

# 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**  
**No 5**

**26 February, 2016**

## **The Mighty Gateway**

Thornton Public school is part of the New South Wales Public Education system which has over 2200 schools. (The biggest single system in the world!)

We are one of 38 schools in the Maitland Network of schools. We are also one of seven schools in the Gateway Learning Community. The Gateway is a learning community made up of Thornton, Blackhill, Beresfield, Tarro, Millers Forest, Woodberry and Francis Greenway. Together we cooperate to run the recent kindergarten screening program, the GLC leadership day, various gifted and talented programs, professional learning for staff and community events such as the ANZAC Day Service. As a learning community, we work for the benefit of all of our students in the local area.

One implication of this geographic organisation can be seen as the enrolment policy is more stringently enforced, as it is across all areas of the state and school boundaries tightened.

The implications of this, is that all students are expected to attend their local school whether it be a primary or high school. Schools that are at or above their permanent capacity are not allowed under DEC policy to accept out of zone students. Any school with portable buildings on site are above permanent capacity. Our local high schools are at or above their permanent capacity.

In effect, students must attend the school for which their residential address is zoned.

Out of Zone enrolments will not be possible if the school is beyond their capacity to enrol them.

Thornton benefits greatly from being a member of the Gateway Learning Community and we look forward to continuing our work with Francis Greenway and our other partner primary schools.

## **Picture of the Week**

*The first jump...Long Jump*



## **Dates for your Diary**

**Monday February 29**

Young Leaders Day in Sydney

**Friday March 4**

Clean Up Australia Day

**Friday March 11**

School Cross Country

General Contribution Promotion Draw

**Wednesday March 16**

Environment Meeting

**Friday March 18**

Life Ed Van

**Monday March 21**

Harmony (Bully No Way) Day

**Tuesday March 22**

School Athletics carnival

**Thursday March 24**

Easter Parade

Grand Playground Opening

Grandparents day

## **We Love Our Dogs But...**

Departmental policy states that animals are not to be brought onto school grounds without prior permission. This means dogs are not to be brought onto the school before or after school.

If parents have pets they wish to bring into the school for special news, please contact your class teacher or the office to get permission.

Your attention to this matter is certainly appreciated.

## **Road Safety**

Once again, complaints from concerned parents are flooding the office. Please adhere to the parking signs.

The no parking sign, means you can only stop for 3 minutes and must not leave the car.

No Stopping means NO STOPPING and remember, use the crossing and never ever call your child across the road.

We are only ever a micro second away from a tragedy.

**Be careful, be aware and be patient!**

## **How Wonderful are our Students**

A reminder that our stage assemblies are starting up.

Kindergarten is on Week 6, 8 and 10 on a Thursday from 1:00pm. The first assembly is next Thursday

Stage One is on week 6, 8 and 10 on a Thursday at 2:30pm. The first assembly is next Thursday.

Stage Two assembly is on weeks 5, 7 and 11 on a Friday at 2:30pm. The first assembly was today.

Stage Three assembly will run week 6, 8 and 10 from 2:30pm. The first assembly is next Friday

Come along and support your children. They are wonderful!

## **You Have To Be In It To Win It!**

Every family who makes the General Contribution Payment goes into the draw for a Gift Card at Reading Cinemas to the value of \$100.

This promotion will close on Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> and will be drawn at the school Cross Country Carnival.

Remember,

*General Contributions allow the school to purchase additional resources for the students to use. Items such as photo copier payments, art and craft resources, books, PBL rewards, catering costs for our wonderful breakfasts and even play equipment such as diggers for the sand pit. While the school receives money from the government, any addition money makes a huge difference to our budget bottom line.*



## Keeping our Kids Safe

This week, we have had the tree loppers in to remove dangerous trees and tidy up trees that we have concerns about. While it has been interesting for the students, the intention is to keep our children safe.

## Clean Up Australia Day

Our school will be participating in the 'Schools Clean Up Australia Day' on Friday March 4. 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.

## Anti-Racism Contact Officer

At Thornton School, we do not accept racism in any form. We have an Anti Racism Contact Officer, Mrs Soklaridis. Mrs Sok deals with any alleged racist comments or instances of racism. As a rule, if an incident is reported, it is investigated and all parents are contacted, remedial measures are then taken as needed.

