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Term 4 Week 4

Principals Message

As we get closer to the end of a very challenging year I would like to start this newsletter by saying thank you. Thank you to our staff for their outstanding efforts during very trying times, thank you to our parents for their support and patience throughout the year and thank you to our students for their resilience and attitude to the many changes and challenges this year has presented.

Term 4 is moving quickly and we are extremely busy at school, it is hard to believe we are in Week 4 of Term 4 already. Amazingly we now have only 28 days left of school for the 2020 school year and 49 days until Christmas. Term 4 is usually a very busy term as we have a lot of activities leading up to the end of year however, currently we are sifting through the latest Covid-19 Guidelines that come into effect on the 14th November to see what we can and cannot do. We will update you on any changes over the next few days once we have an understanding of the new guidelines. I noticed in the news yesterday that some reporters are stating that Year 6 farewells and presentation days will now be able to go ahead. This is not entirely true as there are still a number of restrictions and adherence to the four square metre rule per person, so small schools will potentially be able to return to some sort of normalcy. I am not sure if much will change for us given the size of our school and the sheer numbers of students and adults needing to be involved in any activities, what a year it has been.

It is likely we will be holding many of our events in small groups this year and where possible filming some of the important events to share with students and parents. We will hold a number of small end of year Presentation Day Events so our students can be recognised and where possible film and take photos to share with families. Another event will be the nomination speeches and elections for next year's student leaders. We will have a small student audience and film the

speeches so our students can watch them in class. We are all very interested to see who our new leaders are - Good luck to all who have been nominated. It is going to be a very busy time and I look forward to the fun and excitement the coming weeks will bring.

Reports to Parents - All teachers are currently working on our student's end of year reports which will be sent home on Friday 11th December 2020. Our reports use a common grading scale based on clearly defined state-wide syllabus standards. The common grading system is mandatory in all public schools in NSW. As always if you have questions regarding your child's report or progress contact your child's teacher to make an appointment.

Bus Behaviour - Inappropriate bus behaviour has been brought to the attention of the school executive this term. The children travel unsupervised on the bus and are expected to adhere to safety regulations. We are asking that all families speak to their children and remind them about safe travelling on school buses. The school will fully support any travel suspensions implemented by the bus company.

This will be one of two newsletters this term. We have reduced the number of newsletters this year for two reasons, there has not been much we can do and therefore report on and also we have been keeping people up to date through our App.

Have a great weekend,

Stuart Wylie - Principal

Deputy Diaries

Deputy Diaries

Wow!! We are almost half way through the term!!!

TPS has had a very busy and very productive few weeks. Although it is still strange not having families on site, we want to thank you for the respect and resilience that you have all shown

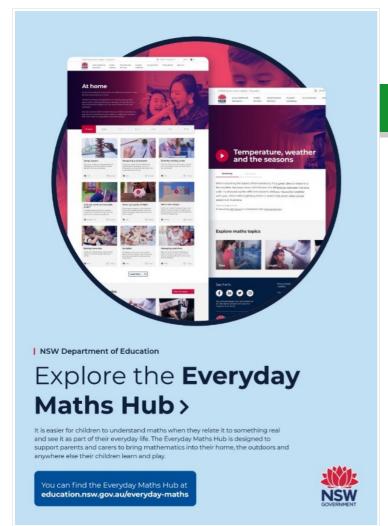
during these challenging times! Our students are so lucky to have such wonderful role models around them.

Even though things seem different, we are still business as usual here at TPS. It is so wonderful to see so many children working hard towards and celebrating achievement of their learning goals in the classroom. Teachers beginning to write end of year reports for all students, we cannot wait to share the successes of this Semester with you all.

There are lots of things going on behind the scenes for end of year organisation and celebrations – Kindergarten Orientation, Presentation Day, the Year 6 Farewell and PBL Rewards Day – just to name a few. We are hoping that COVID restrictions and guidelines might ease towards the end of the year, but if they do not, we are making plans to share these significant events with you all virtually!

We are looking forward to meeting our newest little people at Kindergarten Orientation next week. If you have any neighbours, relatives or friends with children who are school aged, please encourage them to call the school so that we can arrange an enrolment pack.

The Department has recently launched The Everyday Maths Hub aimed to and encourage family conversations about the relevance and usefulness of mathematics in everyday life. It is part of the NSW Mathematics Strategy to achieve the Premier's vision, for all NSW students to develop the mathematical skills they need to succeed in life. There are some excellent and engaging resources for parents to support your children at home! Check it out...



