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Term 4 Week 10

Principals Message

We have reached the end of a very challenging and unusual school year which has been impacted by natural disasters and global pandemics. It has been a difficult year for so many people for many different reasons and I hope you are all able to enjoy family and take a break this Christmas. At school we have had an incredibly busy year but unfortunately we have missed so many opportunities to share activities with parents and community. I know we are all hoping that 2021 will be vastly different and we can return as much as possible to life before Covid-19.

There have been many events and activities we have had to cancel in 2020 due to covid-19 restrictions, including excursions, singing and meeting together with all students. However in recent days we have had some lessening of restrictions and we have at least been able to recognise our students at short fifteen minute presentation ceremonies. It was a real shame we could not share these special moments with families in person but I hope the video and photos make up for this in part.

Good Bye and Good Luck to all of our Year 6 students as you move on to the next stage of your school life. We enjoyed a wonderful farewell and graduation last week and I would like to thank all staff and parents who helped with the organisation.

We wish you all the best and hope High School brings you many years of rewarding education, fun and happiness. Also, I would like to thank our outgoing Parliamentarians for your outstanding student leadership during a very difficult year.

I had a lovely morning tea last week with the students of our Defence families that have been posted to other bases interstate. I am always impressed by these students who bravely pick up and move to new schools, have to make new friends and start again. I wish all of these family's safe travels and all the best for our students in their new schools.

I would like to thank the staff at Thornton Public School who all contributed toward your child's successful education during the many challenges we faced in 2020 not least of which was the home schooling earlier in the year. We are lucky to have such wonderful, caring Teachers who really have gone the extra mile in 2020. I know they are all looking forward to a well-earned rest this holidays and deserve some time to relax and refresh.

Sadly we are losing a few staff members to other schools at the end of the year. Brian Gaffney has been successful in gaining a permanent Assistant Principal position at Charlestown Public School. Congratulations Brian and enjoy the new job. Chris Soklaridis has been poached by the Kurri Kurri community of schools for a twelve month period to help them develop their transition to school programs. A big loss for us but good luck and enjoy your new job Mrs Sok. Tempe Oke is also leaving us to travel Australia and we wish her safe travels and all the best. We are also losing two staff members who have only been with us for twelve months Cena Alceviski and Cassie Reid. We wish both ladies all the best for their future endeavours. In 2021 we have a number of new staff members starting at TPS and I will introduce them early next year.

We also have Jessie Wright taking a year's maternity leave from her Deputy Principal position and wish her and her new family all the best for a fantastic 2021. Congratulations to Jessie and Steve. Eleanor Roberts will be the relieving Deputy Principal K-2 during the 2021 school year.

The last day of school for the year is Wednesday 16th December 2020. The 2021 school year for our students in Years 1-6 will begin on Friday 29th January.

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful holiday.

Stuart Wylie - Principal

Deputy Diaries

Week 10 already and only 3 days to go before holidays!!

We have had an amazing term and cannot be prouder of the responsibility, respect and resilience that the students at TPS have demonstrated in 2020 in what could be described as a challenging year for so many reasons. Thank you to our families for your ongoing support and commitment to your children and Thornton PS!

Some of the highlights the past couple of weeks have been; Year 6 transition days to high school, Year 6 farewell, Presentation Day and the fun in having 'Wheelie Wednesday', which will continue in 2021.

On behalf of all the Deputies, I would also like to thank all the Year 6 leaders for their hard work in 2020. They have been responsible, helping when they can and should be proud of their efforts in a very different year for leadership.

On Friday we celebrated all students who have demonstrated our PBL values consistently throughout the term with our PBL Rewards Day! Well done to those boys and girls who joined in and a big thank you to Mr Gaffney and Miss Oke for organising a cracking day. I know I enjoyed riding around the bush on a bike.

Teachers are already planning for 2021 and are working towards creating the best teaching and learning for your children. On behalf of Jessie Wright, Eleanor Roberts and myself, I want to thank every teacher for their incredible efforts this year.

To our families....we cannot express our gratitude for the support and resilience that you have provided for our most important assets, our children and their learning. This year, our teachers were so heartened and motivated by the efforts you made in supporting your children with their online learning throughout the year.

This year more than ever, students and teachers alike are ready for a great holiday, full of new experiences, swimming and sleep ins.

Have a great break!

Eleanor Roberts and Nathan Collins

Early Stage One Report

As we end our year, the Early Stage 1 have been reflecting together on the successes of students over their first year of school. And what a crazy first year that it was!!

I'd like to use this final newsletter to share and celebrate our school achievements with you. Over the year of Kindergarten, students have learnt how to read, how to write, how to communicate effectively with others, how to discuss topics in a group setting, how to listen to others, how to count forward

and backward, how to add/subtract/multiply and divide, how to use technology such as iPads, PMeCollection and Seesaw amongst many other life skills to set them on a learning trajectory.

I am proud to say that I have been the Assistant Principal of the wonderful, amazing Kindergarten 2020 students.

