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Principal's Corner - 24 October 2013

This Friday, 25 October, is **World Teacher's Day** – a special day when we remember to appreciate the great work our teachers do and to thank them. I encourage you, our parents, to **send a thank you to the teachers who nurture your children each and every day**. It will really be appreciated and so well deserved!

The next few weeks are indeed very busy as we move towards the end of this year, whilst preparing for next year.

In the next few weeks the teachers and myself will be formulating **class lists for 2014**.

A lot of time and serious consideration goes into this task, as we consider the individual learning needs of every student. We take care to ensure that all children move into the new year with at least some of their friends, we try to balance each class in terms of the learning needs of the students and we also aim for an equitable distribution of boys and girls. This is not always easy and sometimes moving just one or two students to another list can ruin the balance. In general classes are not assigned to specific teachers until the last week of school, when we are quite certain about our staffing for next year. **We are not able to take requests from parents for particular teachers, but if you have any concerns about the educational needs of your children that may impact on their class placement for 2014 please complete a yellow "Class Placement" form (available from the Office) and return to the Office, at the latest, by Thursday October, 31 (next week). If you know that**

your children will not be attending Thornlands in 2014 please contact the school Office as soon as possible to assist us in our planning.

Recruitment for our instrumental program is also well underway at the moment with students in Years 2,3 and 4 being encouraged to consider taking up an instrument. A parent information evening will take place next Tuesday, 29 October at 5:30pm. **Learning music is a great way to develop discipline, commitment and teamwork as well as the joy of creating music.** I encourage you to come along and find out more if you think your children would benefit from this opportunity.

Planning is also well underway for the **Year 7 Graduation** which will take place on Tuesday 10 December and the **Year 6 Farewell Ceremony** which will take place on Wednesday, 11 December. Details about these events will be sent home to parents in the very near future.

Swimming lessons have begun this week, with an air of excitement as each class makes its way to the pool. **Thank you to Aaron Tuni our P.E. teacher** who has done a great job of structuring a very effective swimming program for all of our students.

One of the strengths of our school is the involvement of a large number of parents and other community members who volunteer their time in a myriad of ways from assisting in the classrooms, to working in the tuckshop, to attending camps and excursions, to upgrading our gardens and in so many other ways. **Their contribution overall is invaluable and so we would like to say thank you.** On Thursday, 5 December at 9:30am we will be holding a morning tea to express our appreciation for the time and commitment of our volunteers. **Watch out for your personal invitation coming home in a couple of week's time.**

Please note – 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.

As reported in the last newsletter, congratulations to Trent K on his **selection in the Queensland Primary School Boys Softball team** The Student Council will be holding a Free Dress Day on Tuesday, 5 November to assist with Trent's team expenses.

Health and Safety

In the interests of the health and safety of all our staff, students, parents and other visitors I ask you to be mindful of the following important matters:

- The playground equipment is not to be used before and after school, as its use is not supervised at those times.

- Smoking is not allowed on school grounds. Should you need to smoke, please ensure that you move away from gateways and other entry points where children and parents are likely to pass close by.
- Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds at any time.

Thank you in advance for your consideration with regards to these important matters.

Crimestoppers

You may have noticed a new Crimestoppers sign next to our gate on South Street. This has been provided by the local Crime Prevention branch of the Queensland Police. To assist them to promote Crime Stoppers I have included the link to Crime Stoppers Queensland below.

https://qld.crimestoppers.com.au/cs/queensland_home.jsp

Thanks for your ongoing support of our great school.

Regards

Robyn

<p>Absence Line - 3821 8181</p> <p>All absences must be reported <u>to the office</u></p> <p>either by the absent line or directly to office staff</p> <p>to ensure the accuracy of our records.</p>
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School News

DATE CLAIMERS

Money collection days are Tuesday & Thursday Before 10am

24 October	Parent Forum QSA Findings and Feedback - 9AM Library
25 October	World Teachers Day
29 October	2014 Band and Strings Parent Info Evening
30 October	Prep uniform fitting day 9am-12noon

5 November	Free Dress Day
7-8 November	Year 1 UWW Sleepover (1S, 1HD, 1M)
13 November	Cluster Sport Day
14-15 November	Year 1 UWW Sleepover (1R, 1HK)
3 December	Creative Arts Extension Day CDSHS
4 December	Christmas Concert
5 December	Volunteer Celebration
10 December	Year 7 Graduation
11 December	Prep Orientation Day 9am-10am Year 6 Farewell 2pm
13 December	Last Day of Term 4
23-24 January	Uniform Shop 9am-12noon
28 January	School resumes 2014

**[Click here](#) to view 2013 School Calendar
and [2014 School Calendar](#)**



PREP ENROLMENTS 2014

Orientation Day - Wednesday 11 December

Introduction to the teacher and class 9:am - 10:00am

Please click [here](#) for further information.