Have a wonderful week!

Until next time,

Mr Collins and Mrs Wright

Early Stage One Report

We are now almost all the way through your child's first year of 'big school'. Time really flies when you are having fun! All children have settled in well to school routines and are familiar with happenings that occur on a weekly basis.

Here are a few things to inform you about:

*Home reading and homework will continue until the end of this term. Please help your child develop a good study routine but also ensure they have time to socialise with their friends and family as well as enjoy physical exercise.

*Access to the PM eCollection will continue for the rest of the term and for the duration of the school holidays so your child can continue to build on their reading skills while at home.

*Fruit break will continue to take place each day in the classroom.

All of the Early Stage teaching and support staff would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the support and encouragement you continue to offer your children at home so that they have the opportunity to 'blossom' in the classroom.

Eleanor Roberts

Assistant Principal

Stage One Report

Who can believe we are already in the last term of 2020? Term 4 is sure to be a busy term with lots of different events from Book Week to the very popular Wheelie Wednesday (held every second week). The teachers and students are already engaged in important learning experiences.

Term 4 Learning

This term, some of the topics students in Stage One will be exploring include:

Maths- Whole number, Addition/Subtraction, Multiplication/ Division, Patterns & Algebra, 2D shapes, 3D objects, and Length.

Science/History/Geography- Through Generations. This term the connected MAPPEN themed unit of work has a strong history focus. Students will learn about the lives of people in the past as they interview a person from an older generation. They will learn words to describe events in the past, present, and future. Students will consider the importance of places to people in their community and people from different cultures. They will learn about sequences and different ways that stories from the past can be told.

PE- Playing Modified Team Games

Arts- Drama

Learning Goals

This term, students will continue to work towards their individual writing goals. This will help students to reflect on their learning and identify areas they can work on to help them continue to make progress.

Students will be encouraged to share their goals with their families.

Home Reading

We are continuing to encourage students to try and find at least 10 minutes a night for home reading. Your child can access the great PM readers online using their log in details, select their own books from home or read books from the school library.

There are lots of great books for students to read from picture books to joke books. If you are looking for some different ideas, you might want to look at the books on the 2020 CBCA Shortlist. Students looking for chapter books might enjoy reading books including:

Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey

Ninja Kid by Anh Do

Hat Dog by Ahn Do

Weirdo by Anh Do

The Besties by Felice Arena

Dog Man by Dav Pilkey

Billie B Brown by Sally Rippin

Ella Diaries by Meredith Costain

Kelly Rutherford

Assistant Principal

Stage Two Report

Positive Playground Program

Ms Oke and Mr Gaffney are out and about in the playground engaging students of all ages in all different areas of the school. To make our playground more fun and engaging we will be hosting some really cool games such as Handball, Red Rover, Basketball, Soccer and heaps more. Be sure to look out for what's on each day or ask your teacher to check. Games are on at Lunch and Afternoon Tea.

Wheelie Wednesdays!

Thank you for your support of our Wheelie Wednesdays fun. Each Wednesday we have had heaps of students zooming around the school on their scooters having a great time. We are currently alternating between K-2 and 3-6 students due to the size of our school. K-2 students get their turn on the even weeks (week2,4,6,8) and 3-6 students have a go on the

odd weeks (week1,3,5,7,9). Unfortunately, if it rains and the basketball or netball court becomes too wet we may not allow students to ride their scooters if we deem it unsafe. In that case, scooters will remain at school until home time.

Thank you to everyone who brings a helmet with their scooter. Remember No Helmet, No Ride.

Also a thank you to everyone who has labelled their scooter or helmet. We have had a mix up or two on scooter collection.

A girl in year 3 went to collect her scooter but after looking, found that there was only an identical looking one leftover. Her name is on her scooter that has been mistakenly taken home by another student.

Parents; can you please check that your child has the correct scooter. Have a look to see if it has a name on it or a mix up has been made. If so please let the school know and we can arrange an exchange.

Brian Gaffney

Assistant Principal

Stage Three Report

Can you believe we are nearly half way through Term 4 and the end of the 2020 school year?