Racism does not raise its ugly head in our school very often but if it does it is dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.

## Annual School Report Data

These are results from the 2015 Annual school Report Survey. Over 100 families were surveyed with the results being used to assist with the 2016 school plan.

	Always	Usually	Sometime	Rarely	Don't know	Total %
Thornton Public School is a place where my child likes to go.	67	23	8	1	1	100
I feel welcome at the school.	78	20	1	1		100
My child feels they are treated fairly at school.	63	27	8	2		100
Thornton Public School staff are approachable.	73	20	6		1	100
I am listened to by staff.	69	22	5	3	1	100
Thornton Public School strives to meet my child's learning needs.	71	20	8		1	100
I know what is happening in my child's class.	38	40	15	6	1	100
I know what is happening in the school.	38	44	16	1	1	100
I know and understand my child's learning and social goal.	63	29	6		2	100
I thought the focus on Maths Facts was effective.	48	20	5	4	23	100
I thought the mothers and father's day breakfast were worthwhile	76	9	3	3	9	100

## **Kindergarten Speech Screening**

All kindergarten students have had their speech screened by All Areas Speech Pathology. This has been funded by the Gateway Learning Community.

If children require addition speech therapy, parents are advised to book in and take advantage of the opportunities available.

Early treatment of speech difficulties can have a huge impact on future learning.

## **What a Day!**

On Thursday March 24, Thornton school will be coming alive.

Our beautiful playground will be officially opened, all of our wonderful grandparents will be invited into the school for a special Grandparents Day and our renowned Easter Parade will be held after a picnic lunch.

Further details to follow.

## **Pics from around the school**



**Big Jumps!**



**Tree Trimming!**



**Love the new Library Tables**



**A crazy Face Photo with Ellie Drennan at the GLC Leadership Day**

### **Library News**

This year we will be taking part in the 2016 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC). All students will be registered to participate in this challenge unless otherwise notified. Each student will have the opportunity to experience specially marked 'PRC' books at home, in the library and in class.

Experiencing a book means listening to it, reading all or part of it independently or sharing the reading of it. Class teachers and library staff will help students with the selection of appropriate books.

Students who read the targeted number of books, will receive a Premier's Reading Challenge certificate and their names will appear on the PRC Honour Roll in the Sun-Herald. For students K – 2 the requirement to complete the Challenge is 30 books, of which 25 must be PRC. For students 3 – 6 the requirement is 20 books, of which 15 must be PRC. Books must also be of an equal or higher bracket to the students' school year eg a student in Stage 1 can experience books for stages K – 2 and 3 – 4. A student in Stage 2 may experience books for stages 3 – 4 and 5 – 6. Students in Stage 3 can experience books for stages 5 – 6 and 7 – 9.

Please note only students in Stage 3 may borrow PRC books marked 7 – 9. If you have a child in year 5 or 6 and you do not wish them to read this level please contact me directly. Students in years 3 – 6 must read their books independently.

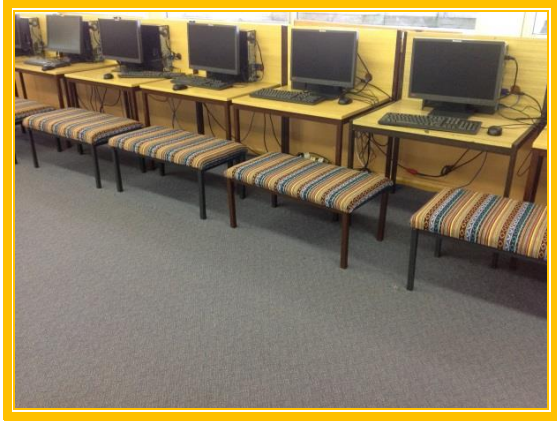
If you have any questions about the Premier's Reading Challenge for 2016 please feel free to come into the library to speak to me, or telephone via the school. If you do not wish your child to participate please let me know directly.

Information about the PRC can also be accessed online at:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/logon.html>

I look forward to a successful challenge!

Watch the transformation of our library! Thank you to Mrs Smith for helping recover our computer benches. We have great new tables which are able to create many different formations and sizes.