A reminder that for any of you who have young children turning five by June 30 2014, they are eligible to attend Prep next year. If you have friends or neighbours with children this age, please pass on this information to them also. For an enrolment form/ information contact our school office on 3821 8111.

Curriculum Corner

Last week I had the privilege of presenting certificates on assembly to students who participated in the Mathematics, English and Writing tests in the International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) this year. ICAS are developed for students in Years 2 – 12 and are sat annually. There are 6 ICAS tests in total - Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing.

The following students are to be commended for their outstanding results.

Credits in ICAS English:

Year 4: Kara R

Year 7: Nathan G

Credit in ICAS Writing:

Year 3: Jada R

Year 4: Kara Robinson

Credit in ICAS Mathematics:

Year 2: Brodie W

Year 3: Guntaas K, Jada R

Year 5: Tylah D, Rebecca F, Harleen K, Graeme M, Deanne S.

Year 6: Charlie C, Baeddán D,

Year 7: Stuart M, Jayden M

We also had two students receive a ***Distinction*** in the ICAS Mathematics test. This equates to being in the top 10% for the State! They were: Makayla C in Year 3 and Nadia W in Year 4. An outstanding achievement!

Congratulation to all award recipients.

Parent Information Sessions - Reading

Next week I will be holding two information sessions for parents on Reading at 9am in the Library. Monday morning will target parents of students in the lower school P-2 and Tuesday will target parents of students in the upper school Years 3-7. Each session will discuss the expectations of the Australian Curriculum and how you can assist your child with their reading at home.

Reading is such an important skill and research time and again has continued to highlight the links between reading, academic performance and life-long learning. It underpins everything we do at school and beyond. Reading helps to develop phonological awareness, word recognition and spelling patterns, vocabulary development and of course comprehension. It is important to note that 'fluency', although important, isn't the sole focus of reading, especially in the upper Primary years. Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of what they have read by being able to summarise and retell in their own words, make inferences, apply and evaluate. With practice, even students as young as Prep can retell the main events in a story or information text, tell you whether they enjoyed a book and why and link the ideas and events in a book to something else they have read, their life or the world. A few simple strategies can go a long way in supporting and reinforcing these skills at home and therefore assisting your child in their reading development.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Kristy Warriner Head of Curriculum



Gardening Club

Thank you to the volunteers involved with this project so far. Staff and students are enjoying the improvements already. Come and join our new gardening club. Meeting in the office every Tuesday from 15 October from 9am to 12 noon.

Wish List

- small to medium clean empty plant pots
- potting mix for cuttings
- poly pipe and fitting for irrigation system

Please contact Tanya to organise drop off of items or if you are able to help on 0438445501 or via email jatmacptyltd@bigpond.com (Please leave a message on the answer machine).

Instrumental News

BAND Students: This term is exciting in that both Junior Band and Senior Band have combined in preparation for the end of year Christmas Concert. Parents and Carers please be aware that ALL Band students now have before school rehearsal on TUESDAY mornings from 7:45am in the Music Room. It is imperative that students attend these rehearsals each and every week in our preparation for the Christmas concert at the end of Term. Students who have had their lessons on Mondays will still have their lesson on Mondays, but will also be required to bring their instrument and music for rehearsal on the Tuesday Mornings.

Borrow ebooks from Thornlands Library

Don't forget that you can now borrow ebooks from our Library to read on a home computer (Mac or PC), or handheld device.



1. Go to <http://thornlands.wheelers.co/> and click on "Sign In"
2. Click on "Register"
3. Fill in the registration form online and your registration will be approved by email as soon as possible.
4. After your registration is complete, you will be able to start borrowing ebooks. More information about how to do this is at <http://thornlands.wheelers.co/help>.