Thank you, parents and caregivers, for working with us to ensure our pupils are safe and happy and encouraged to dream, believe and achieve as they work toward their goals and ambitions.

Season's greetings,

Eleanor Roberts - Assistant Principal

Stage One Report

As this very unusual school year draws to a close, I would like to say thank you to all our students and parents for your support, cooperation and flexibility as we navigated through so many changes.

Thank you to all the stage one students for working hard, being resilient and building your skills and knowledge.

Thank you to all our families for working with us to provide support to all our students as they navigated different ways of learning.

Thank you to all the Stage One teachers for all your efforts in ensuring that all our students had quality learning experiences at home and school.

We hope you all have a wonderful safe and relaxing holiday.

Kelly Rutherford - Assistant Principal

Stage Two Report

With the close of a highly eventful 2020, students in year 3 and 4 at Thornton Public School move forward on to different challenges. Year 4 students enter stage 3 and will step up in their learning challenges to prepare for the transition to high school. Year 3 students consolidate their time in stage 2 and become the leaders of the group. Their educational opportunities continue to grow as do the expectations.

Students will say 'See you Later' to their awesome teachers and friends and will begin 2021 with the chances to begin new friendships with both teachers and children.

The end of every school year sees some changes occur with people moving on or moving in. 2020 sees the end of my time at Thornton Public School. I have spent 3 great years at Thornton. During this time I have gotten to know SO many names of students from all grades kinder to year six. I have

worked with some brilliant classes and hosted excellent events. I will always remember having the 2G Crew put on the Full Moon viewing evening. It was amazing to see so many people from our community coming to the school to share in the student's knowledge. This year I have spent time working with students from K to 6 and supporting their learning and time in the classroom from the Wellbeing Hub.

For next year I will be moving on to Charlestown Public School and the opportunity to meet and teach a whole new group of children. I have made great friendships with the staff, students and the fantastic Thornton community. I want to thank all the parents who have given me time to get to know them and their children. Thornton will be a school community that I will always remember as an embracing, engaging, exciting place.

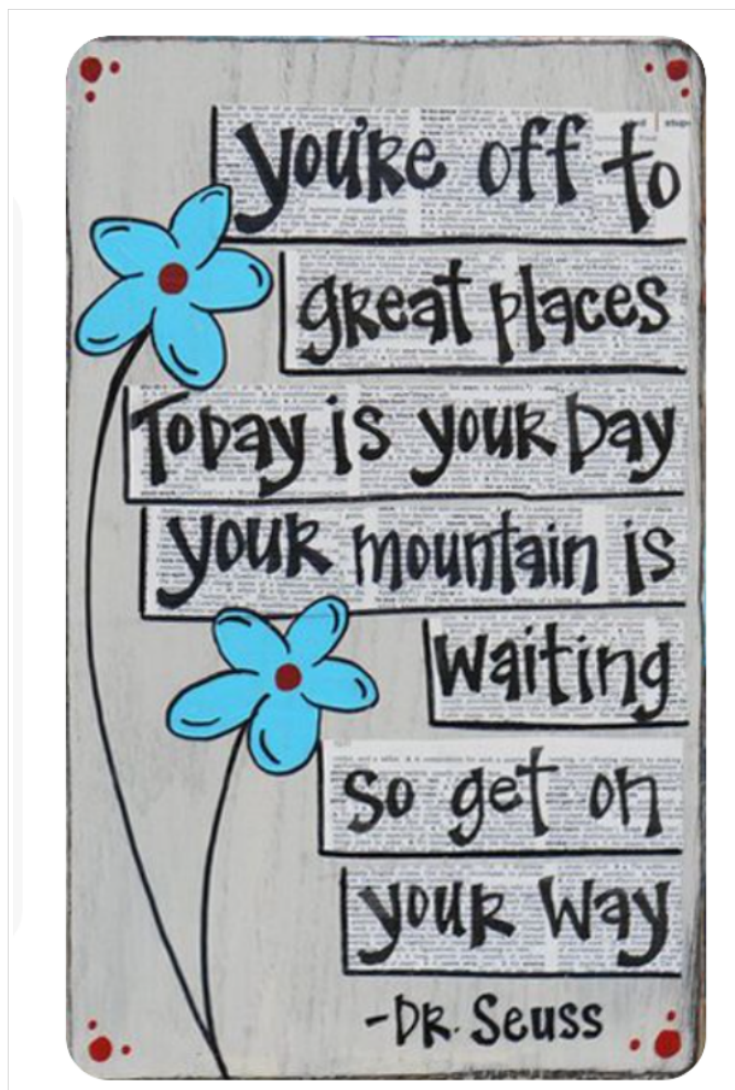
Regards

Brian Gaffney - Assistant Principal

Stage Three Report

Well, we have finally made it to the end of 2020 and what a year it has been!! I would to say a big thankyou to our amazing Stage 3 teachers, SLSO's who have worked with some of our Stage 3 classes and of course to our fantastic Stage 3 students!! Our students have certainly shown that learning can continue and is our core business even during uncertain times. We would also like to say a BIG thankyou to the parents and carers of these students for your ongoing support throughout the year.