## **Norta Norta Tutor** (approximately 60 hours only)

### **Expression of Interest**

Applications due 3pm Friday 11 March 2016

Enquiries: [John.Millburn@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:John.Millburn@det.nsw.edu.au) - 49641369

Please address each of the following selection criteria. (1 page)

- \* Ability to work with teachers, parents and students to ensure tuition aligns with the students' Personalised Learning Plan.

- \* Ability to assist students to develop skills and understanding to enable them to participate independently in class activities.

- \* Ability to collaborate in the planning, implementing and evaluating of a program of work that enables students to improve in literacy and numeracy skills.

Email application with a covering sheet which includes your name, address, phone number and details of two referees to [John.Millburn@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:John.Millburn@det.nsw.edu.au)

*Priority Employment – Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people have priority for employment as tutors for the Norta Norta Program*

## **Debating**

What an intensive and stimulating day of debating skills! Conducted by Mr Tony Davey, a co-ordinator of the Premier's Reading Challenge, this was a great day for everyone involved. Many thanks to the parents who helped with the transport.



## **P & C News**

### *AGM Information*

This will be held on 21 March at 7pm in the SPR at 7pm where a light supper will be provided and child minding will be available.

If you wish to hold a position on the P & C for 2016 please contact the P & C at [thorntonps.p.and.c@gmail.com](mailto:thorntonps.p.and.c@gmail.com) or Gill on 0400 832 415 to organise a nomination form which has to be lodged before Friday 18 March. You will also need to be a financial member for \$2 to be able to vote and to be on the committee. This can also be organised by the email or Gill.

### *Positions Available*

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Vice Secretary

Please make contact on the details up above in the AGM information if you are interested in either of these positions.

### *Easter Egg Raffle Donations*

The P & C are seeking Easter Egg donations for our Easter raffle that will be happening in March. Any donations can be left at the office please.

### *Easter Raffle*

Raffle tickets will be distributed in early March and they will only be books of 5 not 10. These will be going home to each child in our school. We do ask if there are any tickets not sold can you please return them to the office. Your assistance with this will be very much appreciated.

The raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat parade on 24 March.

Please ensure that your name and contact phone number are on **every** ticket.

It is not the P & C's responsibility to do this so please check all tickets before returning them in either an envelope, snap lock bag or paper bag, again your assistance with this would be greatly appreciated.

We hope you have a great week.

Gill, Stacey, Kristie, Alissa and Cassandra

## **‘Munch n Eat’ News**

### **Pizza Day 8 March**

Please have orders complete with payment to the canteen by Wednesday 3 March. There will be no other lunch items available on the day, only pre-ordered pizza deals.

The roster for next week is as follows:

Monday	29.2 – Jenny C
Tuesday	1.3 – Mel I, Kelly A
Wednesday	2.3 – Cassandra
Thursday	3.3 – Maree, Tonia (am), Cathie (am)
Friday	4.3 – Jill, Toni, Mel

