Principal's Corner - 27 November 2014

As always, this is an intense few weeks as we complete what has been a very productive year of teaching and learning at Thornlands SS, whilst at the same time preparing for next year. Enrolments are being taken, classes are being formed, furniture is being shifted and end of year celebrations are taking place. It is indeed very busy and exciting.

In addition we are working towards being ready for effective teaching and learning from day one of next year. To that end between now and the end of the year, teacher teams will be working collaboratively with our Head of Curriculum (Kristy Warriner) planning their Term 1, 2014 program. One of the strengths of our school is the quality of our teaching teams in each year level. This collaboration is another key component in the quality of learning that takes place at Thornlands, as it enables teachers to draw on the experience, and aptitudes of each other as they plan together. At this time I would like to thank Kristy for the significant contribution she does in this key area.

Inevitably, at this time of year teacher transfers take also place. This year, sadly, we must farewell Janice Rees, who has been transferred to BayView SS. Janice has been at Thornlands for many years and will be missed. I am sure you join me in wishing her all the very best in her new school. At the same time we welcome Mrs Sam Gerry to our wonderful teaching team. Sam is an experienced teacher, who has been transferred to Thornlands from Beenleigh SS. At this time I would also like to wish Robyn Weber, our school Guidance Officer all the very best as she ventures off on 12 months leave in 2015. Robyn is a very valuable member of our school support team and she will be sorely missed. We hope to see you back from your adventures in 2016, Robyn.
This Tuesday, it was great to share afternoon tea with so many of our community members (parents, grandparents and others) who volunteer in a myriad of ways for our school. **The number of volunteers we have is indeed another strength of our school** as their contribution supports and enhances the work of our staff in gaining the great student outcomes that we do. **Thank you all!**

For your information, the **official results** Thornlands SS achieved in our recent **Discipline Audit** have been received and are now on our **school website**. They are another outcome for us to be proud of - the result of great team work by our teaching and non teaching staff. **I encourage you to check them out.**

In addition, having just completed a meeting with the Assistant Regional Director, I can proudly say that on a range of measures that all State Schools are judged on, we are **again one of the very highest performing schools in the South East Education Region**. We have no "red" - a very simplistic way of saying we are doing very well across the board. This includes not just academic outcomes (including Naplan), but also measures such as attendance, enrolment growth and staff, parent and student school opinion data. A whole school community effort is what achieves this and I thank all of our staff, but also you, our parents for your wholehearted support and contribution to the work we do.

As I have already pointed out, the next couple of weeks are extremely busy and of course very exciting as we wind down to the holidays. Other big events still to come are the Christmas concert next Tuesday night, The Student Leaders Assembly next Monday, the senior and junior swimming carnivals, the Year 6 and 7 Graduation and the Sea World excursion to name just a few. **I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.**

**Enrolment matters**

*If you know that your children will not be attending Thornlands SS in 2015 please contact the school Office as soon as possible to assist us in our planning.*

If you have a Prep aged student who will be attending Prep at Thornlands next year and you have not already done so, now is the time to get the enrolment process completed (even if you already have older children already attending our school). If you have not done so as yet, please contact the school Office ASAP for an interview time. This assists us greatly with our planning for next year.

Thanks for your ongoing support of our great school,

Regards

Robyn

At Thornlands state school we will shortly be activating ‘push notifications’ to everyone that has the Qschools app downloaded on their phone. If you want to be kept up to date with all the latest
information e.g. pupil free days, school functions, emergencies etc then please download the Qschools app.

Please see the attached flyer for details.

**Absence Line - 3821 8181**

All absences must be reported to the office either by the absent line or directly to office staff to ensure the accuracy of our records.

School News

**DATE CLAIMERS**

Money collection days are Tuesday & Thursday Before 10am

**Eftpos is available!**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Dec</td>
<td>Online booklist orders must be placed by today</td>
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<td></td>
<td>See booklists here</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Dec</td>
<td>CDSHS Creative Arts Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christmas Concert 5-8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>Religious Education Christmas Celebrations</td>
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<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>All Day Senior Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>All Day Junior Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Year 6/7 Graduation</td>
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| 10 Dec | Prep Orientation Day 9:00-10:00 in the hall  
Uniform Shop open 10:30am - 1pm  
Current Students to visit 2015 teachers & classrooms at 2:20pm |
| 11 Dec | Year 6/7 Seaworld Excursion  
Break up parties in classes |
| 12 Dec | Last Day of the school year |
| 22 Jan | Uniform Shop open 9am to 12pm |
| 23 Jan | Uniform Shop open 9am to 12pm |
| 27 Jan | First Day of School 2015  
Uniform Shop open 8:30am to 9:30am |
| 30 Jan | Uniform Shop open 8:30am to 9:30am |


The lost property box is overflowing at present with many items not named. Could you please come down to the Teacher Aide room and look in the lost property box located outside. All lost property will be disposed of at the end of each term.

Busy Bugs Playgroup

Do your children go to the school and have younger siblings? Or are you looking for a playgroup? Playgroup for babies to toddlers is held every Tuesday morning in the school hall from 9:00a.m. till 11:00a.m. It's a great way to get your child familiar with the school, have lots of fun and meet some
new people. Come have a cup of coffee and chat while your child has a play. We have some fun activities coming up such as a beach party and baking pizzas.