This term, Stage 3 have been busy focusing on the concept of 'Sustainability and the Environment.' We have been looking at some of the problems that our country faces due to the impact of human factors as well as natural disasters. All students have worked collaboratively to prepare and present an issue that they feel strongly about within our world. From getting rid of plastic bags to saving places like The Great Barrier Reef....there have been an array of issues raised by our students. Well done on creating such great presentations.

Year 6 have been busy fundraising by having a 'Freezy Friday' selling ice-blocks to the students of TPS. Well done Year 6 on a great effort so far to raise money for the Year 6 shirts as well as the Year 6 Farewell. We will be looking at having a disco for our stage groups in the near future. More details to come....

All of our Stage 3 classes had so much fun dressing up for this year's Book Week. We had a variety of costumes from Harry Potter to cheerleaders. We appreciate the efforts so many families made to make their child's day fun!!!

We look forward to finishing off Term 4 on a positive note with a number of events for our Year 6 students on the horizon. Information about our Year 6 Farewell as well as Year 6 Transition to High School is further on in this newsletter.

Meegan Kavanagh

Assistant Principal

Year 6 Farewell

Information about the Year 6 Farewell has been sent out to ALL Year 6 students. If you have not received the note, please make sure that you contact the front office and ask for another note to be sent home with your child. Please ensure that payments for your child's meal is paid for by the due date of Friday 27th November, 2020. Invitations and further information will be sent out shortly.

Francis Greenway High School Year 7 2021

Francis Greenway High School Year 7 2021

Information will be sent home this week about FGHS transition activities for the remainder of Term 4. At this stage there will be 1 orientation morning on Tuesday 1st December from 10:30 - 1:30. Please look out for more information this week on Schoolzine and student notes.

Maitland High School Transition 2021

Maitland High School Year 7 2021

Students have received a flyer about transition events for the remainder of Term 4. Information has also been uploaded onto Schoolzine. More information will be forthcoming about Orientation Day times as well as any other information in the lead up to other transition opportunities.

MHS Transition 2021



Equipment

The equipment list and instructions for purchasing can be found by following the QR code below. If viewing this flyer on a browser, the QR codes are also links.





Orientation Day Tuesday 1/12/20

Primary schools to communicate further information regarding transport to MHS.

Information Night Wednesday 2/12/20 - 6:30

Please enter the MPC from Pierce Street Due to Covid guidelines, we must limit the night to one parent per child.



Uniform

purchasing information

Uniform fitting and

can be found below.



latest information please follow on Facebook and download the SkoolBag App.

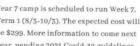




Camp



Year 7 camp is scheduled to run Week 7. Term 1 (8/3-10/3). The expected cost will be \$299. More information to come next year, pending 2021 Covid-19 guidelines.





First day of school 2021 Friday 29/1/21 - 8:45

The first day back for year 7 (as well as 11 and 12) next year will be a Friday. Students to gather in the MPC (off Pierce Street). Year 8, 9 and 10 do not return until the following Monday.



Year 7 Selective High School Placements 2022

Year 7 Selective High School Placements 2022

A reminder that Year 7 2022 Selective High School placements are due on Monday 16th November, 2020. These placements are for our current Year 5 students ONLY. Please note that applications can be made online ONLY. If you are interested in finding out more about placements and where to apply, please follow the link below:

https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/ selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7

Year 5 2021 Opportunity Class placement test

Year 5 2021 Opportunity Class placement test

Placement tests for those students who have applied online for a 2021 Year 5 placement will be held at Thornton Public School on Wednesday 18th November. Only students whose parents have received a confirmation email from the High Performing Students Team are eligible to sit the test on this date.

NAIDOC WEEK - Friday 13th November

Thornton Public School will be celebrating NAIDOC week next week on Friday the 13th of November. This years theme is "Always was, always will be".

All students are invited to come out of uniform on Friday wearing colours from the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island flags (black, yellow, red, blue, white or green).

Save the Date - Year 2 Parents and Carers BYOD Information Session

Thornton Public School has been implementing a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program since 2016. BYOD currently runs in all our Year 3 to Year 6 classrooms. To assist in preparing our current Year 2 students into BYOD we will be running an information session for parents and carers. The session will provide information around:

- The history of BYOD at Thornton Public School;
- Device requirements & accessories;
- Safe storage of devices at school;
- Apps, updates and charging devices; and
- Internet safety at school.

The information session will take place on 25 November 2020 at 4pm. More information will be made available closer to the date.