We would like to congratulate all of our Year 6 students for their graduation from primary school and wish them every success in their future years at high school and beyond. We will certainly miss you all but at the same time, know that you will be on many new adventures in the next chapter of your school life. And as Dr Seuss said.....



We would like to wish all of our Stage 3 families a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy start to 2021. We will see our year 5 families again in the New Year.

Meegan Kavanagh - Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal Report

What a whirlwind my very first term at Thornton Public School has been. Thank you to all the staff, students and school community for making me feel so welcome to the school. What a wonderful school community to be a part of. I look forward to 2021 and hopefully learning more of the names of our 780 amazing students.

School Readiness Testing

Term 4 has provided me with the opportunity to work with all of our Stage 2 and 3 classes. During this time, we have successfully completed School Readiness Testing (SRT) with all of our Year 3 and 5 students. SRT is a process to ensure our school is adequately equipped for completing NAPLAN Online which will begin for our school in 2021.

Bring Your Own Device

The school has also completed a review of the current Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. The review process

gathered information from our staff, students and parents / carers. The result of this review process has assisted in our planning for 2021 to ensure the students at Thornton Public School have access to technology to enhance the learning that takes place in classrooms.

For those families that have a child beginning Year 3 in 2021 please don't forget to look at our recent BYOD Information Session video that was posted on the schools Facebook page and SZapp. Year 2 students should have received the BYOD Handbook and Student User Agreement in preparation for BYOD in 2021. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any further information on BYOD at Thornton Public School.

I wish our school community a safe and happy holiday. Please take care and enjoy your time with loved ones.

Shawn Rudolph - Assistant Principal

Elli Nix & Lauren Cartwright

KS

KS have been very busy in 2020 and have had a wonderful first year of school. It has been exciting to observe all the students growing their skills in literacy and numeracy. KS students have worked hard on their individual writing goals and enjoy writing stories in response to the texts that we have read. They have also put a lot of effort into developing their reading abilities to become successful and independent readers. Currently in KS, we are enthusiastically engaging in Number Talks. The students love to explore different ways of looking at problems and working out solutions. During Number Talks they are thinking critically, analysing and building collaborative skills. KS students are most proud of the artworks they have produced and enjoy displaying and admiring their creations in the classroom!

Naomi Schutt



KCN

KCN have had a very busy and exciting first year of school! It has been wonderful to see the students develop skills in all key learning areas, and particularly exciting watching their growth in reading this year. The students have really enjoyed writing about stories that we have read in class and have been working hard on their writing goals. They have also loved creating artworks linked to these texts and have shown a great sense of pride when they have been displayed around our classroom. KCN have enjoyed exploring maths concepts through hands on games and activities while also developing collaborative skills such as taking turns and working as part of a team. The students have loved working outside during MAPPEN activities and were very excited to grow their very own beans right here at school!



KI

KI have had a brilliant first year in Kindergarten despite the challenges of 2020! Upon students' return to school they were ready to learn and excited to see their friends. KI have been busy learning to read, and with access to PM eCollection students have been able to continue practising their reading at home through the use of technology. This year has also seen KI become enthusiastic writers, eagerly coming up with ideas and accompanying their writing with detailed pictures. We have been focused on producing 'quality work' and students have been trying hard to achieve their individual writing goals. KI have also been committed to improving their numeracy skills, using and discussing different strategies to solve problems. They have enjoyed the hands-on aspects of number games and measurement activities. KI have become skilled users of Seesaw, regularly photographing their work and recording their writing to share with families at home. The University of Newcastle recently came to film one of our writing lessons and were extremely impressed by the quality of our learning and technology skills. We hope you enjoy some photos of our highlights in KI this year!

Gabrielle Innes



KE

This has been the year of firsts in KE and we have had a marvellous time celebrating them!

We read our first book, wrote our first word and can now independently use a computer.

We have learnt to read time, count lots of objects and group them and even create our own picture graph of favourite colours.

We have learnt how to draw, colour, paint and make stick boat rafts that can actually float.

We have celebrated birthdays and losing our first teeth.

We have celebrated book week, NAIDOC Day, Harmony Day and PBL Fun Days.

We found lizards on the oval and 3D objects in our classroom.

We have been resilient, responsible and respectful!

Thanks for the great adventure KE!

Eleanor Ridder



KR

https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/962/newsletter_end_of_year_kr.pdf

KW

What a year it has been! After doing a great job of settling into new school routines...BOOM...a pandemic hit and kindergarten had to learn how to navigate school in an entirely unprecedented way! KW certainly did an amazing job either working from home or at school in such difficult circumstances. Each student has done our school proud by demonstrating our core values of respect, responsibility and

resilience. By Term 3, we were (almost) back to normal and back on track! We have had a ball learning, dressing up and enjoying all Thornton school has to offer. Wheelie Wednesdays, Book Week, Reward Days and Crazy Hair day are just a few fantastic times we won't soon forget. While we were disappointed that Covid 19 dampened our singing spirit and forced us to cancel our much anticipated showcase performance for Father's Day, we did recover and (as is the case with all true stars) the show went on. We can't wait for Year One and more adventures next year! Everyone in KW would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful new year!