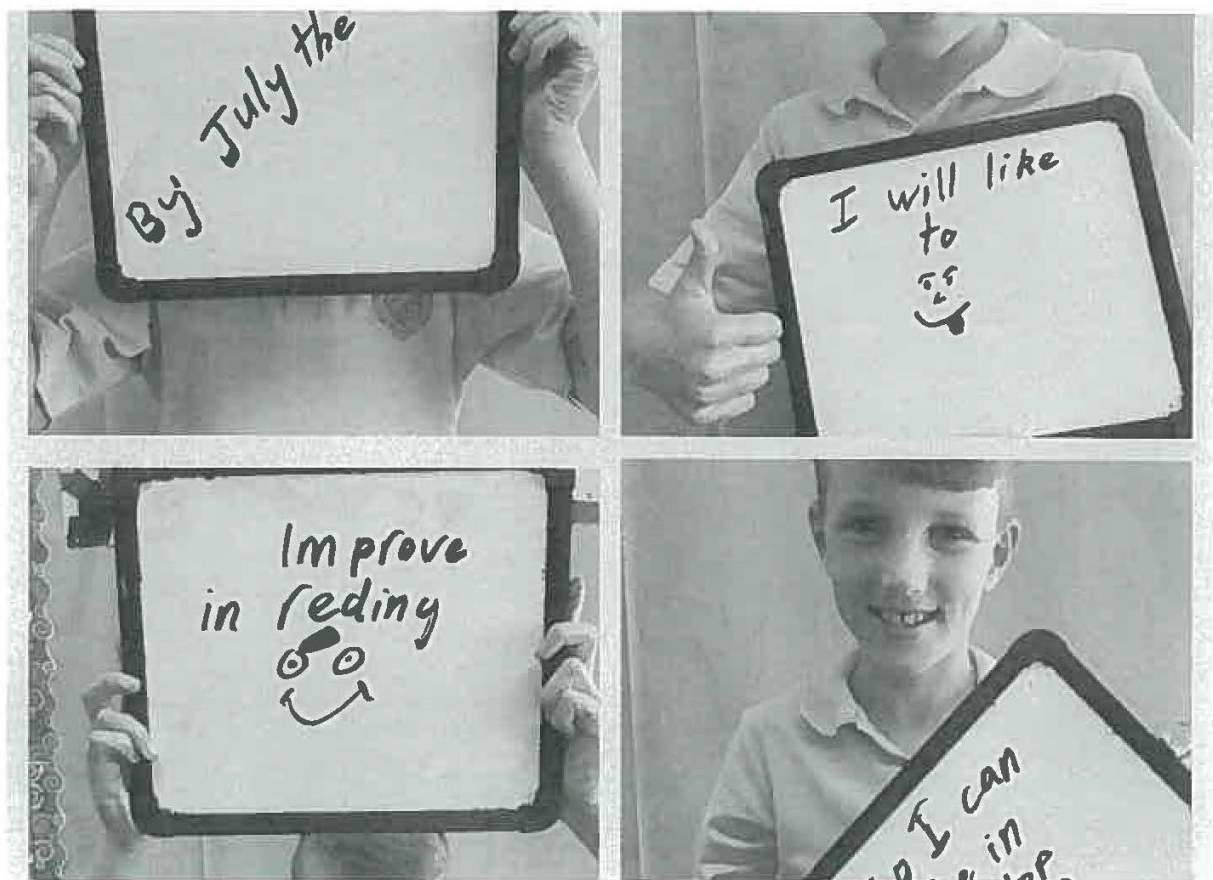
Thanks to all our helpers over the past week. Your help is very much appreciated.

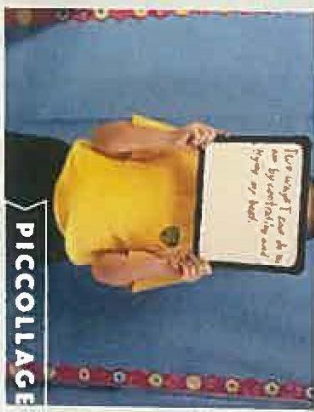
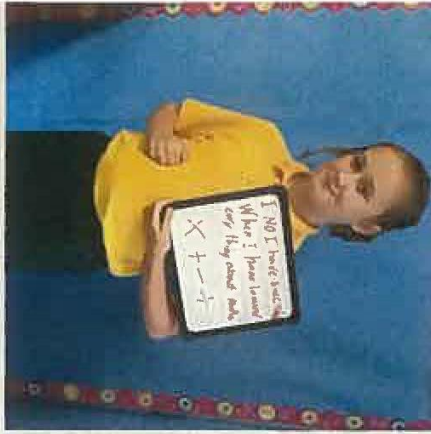
Cheryl and Paula

## Class Report – 4P

Some of our class goals.

