheers

Gill, Korine, Sarah, Alissa and Paulina

## **Munch N Eat News**

### *Childrens Birthdays*

Instead of baking and decorating cakes for children to bring in to share with the class, why not come and see us at the canteen and order frozen fruit cups or slushies for the class at a discounted price. Frozen fruit cups normally 60c are 50c each when ordering for a class and slushies which are normally \$1.20 each can be purchased for \$1.00 each when ordering for a class. Just call into the canteen to organise and speak or send a note to your class teacher.

### *Multiple Lunch Orders Per Week*

If your child has multiple lunch orders in a week you can call in and write separate bags for each day, pay and leave with us and we will fill the orders on the days you wish them to be given. This saves you from lining up each time.

### *Pizza Day Orders*

You have another week and a half to get your orders and payment back to the canteen or the Pizza days.

Infants: Wednesday 4 March

Primary: Thursday 5 March

Eggs are for sale at the canteen or \$3.50 per dozen.

A big thank you to our new volunteers that have put their name down on our roster. Looking forward to seeing you in the canteen.

### *Heating Up Food brought from Home*

Unfortunately the canteen cannot heat up food items brought from home due to Health and Safety regulations.

The roster for next week is as follows:

Monday 16.2 – Linda, Renae (am)

Tuesday 17.2 – Eileen, Alicia K

Wednesday 18.2 – Elaine

Thursday 19.2 – Kellie W

Friday 20.2 – Jenny B, Ann, Christine

Thanks to all our helpers over the past week.

Cheryl and Paula



# THORNTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

P.O. Box 3039, THORNTON N.S.W. 2322

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THORNTON 2322  
Phone: 02 4964 1369  
Fax: 02 4964 1157

13 February 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

We wish to advise there is a student in our school community who is currently receiving medical treatment for cancer. This student will be attending school while undergoing treatment.

As a consequence of treatment this student's ongoing health is at risk if they come into contact with infectious illnesses, in particular: chicken pox, measles or mumps. If your son or daughter is suspected of having one of these illnesses it is very important that they do not attend school. It is also important that while your child is unwell they remain at home until they are no longer contagious. Information on infectious conditions can be found on national health websites eg: [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) or alternatively contact your local GP.

If your child has chicken pox, measles or mumps or is suspected of having an illness please contact the school immediately. This will allow the school to assess the probable contact and therefore exposure of our student to the disease. Notification can then be given to the parents and medical specialists.

As a school community we value your support in relation to the wellbeing of all of our students. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely  
John Millburn  
Principal

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CHILDREN \$12 PER LESSON OR \$110 PER 10  
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FEE PER TERM

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PHONE 0431720064 AFTER 5PM