Allanna Wallace



1R

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/qH8qC2vrVrQ?showinfo=1&rel=0>

1F

While it hasn't been a regular year, 1F have still found plenty of fantastic opportunities for learning and were involved in a wide range of activities and events. Students participated in the STEM Challenge for Education Week, where they had to work together to make marshmallow towers using only marshmallows and toothpicks. The class also enjoyed dressing up and donating for a good cause with events that included Pyjama Day, Harmony Week, Crazy Hair Day and many others. Everyone in 1F displayed great enthusiasm for learning throughout the year and will be looking forward to Year Two in 2021.

Nicholas Finney



1GE

1GE have been busy this year! The students have really enjoyed the writing that has been linked to our read to program and have felt a sense of achievement when these have been displayed in the classroom windows. 1GE have loved working together in maths groups and particularly enjoyed our lessons on Area. We have made use of the fresh air this year by participating in literacy groups, MAPPEN activities and maths tasks under the sheltered areas of the school. This term the students were involved in strengthening their fine motor skills in creative arts and have created wonderful self portraits and beautiful French knitting.

Cathy Gordon & Jennifer Edwards



What a year! So many great memories made in 1T. From our daily K-Pop dance-offs, our SPEC-TACO-LAR immersion of all thing Mexican for Harmony Day, making our own takeaway shop to learning all about Dacshunds. We have done it all and survived year 1 (and 2020).

My personal highlight was seeing each member of the class grow and develop their reading and writing skills. Our funnest (and tastiest) writing experience was composing a procedure to make Beast biscuits.

All the best from Mr Trindall and 1T!



1M

1M

We may have had to shut our gates and work a little bit differently, but we have still been working hard to learn new things. We may have even won the attendance trophy a few times!!



1/2P

Wow! Could this year have been any crazier? What started as a regular 2020 soon turned into utter chaos as we learnt from home, navigated Zoom, stayed away from each other the best we could and used a truckload of sanitizer and soap! Lucky we're a resilient bunch in 1/2P. We carried on learning and showing the Lizzie 5. We loved the STEM challenge day making rocket cars, riding our bikes and scooters at the Lapathon, ALL the super fun PBL rewards days and learning how to be great mathematicians and writers in class. It was amazing celebrating NAIDOC week this year and working together to create an awesome collaborative artwork. But the thing we enjoyed the most was getting to know each other and making new friends that we will get to spend time with for years to come. From everyone in 1/2P, we hope you have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

Blake Parker



1T

2BN

We're so proud of all our students in 2BN! We want to thank them for all their hard work, stories, warmth, jokes, kindness, resilience, willingness to try, thoughtful questions, smiles and curious minds.

We ended the year researching snakes. As a class they took an interest in pythons after reading the books 'I don't like snakes', 'Python' and 'How to swallow a pig'. All students were

busy gathering information, brainstorming keywords. Then they planned, composed, edited and revised. Then they published their work on Diamond pythons in the form of a brochure. Ask them a question and they can teach you all about them!

We think they are good enough to go on display in the Australian Reptile Park! Imagine!

They even had a STEM challenge to make the longest paper chain "snake".

Best wishes everyone.

Amy Burgin & Danielle Northfield



been. We have grown together and 2C was most definitely the place to be!!

Alarna Chapman



2R

2R Newsletter

What a year! Students in 2R have had lots of fun and worked hard this year as they adjusted to all the unexpected twists and turns that 2020 gave us. They have worked hard in maths, created beautiful art, written texts for different purposes, improved their reading skills, explored different ideas in our investigation centres and worked together on a variety of tasks.

2R should be very proud of themselves.

Kelly Rutherford



2C

What a year we have had in Team 2C!!

Throughout the year we have strived to achieve our learning goals in literacy and maths. We have a love of writing. Students have produced many quality work samples in the form of comics, letters, and our new favourite songs!! 2C love number talks. Always keen to have a 'sweaty brain', they love it when Mrs Chapman gives tricky questions where students have to think hard about how they can solve it. As a team, we loved the unit on length where we explored and measured around our school using metres and centimetres.

We have explored bees, the human body and science in our investigation space. We love being hands on and talking our findings.

We loved it when we interviewed Mrs Fletcher for our MAPPEN unit, Through Generations and were completely amazed at how different life was like in the past. We even produced a book about our predictions for the future (what a future it will be!).

We have planted flowers in our garden by following a procedure we wrote-how clever are we!! The challenge is just in remembering to water them (Sorry Mrs Brown).

2C certainly have skilled artists. We produced an amazing collaborative piece for NAIDOC week inspired by the book, The Rainbow Serpent. We love glitter and water paints, sketching and using warm and cool colours.

Our favourite game is Golden Child where we can utilise our athleticism and basketball skills.