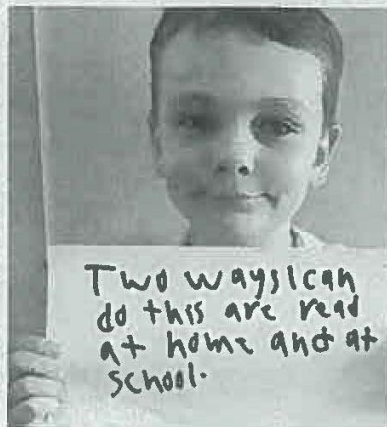
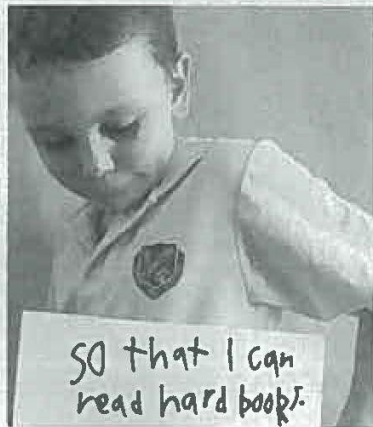
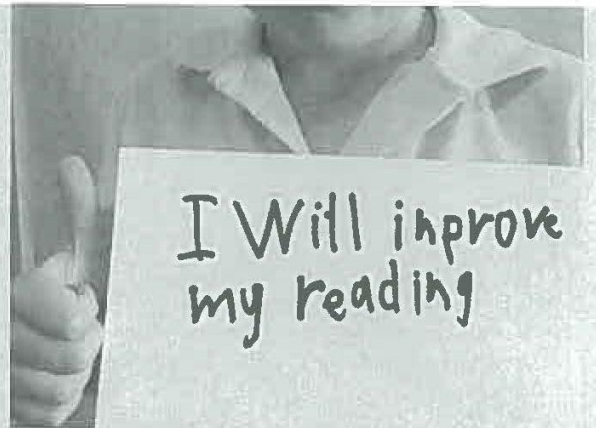






PICCOLAGE

By the  
25  
of  
August  
2016



# Hey you Mob

*Are you hearing about NDIS but don't know what it's about??*

*Come along and yarn with someone who works within the  
National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).  
Ask the questions that you've been thinking.*

*Who should come?*

Are you a person with a disability and aged under 64 years?

*Or do you know a family member or friend?*

Do you live in Cessnock, Kurri Kurri or Maitland area?

*Come along and get all the info about why you might like to register  
for the NDIS, how you do that and what happens next...*

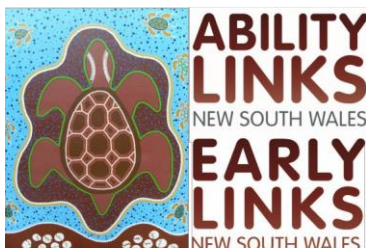
*Wednesday 2nd March 2016 10am till*

*2pm*

**Barkuma Neighbourhood  
Centre 76 Lang Street, Kurri  
Kurri**

*4937 1094*

# FREE BBQ!



Join us on the river for a night of fun and entertainment to help raise funds for Newcastle kids living with cancer and their families.



# ROCK ON THE RIVER

**SATURDAY 5 MARCH 2016**

840 Hinton Road, Osterley

Gates open 3:00PM. Entertainment starts at 4:30PM

- ★ LOCAL BANDS INCLUDING:  
1/2 CUT, SUMMER DREESE AND HELEN & FRIENDS
- ★ SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY SAM MORAN  
FROM NICK JR'S PLAY ALONG WITH SAM!
- ★ CAMPING
- ★ BBQ AND CAKES
- ★ RAFFLES AND AUCTIONS!



FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK TICKETS VISIT:

**rockontheriver.com.au**

## SECOND WIND



*Second Wind is a community project to provide kids with free equipment to enable them to participate in sport\* (ask about our subsidy scheme)*

*Please Donate sporting goods and equipment at:*

*Maitland Neighbourhood Centre*

*Arthur St Rutherford NSW 2320*

*4932 0950*



*Maitland Neighbourhood Centre in partnership with*



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*giving help*



**As part of our Kinder Orientation Program we have established a playgroup within our school.**

**Providing an opportunity for both parents and children to become orientated into the school community.**

**Play based, developmentally appropriate activities will be provided in a safe and stimulating environment supported by a parent/friend. Experiences will be planned to develop a range of skills.**

Tadpoles Playgroup will operate for 8 weeks during Terms 2 and 3. Enrolment numbers will determine the number of sessions children will be offered with the minimum being a five week program.

**The criteria for Tadpoles Playgroup is:**

- \* The child is intending to enrol in 2016 Kindergarten at Thornton Public School
- \* The child will be accompanied at Tadpoles by a parent or nominated person. Please note that the nominated person must have a letter signed by the parent.
- \* The parent/carer is involved in the activities on the day with their child.
- \* The parent/carer assists in the setting up and packing up on the day.

Parents of children who fit these criteria and who would like their child to participate may call and place their child's name on the Tadpoles List with the staff at the school office.



Thornton Public School  
Phone: 49641369