National Bully Day -Superhero Dress Up Day-Wednesday 18 November

Bully Zero is proud to announce SuperHiro Wednesday - a fun day that will involve our students and teachers at Thornton Public School. Students are encouraged to wear their favourite Superhero outfit or symbol on Wednesday 18 November to highlight that we are all United Against Bullying.





Orientation Program for 2021 Kindergarten Students



Gala Day Changes

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions Thornton Public School will be withdrawing from the following gala days:

- Boys and Girls Cricket Gala Day Wednesday 4th of November
- Coalfields Rugby League Gala Day Friday 6th of November

Current COVID-19 guidelines indicate that we are not allowed to carpool. This affects us as the majority of students require transport by way of carpooling to and from these events.

I send my apologies to all students that were going to attend. I understand they would have been just as excited as I was for these gala days and this news will come with disappointment. Please keep an eye out for in-school sporting opportunities in the future.

Mr Eneliko Sport Coordinator

BYOD Survey

We would like to request that our parents and carers of students in Years 3 to 6 complete a quick survey about the success of Thornton Public School's BYOD Program. The information gathered will assist us to ensure the program is meeting the needs of our students. The survey will be a great opportunity to share what our school community believes has worked well and what improvements can be made to the BYOD program as it currently exists. The survey will close Friday 13 November 2020.

Use the link below to complete the survey.

https://forms.gle/Bc9HY3bdJthrm6C28



ICAS Certificates

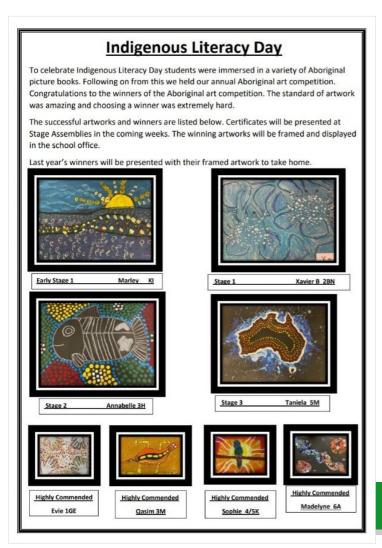
ICAS Tests

A BIG congratulations to our awardees who received their ICAS certificates at this weeks Stage assemblies. We are extremely proud of your efforts. Congratulations to:

Year 3 Year 4 Qasim R Sophia N Roshni R Caleb B Charlie T Jack B Lachlan J Micah T Zoe B Aleena D Grace C Haidee B Isabel P Isaiah L Cecilia T Lexvn T Chase T Isla C

Indigenous Literacy Day

Teacher Appreciation Week 2020



The Thornton Public school community has turned a citizenship activity into a generous donation for people in need.

The school has donated 32 hand made blankets to domestic violence and homelessness service Carrie's Place. Staff, their parents and grandparents knitted the squares which were then sewn into blankets.

Each of the creations was individually wrapped and carried a tag: "Wrapped with love from the students, teachers and community of Thornton Public School."

The school still has another 32 blankets to be completed and donated to the organisation and we have plans to hold a food drive in the lead up to Christmas

Special mention must go to teachers Yvonne Fletcher and Anne Osborn who co-ordinated the sewing of the blankets.

https://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/6952810/wrapped-with-love/





Legacy

Rob Osmond from Hunter Legacy visited Thornton Public School today to thank our school community for the money raised last Friday the 4th of September. The school raised \$973.50 from the sale of wristbands and other merchandise and all money raised staying in the local Hunter area to assist families of deceased service men and women.

A huge thank you to all who supported the event.



Youth Express Careers Quest





Mr Gaffney continued our school's great connection with the local community and Francis Greenway High School. He attended the Youth Express Careers Quest and spent the day speaking to year 9 students about potential career options. Teaching was just one of many professions represented such as the defence force, real estate, nursing and midwifery, graphic design, electrical engineering to name a few. Trying to convince high school students to be school teachers is a tough job Mr Gaffney but a few students were interested in becoming a teacher one day! It was a very successful day for all students as they had access to all presenters across the day as well as during small groups talks and discussions.

Wrapped with Love Project

100 year Pavers

In the holidays we had landscaping completed for our Peace Garden. We would like to thank the Department of Veterans Affairs for their contribution towards this and also all of our community for purchasing the 100 year pavers last year which were installed around our flag poles. We look forward to when we will be able to have all the community onsite to view the pavers.