This year has been great. Mrs Chapman has learnt that she needs to take more photos! Nevertheless, what a year it has

2S



3F

During NAIDOC week 3F enjoyed watching the Department of Education's daily live stream. We learnt lots of new things and enjoyed watching Archie Roach sing 'Took the Children Away' we followed this up with a read of his new picture book. We discussed the meaning and how that would make us feel. We collaboratively created this amazing artwork to. Doesn't it look great!



3H

This year has been busy doing lots of learning filled with hands on activities, art, technology and much more!

We have particularly been enjoying doing lots of artworks and exploring new concepts. We have been studying Australian artist Pete Cromer and learning all about Australian animals. Keeping with our Australia theme, we have also been researching Australian landmarks, learning our countries states and capitals and discovering how and where to find these on a map.

This year we also had mystery gift delivered to the class and students needed to persuade Mrs Hanly to open the gift! Fortunately our present was lots of new books to add to our class library!

3H has also been enjoying going to a soccer clinic each week to develop their skills and using devices to explore maths concepts.

Alison Hanley



3M

What a fabulous year with 3M ! It's certainly a memorable one. We had lots of fun on line learning, great art works produced, Premier's Sporting and Reading challenges completed.

Good luck to a group of wonderful hardworking students!



3/4M

3/4M have been busy learning all year. Even with COVID, we pushed through and came out on top! Online learning forced us all of become technology experts and Google Classroom masters in the matter of weeks. 3/4M have extended on these skills and have created amazing Google Slides on a variety of topics, including animals, landmarks and even on people! We have looked at coding and some of the class were even able to create some animations and games for us to play!

The thing that we're proud of those most is our times tables. For the past 2 terms, We've focused daily on completing 50 times tables facts of varying difficulty. They start off easy with 0, 1 and 2x, but by the end some kids are able to solve facts such as 3 x 9 x 4! In fact, 5 children have completed the challenge and are masters of their times tables all the way up to 12x. Mastering times tables facts so early in their learning journey will be a skill they can use for the rest of their life.

In the past term, we've really focused on Australia and what makes us special, We've been labelling maps, learning about natural and human landforms and famous Australians like Steve Irwin. All of 3/4M have gained an appreciation for our own backyard!

3/4M have had a fantastic year and are all excited to see what's in store for 2021!

Mr McLean



4AS

2020! What a year it has been! Our students have had such a resilient year and we have enjoyed many successes and

bonding moments that will be cherished. Here are two recounts from our students about all the cool things we have enjoyed this year in 4AS!

4AS has accomplished sensational goals this year! During online learning we had to be flexible and resilient by doing our work and making sure it was quality work! Our prodigious teachers Mrs Allen and Mrs Stanton have engaged us in our attractive learning and how to show the 3 R's. We have been resilient throughout the coronavirus time! As soon as we go in the classroom and out of the classroom we need to wash our hands to stop the virus! We are a welcoming class to all students and teachers at Thornton Public School!

Erinne Allen & Hannah Stanton

By Aaliyah Raw 4AS 2020

This year in 4AS we did this active training course called HIIT training. The whole 4AS participated in being active, at station 1 there were pushups x4 and situps x4. At station 2 there were getups x4 and 10m bear crawl. At station 3 there were lateral jumps x10 and situps x4. Finally at station 4 we did mountain climbers x10 and skier hops x4. We did this for 30 secs and then 15 secs rest and we did this 3 times, Then we rotated with one minute rest and that is my favorite activity because I love being active and pushing myself to the limit. Another thing we did was robotics which was fun because we got to do some coding with Mrs Stanton and Mrs Allen. The latest thing we did was maze coding. It was when someone built the course with tape and someone else was coding the sphero so it could make it through the custom made obstacle course. I loved this because I love playing with technology and computers. I hope you find our class very interesting because I sure do.

Zak Tompsett



4L

There really is only one word to describe 2020: CRAZY! It is one we won't forget in 4L in a hurry that is for sure. But one other thing for sure is that 4L, across the space of 3 and a half terms have developed into a fun, wild, caring, sporty, kind,

resilient and independent group of students that have one very proud teacher.

Learning from home was a steep learning curve for us all, but 4L embraced the challenge with open eyes (on zoom) and arms. Mr Lynch even managed to sneak in some fishing from home which was extra nice!

But thank goodness it didn't last too long, because being back at school gave us a chance to really get to know each other, practicing Kagan cooperative learning activities, learn about lifecycles, Australian landmarks such as Uluru, Kakadu and The Great Barrier Reef. There were sphero coding bots and coding lessons with Mr Rudolph, gardening with Mrs Brown and Wheelie Wednesday with Mr Gaffney. For a year that was cut shorter, we really managed to cram a lot in!

It has been a weird and wild year in 4L that we are all stoked we made it through unscathed, however I believe the skills and values we all learned and strengthened in 2020 will stay with us all for a long time. Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year to everyone!

Tom Lynch

4Z

4Z have has a great come back this semester . We recently have enjoyed Anti Bullying Day and had an awesome coach for soccer skills.

BYOD has been a highlight for on line learning and in the classroom .

All students in 4Z participated in The Premiers Sporting Challenge lots of Gold medals earned.