Just turn up or you can call Jane on 0409 950 642 or Jacqui on 0407 778 221.

Music News

Our amazing production of ‘The Rockin’ Tale of Snow White’ has now come to an end however you can keep the memory of this musical forever with a DVD. The musical was professionally recorded on Friday night and DVD’s are available to order for $30. If you would like to purchase a DVD, complete the information required and return it with cash to Mrs Connor or the school office. Be sure to include your name, class, DVD quantity and how much cash is enclosed.

Curriculum Corner

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is incredulous to think that it is that time of the year again, where teachers are madly marking assessment pieces and finalising results for report cards. All reports will come home on the Wednesday of Week 10. From the report, you can expect communication regarding your child’s progress against the Australian Curriculum achievement standards for their year level. It will also highlight their areas of strength and areas for further development. Should you have any questions about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.
During Week 10, your student will also bring home their portfolio. This is a sample of the summative assessment pieces that they have completed throughout the year. Other work samples are retained for our records and will be passed on to your child’s teacher for 2015. I am positive your child would love to share with you the tasks they have completed throughout the year and the clear progress and development that they have made. Definitely a time of celebration!

Our Students Taking Their Learning Further:

Sustainability is currently on everyone’s mind including the Year 2 and Year 3 cohorts who are learning about this important topic in Geography. Whilst the Year 2 students were learning about sustainable practices and alternative energy sources, the Year 3 students were investigating ways of protecting the Great Barrier Reef. I’m sure this would impress President Obama greatly. When questioned, the students shared with me some of their ideas to protect this wonder of the world.

Ernie thought it was important to reduce or redirect boats around the reef.

Ella suggested reducing pollution and the number of tourists visiting the reef each day.

Whilst Holly proposed the use of specific zones for the reef - ‘safe’ zones and ‘out of bounds’ areas to help the reef regenerate.

Ellis W in Year 2B was inspired to go further in his learning by making his own working model of a wind turbine after viewing a clip on this topic in his library lesson last week. A fantastic example of ‘Being a Learner’! Well done Ellis!

PBL and YCDI

As I’m sure you are aware from previous newsletters and in discussions with your child, PBL (Positive Behaviour For Learning) underpins all practices at our school. Basically this means that the approaches and decisions we make as educators are based on research regarding how students learn best. In order to create an environment of positive behaviour, the research highlights the need for students to be explicitly taught social skills and how to be effective learners. The incidental learning of social skills that occurs daily in teaching is often not enough, especially when it comes down to developing confident and resilient life-long learners. This is where our social skilling programme, You Can Do It (YCDI) comes in to play. All classes from Prep to Year 7 participate in
YCDI lessons at least once a week. This can sometimes form part of their Health unit or as a separate lesson in its own right. At present all students from Prep to Year 7 are discussing what it means to be persistent and why persistence is important. Here are some of the comments the students recently shared with me:

Persistence means not giving up. (Elliot)

By persisting every night, I have improved in my times tables. (Felicity)

I persisted when I didn’t give up with my spelling. (Sharna)

I persisted with my writing task and I finally finished! (Jackson)

Here is another poster from Year 3 about our three school rules:

As a learner I will be: safe, responsible, respectful.

Thank you to all students who have shared work with me.

With so much debate in the media of late regarding the overcrowded nature of the Australian Curriculum, I thought I would finish with this fabulous quote:

Don’t limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time.

Kind regards,

Kristy Warriner

Head of Curriculum

Brekky Club

Come join us every Thursday for a free breakfast in the hall. Running from 7.45am. Students start your day with a full stomach and ready for the day. Thanks to Redlands City Church for supporting this program. Everyone welcome. See you all Thursday morning!

P&C News

Uniform Shop

Monday mornings - 8.30am - 9.30am
The uniform shop will also open on the following days and times:

Prep Day  10 December 2014  10.30am - 1.00pm

Opening times for the new year

Thursday  22 January 2015   9am to 12pm
Friday    23 January 2015     9am to  12pm

Tuesday 27 January 2015 - Friday  30 January  8.30am - 9.30am

Fundraising Committee News

A huge thank you for everyone's support in the final Bunnings B.B.Q for 2014. Had a great day, with so many families saying hello and supporting this event. We raised $789.70 on the day. Also a big thank you to those wonderful families that donated food vouchers, it was very much appreciated.

Have a safe and brilliant Christmas and will see you in the New Year.

T.S.S FUNDRAISING TEAM.

Advertising at the school

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: Thornlands P&C are putting the call out to all local businesses interested in advertising on the South Street fence line (outside School Hall). Competitive rates for maximum exposure. Don't miss out!! Contact Dee-Arn Plain at deeamplain@yahoo.com.

Aluminium Can Collection

Just a reminder that here at Thornlands we have a collection cage down near the staff car park entrance at the southern end of Panorama Drive that all your aluminium cans can be recycled into. This helps in 2 ways. It helps our environment and funds raised go back into our school. So please take a little time if you can and bring your cans here instead of throwing them into the bin at home. You'd be surprised just how much this can add up to over the year and the funds raised go towards resources for our children! THANK YOU.

Community News
Summer is on the way!