Our new Orchid and Vegetable Patch

We have some beautiful new gardens around the school including our new fruit orchid beside the school hall and our vegetable patches located near the canteen and out the front of stage one classrooms. Our students have been helping our garden club to establish the plants and we look forward to been able to use the foods we grow in our canteen.





Nature Play Area

Students from 5C have been working with Mr.Carlon on a long-term project this year to research, design and create a nature-based play area. Students were responsible for researching play ideas, appropriate resources and how to build the space. Some of the ideas included a fairy garden, mud kitchen, water wall, construction zone, naughts and crosses (Bug style), sensory path, table and chairs and loose parts play areas. We have officially launched the area this term as a trial for K-2 students. The students have been having a wonderful time playing in a new, natural space and have been developing skills such as resilience, teamwork, creativity and imagination.





Wheelie Wednesday

Thornton's Wheelie Wednesday!

All students are invited to bring a scooter to school to participate in our Positive Playgrounds Program. Mr Gaffney and Ms Oke along with other teachers will be out supervising students riding scooters on the basketball and netball courts. Students can bring their scooter and helmet to school on Wednesday and store them safely near the Wellbeing HUB. Students need to come directly to school and hand their scooter over to Mr Gaffney or Ms Oke to store. Scooters can then be collected from Mr Gaffney or Ms Oke at the end of the day.

At lunch and afternoon tea time a course will be set up on the courts and students can ride around safely.

ALL students MUST have a helmet. No Helmet, No Riding, No Exceptions.

Looking forward to seeing lots of students Wednesday for a fun time.

- K 2 Wednesday 4th November
- 3 6 Wednesday 11th November
- K 2 Wednesday 18th November
- 3 6 Wednesday 25th November
- K 2 Wednesday 2nd December
- 3 6 Wednesday 9th December

Thanks

Mr Gaffney





PBL Rewards Day

Thornton Public School is a Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) school. Our universal values are Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. Twice per term, in weeks 5 & 10, we have an afternoon of fun and games to celebrate the success of our students who consistently demonstrate our values. To be eligible to attend our rewards days students must not, in any five-week period, be referred to planning room for poor behaviour or receive a letter (behaviour letter, suspension or warning of suspension) describing inappropriate behaviour. After each five-week period all students get a clean slate and

are eligible to attend the next celebration by showing Respect, Responsibility and Resilience at all times.

We look forward to celebrating the achievement of our students.

Regards PBL Team

Police visit re Social Media

On Thursday Senior Constable Wylie and Senior Constable Holloway visited Thornton PS to talk to Stage 3 students about social media and how to use it responsibly. This was a great information session and students did a great job listening to key information about the impacts of using social media and how their actions could impact on them and others.

The talk focussed on themes around age appropriate use, privacy and safe usage and what to do if there is an issue online and how this links to the law. We encourage all parents to keep an open line of communication with your children regarding their social media and online presence as this links to what the police and what teachers have been focussing on around cyber safety in 2020.

Stage 2 will be having the same talk later in the term.

Visit these sites for further information:

ACORN - https://www.acorn.gov.au/

E-Safety - https://www.esafety.gov.au



Food donations

Food drive for Carries Place

At Thornton Public School we can help make a positive difference in the lives of Australians by providing meals for people in crisis this Christmas by holding a food drive.

We are asking for donations of canned meals and vegetables to bags of rice and pasta, your generous donations will help make Christmas memorable for many families this year who would otherwise go without.

We welcome all non-perishable pantry items that are in-date and personal hygiene and household items. A few key items include;

- Bottled water
- Good quality tinned food and meals (with ring pulls)
- · Noodles, pasta, and rice
- Long life milk
- Muesli bars and snacks
- Deodorant, soap and body wash
- Shampoo, conditioner and sanitary items
- Baby food and formula

All donations will be going to Carrie's Place Domestic Violence and Homelessness Services. Who have been providing services in the Maitland and Lower Hunter area since 1979.

Carrie's Place provides a range of culturally appropriate services for people experiencing domestic and family violence, and/or homelessness.

Carrie's Place provides a range of services to vulnerable people to support recovery and build resilience.

Help us keep helping others and donate what you can. Please bring your donations to the front office.

Quality Teaching

Quality Teaching

Well done to Mrs Allen and 4AS!