Little Z's, a great year was had !

Antoniet Ziliotto



4/5K

4/5K have had a year filled with many exciting times. We have all enjoyed learning about many things, from Roald Dahl's - 'The BFG' and 'Matilda' to electricity, democracy within Australia, our Asian neighbours as well as sustainability and the environment..... we really have learnt a lot in 2020. Despite the year that it has been, everyone has worked well together and united as a great team. I would like to say to all of the students in 4/5K that I have enjoyed every day and look forward to seeing your smiling faces back again for a fabulous 2021!!



5C

5C have had a wonderful year filled with discovery, growth and learning. During Education Week students took on a STEM challenge where they were to design a bridge out of spaghetti. Enjoy the highlights in the video below!

Joseph Carlon

https://www.youtube.com/embed/_j8iSSYJDj8?showinfo=1&el=0

5M

5M

5M were asked to create a poster to summarise our class and their favourite memories. This was the result:

IN 5M WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS.

WE EVEN DID ENVIRONMENTAL ART

5M IS THE BEST CLASS IN THE SCHOOL MY PROOF IS THAT RECENTLY OUR CLASS WAS SELECTED TO BE FILMED BY NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

My favourite memory from 5M is when we surprised Miss Martin for class appreciation week.

In class we have been doing a persuasive text and we are trying to persuade people to make recycling mandatory and in math we have been learning about balancing the equations of numbers

5M A GREAT WORKING HARD WORKING CLASS ALWAYS ON TASK WORKING HARD ALL DAY SPELLING MATHS SCIENCE GRAMMAR THATS ALL WE DO, FOREVER AND EVER!

'We all work hard and love our teacher because he is the best'

5/60

5/60 have had a very busy year. Just as we were getting into our stride COVID hit and we all had to figure out how to do our learning in a completely different way. Technology became our best friend and most of us enjoyed learning from home. Since we have come back to school we have not stopped. Sports clinics, crazy hair days, Remembrance Day, NAIDOC Week, PJ day, Freggy Fridays, STEM challenges and exploring our amazing playground and school environment have made our school days varied and interesting.

Our writing has improved, with some of us publishing books for kindergarten to read. I think we have some future authors in our class! We have read some fantastic books this year – Red by Libby Gleeson, The BFG by Roald Dahl, Matilda by Roald Dahl, Fish in a Tree by Linda Mullaly Hunt to name just a few.

In maths we have learnt about BODMAS, area, perimeter, 3D shapes, chance and data, measurement and of course addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. Number talks have featured in all of our maths lessons, they have been a great way to get students to talk about the strategies they used to answer questions.

And of course, we have done lots of art – dream jars, Pete Cromer inspired birds, drawn self-portraits, leprechauns and dragons. Some of us love art a lot more than others do!

It has been a great year, even with the challenges of remote learning.

Worlds End

5/60/5/60 • 23/02/2023

Some in the past thought that that the future would be bright. For Earth, the ecosystem is upside down and back to front. Africa is a rain-forest, Greenland is one of the hottest places on the planet and Australia is made of ice. Antarctica has melted and the sea levels have risen. All the air pollution has gone into space and inverted the Sun, turning it blue, deadly, and unstable. The Solar System is getting hotter by the second.

After the pandemic ended in 2022, humanity came back but the world added that day. Tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, lightning storms are all common.

6AN

6AN

6AN have begun exploring the world of programming through the use of Scratch and Sphero. Students have been learning the basics of computer programming and combined with their skills in mathematics have created digital artworks and programmed a robot to find its way through a maze.



6W

Although it has been a very unusual year for everyone, 6W have kept their positive growth mindset and got on with the job of conquering their final year of primary school. This year will be one to remember for all students in 6W, new friendships have been made and existing friendships have gotten stronger. All students have worked hard on their learning goals throughout the year. During Term 3 we studied two of Roald Dahl's novels, 'Matilda' and 'The BFG', in response to them we wrote informative, persuasive and creative writing pieces, we even wrote our own poems. During Term 4 we have studied the environment and sustainability and read the novel 'Red' which was enjoyed by everyone. 6W have used their creativity in STEM projects and in art, we are all looking forward to lots of Christmas craft and finish off the year in a cheerful way. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Miss Watson and 6W.

Amy Watson



6E

The year that was COVID-19! I am still struggling to deal with the fact that this school year is coming to an end. 2020 for 6E started just like any other year would. I met a new group of learners that were ready to tackle their final year of primary school. I was so excited to get to know them. Then... BOOM! Lockdown, working from home, social distancing, hand washing and let's not forget the toilet paper debacle. 6E went on to prove their resilience by pushing through adversity and continuing to learn from home.

It was a great moment seeing 6E back in class together and reunited with friends after a tough couple of months at home. They didn't miss a beat returning to class, working hard to achieve personal goals and learn new skills across all KLA's. It has given me great joy to see the amazing academic, social and emotional growth of all students in 6E. They are off to start a new chapter of their life in high school next year. I wish them all the best and hope they know they will be dearly missed. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Bring on 2021!