News from Chappy Ange

The Redlands City Church Food Ministry provides for families in need, with affordable grocery items, fruit, vegies, bread and milk (when available). Operating from, and by, the Redlands City Church, the food bank is open every Wednesday from 9am – 2pm. For enquiries, please contact Redlands City Church on 3207 9154 or visit www.redlandcitychurch.com.



Busy Bugs Playgroup has vacancies! If you're interested in having a fun morning with your little one we are at the school hall on Tuesdays from 9am to 11am. Pop in and say hello or email Stacey at brendanandstacey@gmail.com



Breakfast Club

Thursday morning 7:45am in the hall.

All welcome!

P&C News

Tuckshop News

View the [New Summer Menu](#) here

Monday 28 Oct	Wednesady 30 Oct	Thursday 31 Oct	Friday 1 Nov
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz Steen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alison Henry 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chappy Ange • Sheena R • Renee T 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Wilson • Michelle Caughey • Heather B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather B • Nicole Sweaney (before school) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kellie Richardson • Heather B • Karen Venerables
Monday 4 Nov	Wednesday 6 Nov	Thursday 7 Nov	Fri 8 Nov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheena R • Lisa H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue M • Heather B • Helen Seppican 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Sweaney (before school) • Faye Denning • Kathryn Caughey • Heather B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kellie Richardson • Sorran P • Karen Venerables • Heather

Starting 14 October, the Tuckshop will be open Mondays as well as Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 8.15-11.40am in term 4 & term 1 - 2014. Come and meet the New Thornlands State School Chaplain, Ange, kindly volunteering at the Tuckshop Monday's starting 14 October.

Please consider supporting Monday's service so the P&C Association can continue through the Tuckshop to provide this valuable four-day Menu to the Thornlands community.

As of Term 4 the P&C Association has made Thornlands uniform hats available through flexischools' online pickup at the Tuckshop or directly at the Tuckshop

Bucket Hat | 2XS XS S/M L/XL \$ 12.50

Swimming caps \$5.00 (Waiting for new stock)

FREE Bag with all online orders flexischools.com.au.

- Over-the-Counter Bag (10c each). Orders placed after 9.15am cannot be guaranteed their menu choice.
- Only Australian currency is accepted at the Tuckshop. Thank You.
- Sushi Pre-order Wed for Thursday's Lunch \$3.50 each OR 2 for \$6.50
- Gluten Free Bread now available \$1.00

Operating hours are 8.am-1.30pm Wed-Fri

Before school sales 8.15-8.40am (Warm Milo's available \$1.50cup)

Or come in before & or after you read in your child's class

Then there is after lunch ice block & snack sales 11.15-11.40am

Also after service clean-up & preparation for the next day 11.30-1.30pm

So you see you don't have to fit into a set regime just pick a time, day, week or month I'm sure our students will love you for it!

Without our valued volunteers there would be no Tuckshop at Thornlands. Morning Tea/ Lunch provided

Online Ordering

Our school has now introduced a great new online ordering system for the tuckshop called FlexiSchools. This system allows parents or students to place orders from home, work or school at any time typically up until just before school starts. The payment is also done online, so you no longer need to send cash or a paper order to school. As well as being convenient for parents, the online orders are much faster and easier for the canteen to process - so it makes everyone's life a little easier. FlexiSchools is well established and tested, operating in hundreds of schools across Australia.

Getting online is easy and only takes a second to register. Simply go to www.flexischools.com.au and click "Register Now". You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration. Once registered, you can start placing orders immediately. If you have any questions, FlexiSchools provide a great help desk on 1300 361 769, or you can contact them via their website.

There are a variety of payment options supported, including Visa, Mastercard (credit and debit), Bank Transfer and Payclick. The system operates via a pre-paid account, so you don't need to scrounge for coins in the morning and can easily budget for your canteen spending throughout the term. The system is now available, so we look forward to seeing your next order online! If you have any questions, please ask Louise for more information.

Uniform Shop News

The uniform shop will be opening on Friday mornings from 8:30-9:30am. Anyone requiring uniforms at other times during the week may leave money and details in the P&C collection box in the office and the ladies will try to fill the order at their earliest convenience. The ladies may be contacted by contacting the school office or by emailing christine.toohill@bigpond.com

Community News



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Email: sue.aitken.swim@gmail.com



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