Mrs Allen and 4AS are part of the launch of the Quality Teaching Academy. This has become the flagship professional learning of Newcastle University around improving student outcomes and teacher practice. See below link to browse through the newly launched website:

https://qtacademy.edu.au/

Keep an eye out for Mrs Allen, Miss Rutherford, Mrs Stanton, Mr Atherton and Mrs Osborn who appear thought the video and throughout the website.

Click on the link with Jenny Gore pictured that says 'watch the video'.

Well done to all involved.

Thornton Public School Online Enrolment

Our new online enrolment process makes it easier and faster to enrol your child at Thornton Public School.

https://thornton-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/#

Step 1: Go to About our school

Step 2: Go to Enrolment

Step 3: Scroll down to Apply for enrolment online see below

link

https://enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/#/?schoolCode=3204&cat chmentLevel=primary

Book Week 2020

Book Week Character Dress up day, the theme was Curious Creatures, Wild Minds

Well done to our school community for helping us celebrate Book Week. With your support our students were able to shine coming to school dressed up as their favourite book character. It was pleasing to see that our children's enthusiasm for reading is strong. Our students proudly dressed up and brought to life their favourite book character. Thank you to the staff for immersing themselves in the enjoyment of books by coming dressed as their favourite books characters too.

Sadly, due to Covid-19 restrictions, parents were unable to attend, however we have taken lots of pictures to share on our school app. More photos of the day will be placed in the library, our newsletter and on our website.





Freezy Fridays

Our students are loving Freezy Friday and purchasing iceblocks for 50 cents to help fund raise for Year 6. Dont forget to bring 50 cents in each Friday to enjoy a nice cold iceblock.



Drink Bottle Reminder

Just a friendly reminder to ensure your kids have a drink bottle at school every day. The weather is starting to warm up and due to covid restrictions, our bubblers are not to be used. The students have access to taps in their classrooms to fill their drink bottles during the day.



Lost Property

We have a few sets of glasses sitting in the office as well as some sets of keys. If your child is missing any of these items please send them to the office to collect them.



Message from Hunter Valley Buses

Hunter Valley Buses will take measures to ensure the comfort and safety of those onboard the bus isn't spoilt by a minority. Unacceptable Behaviour like bullying, fighting, pushing and swearing would not be tolerated in the classroom and will not be tolerated onboard the School Bus. Any students guilty of such breaches will have a warning letter sent home with any continued breaches resulting in a suspension from bus travel for a period of one to two weeks. Dangerous Behaviour like standing on seats, climbing over seats, swinging from railings, or throwing objects inside the bus may receive an immediate (longer) suspension without warning. I would implore any parent whose child uses these services to have a chat and reinforce considerate and safe behaviour on our buses, after all, these are the terms agreed upon when application for free travel under the School Student Transport Scheme was made.

https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/studentCodesOfConduct

Inspector Hunter Valley Buses

LOWES Sale



Birthday Bucket



School Pickup

Safety around our School

Friendly warning that Police are patrolling around our School to help maintain safety of our children and to ensure we are all following the road rules. There are still people double parking along Government Road during pick up time in the afternoon, please note this is against the law. There are plenty of parking spots available in the adjacent street. By double parking you are blocking visibility which forces other cars to go around you which puts our students in danger.

Please be respectful of our neighbouring properties and DO NOT park on or across their driveways, laneways or stand on their private properties including sitting or climbing on fences.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who keep our kids safe by obeying the road rules around the school for pick up and drop off. Please remember that patience is vitally important to the safety of our students and please consider parking a little further away and walking to collect your child.

Healthy Lunchbox

https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/579/fakeaways_nutrition_snippet_t3_w6_2020.pdf https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/580/food_waste_nutrition_snippet_t3_w6_2020.pdf https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/581/hlb_promotional_flyer_t3_w6_2020.pdf https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/582/snack_attack_nutrition_snippet_t3_w6_2020.pdf https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/583/spring_into_action_nutrition_snippet_t3_w6_2020.pdf https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/584/sunsmart_snippet_create_good_habits_t3_w6_2020.pdf

https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/678/term_4_good_for_kids_snippets_1_.pdf

COVID - 19 Advice for Families

COVID 19 guidelines in NSW Department of Education Schools update 5/11/2020

This update is attached for your information and can be accessed at https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families#Latest0