Mr Eneilko

Defence School Mentor's Report

Welcomes

This year TPS welcomed eight new Defence families into our school, including two families on exchange from the United Kingdom. Our two United Kingdom families arrived in the midst of a drought, a summer heatwave, bushfires and the associated dust and smoke in the environment. Also throw in a COVID Lockdown, both families are a great example of resilience and all at Thornton wish them a very happy Australian Christmas.

COVID 19 Impact

COVID-19 meant that many Defence families endured separations due to travel restrictions and members manning the borders and hotel quarantine duties. We thank them for their service in keeping us all safe. COVID also meant that many of our social functions were curtailed and a number of programed

activities such as the Stage 1 Defence Girls' Group, Defence Buddies and Deployment Group were all cancelled.

TPS Great Paper Plane Challenge

As we returned to school the Great Paper Plane Challenge was set for Defence students. The challenge was to construct a paper plane that could fly the longest distance. Our test flights in the hall were lots of fun with prizes also being awarded to the best decorated planes and the best acrobatic stunt. Our TPS Paper Plane Champion was Thomas from 3M.

Thornton Public School Peace Garden

This year the school applied for and was successful in obtaining a Saluting Their Service Grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The grant of \$5000.00 went to improve the garden bed around our Lone Pine and provide sandstone plinths for a number of commemorative plaques which have been presented to the school. The area has also been improved with the incorporation of paving purchased by community members as part of the school's centenary in 2019. This has enhanced the area under our new flag poles which were installed in 2019.

Signage and the incorporation of two grass trees also symbolise the traditional owners of the land and our shared military history. Further funding will be applied for to finish off our garden with a focus on commemorating the service of our local men and women.

Legacy Badge Day

In September our school captains, Clayton and Beau, assisted with the selling of Legacy wristbands on behalf of Hunter Legacy. Over \$860.00 was raised. All money raised stays within the Hunter district to assist families of deceased service men and women.

Farewells

It is always with great sadness at the end of the year we say farewell to our Defence students who are moving schools due to postings. This year we farewell six families. All staff wish them the very best for the future and we hope they take fond memories of their time at TPS.

Best wishes to all for a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Yvonne Fletcher

Defence School Mentor



Message from P & C

Well, what a year it has been! It's been a tough year this year for our school and the community due to COVID-19 and the restrictions that were placed on all of us. Although we haven't been able to hold the fund-raisers that we had planned, we have still been present in the school and local community. We have helped rotary make a smooth transition into our school canteen and assisted our school where required.

The P&C would like to thank the school staff for all their assistance they have provided to us during the year. A massive thanks to all the teachers, support staff and admin staff for all their guidance and assistance and for keeping our school running during Covid-19. Also, a big thankyou to all the parents, carers and grandparents for assisting not only the P&C, but also the school during this year!

We are always looking for people to join the P and C or volunteer your time to assist us with fund-raising. If you are interested in joining the P and C, and being part of the school community, please come to our meeting on the First Monday of the Month. Our first meeting for 2021 will be held Monday 1st February. We look forward to seeing some new faces!

We have some fantastic fund-raisers planned, but are always open for your ideas and suggestions!

As we all know, it wasn't an easy year but we've made it through. Here's to a wonderful 2021!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and Happy new year!

Thornton Public School P&C

Presentation Day

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htsNQ96NzVM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1CMQNFVfV-m1UVSW8aluS_AkLRTum8g3irCFj-1QKpxX7EyBcblbqDdcA

Year 6 Farewell

Our Year 6 students had a great night at their Hollywood Themed Farewell on Wednesday. They all enjoyed dancing away and taking selfies in our Mirrored Selfie Booth. We would like to send out a massive Thankyou to the below people for making the event a success. Photos will be emailed to parents of Year 6 students.

THANKYOU TO

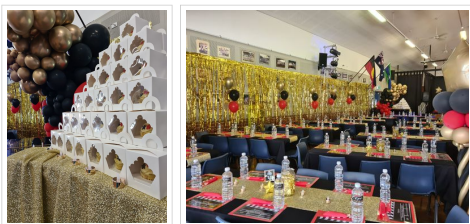
The Balloon Bloke - If you need balloons for an event they were amazing and parents of our school so show them some support when you can on facebook.

Our yummy cupcakes were made by Kelly Anderson

and further donations were made by Mr & Mrs Bondini from Coolrite Airconditioning to ensure we could have a great DJ for the night

Food was by our Rotary Canteen and was delicious.

Thankyou to all our teachers involved in this event.



Year 6 Leaders 2020

Thankyou to our Year 6 Leaders for their work during a tough year and showing great resilience and leadership to our other students.



150 Night Reader Lunch with the Principal

Stage 1 Students that have read for 150 plus nights were able to celebrate their efforts by having a morning tea with the Principal today. Congratulations to our wonderful readers.



Creative Arts

Some great work from 3/4M in Creative Arts! Masks used in drama activities and Ms WS has thoroughly enjoyed teaching these talented children.

Jillian Wilson-Stevens

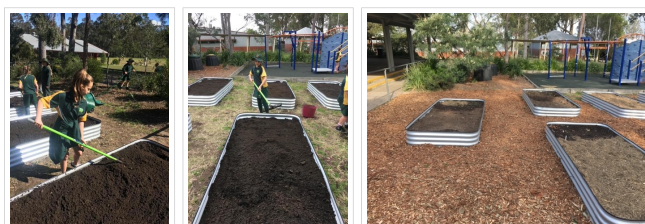


Garden Club

2020 certainly has been a tough year with a lot of cancellations and adjustments to normal activities. In contrast to this, the environmental committee has had one of the busiest and most productive years yet.

The reason for this was successfully winning a \$10,000 grant that Ms Foster applied for through Sustainable Schools NSW. The environmental committee decided to go down the path of vege gardens as it gave great opportunities for the children to help out and it would provide us with fresh fruit and vegetables. Throughout the year, we have installed, filled and planted out 16 raised garden beds in two locations, increased our school composting capacity, added worm farms for certain food scraps and planted a number of different fruit trees. The children have loved germinating seeds, planting seedlings, landscaping to make our garden locations not only look better but reduce erosion and maintain our gardens by weeding and watering. We can't wait to come back from the holidays to see what has grown.

Blake Parker



NAIDOC Week 2020

NAIDOC Week 2020

Always Was, Always Will Be

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

Thornton Public School students participated in bush walks around our school grounds learning about native plants. Traditional games were played and students learnt about the significance of eagles in Aboriginal culture. The eagle is also very special to the Wonnarua people, who are the traditional owners of the land we live and learn on.



Wheelie Wednesday

Woohoo, Its Wheelie Wednesday!

Scooters of any sort are welcome on Wednesdays at Thornton PS so our students can get out and have a blast at playtime. Split between K-2 and 3-6, Wheelie Wednesday is an engaging lunchtime activity designed to keep students active and healthy while making our playground a more relaxed place to be. An energetic lunch break to take on a challenging, speedy circuit is just what keeps students engaged and learning in the classroom.

Looking forward to more Wheelie Wednesday fun in 2021.



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - Wednesday 16th December

Just a reminder that this Wednesday the 16th of December is the last day of school for students. Students are welcome to wear Christmas Attire on Wednesday.

School will resume on Friday the 29th of January 2021 with Kindergarten students starting on Wednesday the 4th of February. An email will be sent out this afternoon to Kindergarten 2021 parents.

Class Equipment List 2021

https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/881/class_equipment_stage_1.pdf

https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/882/class_equipment_stage_2.pdf

https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/883/class_equipment_stage_3.pdf

Lowes - School Uniforms

School Uniforms can be purchased from Lowes and back to school offers will be advertised closer to start of school 2021.

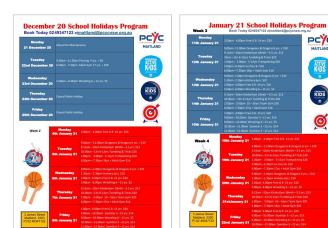
BYOD Francis Greenway 2021

https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/790/byod_flyer.pdf

School Holidays 2020

<https://newywithkids.com.au/christmas-events-in-newcastle-the-hunter/>

Maitland PCYC



https://thorntonps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/875/maitland_pcy_4.pdf

Maitland Tennis



MAITLAND TENNIS CENTRE



JANUARY 2021

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CLINIC

Great outdoor fitness for all ages...Have fun and make new friends

Learn and improve on your tennis skills

Receive free racquet when you join Maitland Tennis Centre

Where: Maitland Tennis Centre, Cnr Page & Lawes St, East Maitland
When:

January: 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs)

Time: 9.00am to 10.30am per day

Price: \$60.00 for 3 Days & \$80.00 for 4 days per child

Age: 4 years to 16 years Beginner to intermediate

BOOK NOW: PH 0421882055 or 0412210700

Email: info@maitlandtenniscentre.com.au

Available all year round

All levels Jnr, Adult, Group coaching and private lessons.

Jnr comps, Men's and Ladies social comps.



Good for Kids good for life

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

The days are getting longer and it's a great chance to get outdoors with the family.

Have fun finding as many things as you can in this scavenger hunt, or create your own.

You could go for a walk in your local area, or even just your backyard.

Encourage children not to touch or collect the items, but record them on their hunt sheet.

- An animal's footprint
- A bird's nest
- A clover (find a 4 leaf clover for an extra 10 points!)
- The Southern Cross
- Paper bark
- A native Australian animal
- A mushroom or fungus
- Spot a creature that lives underwater
- A large feather
- A sunrise or sunset over the horizon
- A lilly pilly tree
- A gumnut
- A waterfall
- A heart-shaped stone
- A farm animal
- Spot a witchetty grub
- A herb garden
- Nature pushing through concrete

For an example downloadable list, visit: natureplayqld.org.au/nature-play-scavenger-hunt

Acknowledgement: Northern Sydney LHD



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>

Good for Kids