Principal's Corner - 13 March 2014

I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome to Thornlands State School since joining the school in a temporary capacity last week. I have previously worked at other schools in the Redlands, specifically in the Victoria Point and Alexandra Hills areas. It is a privilege to have been given the opportunity to work with such a vibrant school community. I look forward to meeting as many students and parents as possible over the coming weeks.

Congratulations to all of our 2014 Student leaders. Monday’s school leadership induction ceremony provided a wonderful introduction to the school and can I thank John Tucker for organising and running the ceremony. It is fantastic to see that we have such a strong group of leaders in 2014, who have committed to a range of active leadership role in our school community. I look forward to working with each and every one of them during my time at Thornlands SS.

Can I please thank all of you who have supported the Student Resource Scheme. Key components of this scheme are the E-learning programs - Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress. These programs offer invaluable reinforcement of student learning in an interactive manner. Due to the vast majority of our parents participating in the scheme, we have been able to obtain a significant discount for those participating families.

Please note, due to licencing requirements, students not covered by this scheme for 2014 or haven’t returned the yellow form, indicating whether or not you will be taking part in the scheme, will no longer have access E-learning programs from 20 March 2014.

It will cost families significantly more to purchase these E-learning programs independently to Student Resource Scheme. If you would like to arrange a payment plan please contact the school office.
regarding this. We are only too happy to help. Thank you in advance for your support on this most important matter.

If you have a child who rides their bike to school, can I please ask you to support us and remind them of the importance of safely travelling to and from school. We have received a number of reports regarding our students inappropriately crossing the road whilst riding their bikes. Can you please remind them of road rules and always reinforce the importance of wearing their helmets properly.

Finally, can I please encourage you all to attend the next scheduled general meeting of the P&C this Monday, 17 March 2014, 9am – 11am. Please note that the date for the P&C AGM has now been confirmed and it will be held on Tuesday 25 March 2014, starting at 7:30pm. I look forward to meeting many of you in person at those meetings.

Thanks for your support of our great school,

Regards

Andrew

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

| 13 March | SRS full payment or first instalment due |

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<td>P&amp;C meeting 9am-11am</td>
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<td>19 March</td>
<td>National Ride2School Day</td>
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<td>21 March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>25 March</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<td>Prep-Yr7 P&amp;C AGM 7:30pm</td>
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<td>4 April</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade 9:30am</td>
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<td>5 April</td>
<td>School Holidays Commence</td>
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<td>22 April</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
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<td>Anzac Day</td>
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<td>28 April</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
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<td>CDSHS Maths - YR 5/6</td>
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<td>Musical Rehearsal Weekend</td>
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<td>25-27 June</td>
<td>Year 6/7 Camp Goodenough</td>
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<td>27 June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2</td>
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<td>Term 3 Commences</td>
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Click to view 2014 School Calendar

From The Deputies’ Desks

Recently, a number of staff attended Professional Development regarding a program known as SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support) or now shortened to PBL (Positive Behaviour and Learning). The staff were made aware of the program, which has been working in many schools
in Queensland, and focusses on the great things that students do. Last year Mrs Wilton and the staff agreed to implement this program at Thornlands... and so our journey begins!

You will notice over time a common language being used across the school used by all staff. PBL is a framework to encourage a positive learning environment. Over time, staff become even more proactive in developing systems to define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviours. We know we do this well at Thornlands, and we believe we can always improve. Data shows that when PBL is implemented with integrity it helps reduce problem behaviour and increase academic performance.

Harmony Day is celebrated on March 21 this year. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. Please remember to check out our school electronic sign for upcoming events. We try to have events listed as a reminder to the community of the many activities occurring at our school. Don’t spend too long looking at the sign though... remember to drive carefully!

Uniforms are important at all schools, as the community can instantly recognize where students belong. We trust that parents/carers will continue to ensure that all students are presentable every day, and that they have appropriate footwear. Jewellery is limited to sleepers in ears. Please refer to our Responsible Behaviour Plan if you have any concerns, or contact the school and we can direct you to it or provide you with a copy.

A reminder to parents of students in Prep to Year 2, that on Friday 4 April starting at 9:30a.m. is our school’s annual Easter Hat Parade in the school Hall.

Looking forward to seeing you there... it promises to be a spectacular event!

Finally, we all extend a warm welcome to Mr Andrew Beattie who will be Acting Principal in Mrs Wilton’s absence. We trust that his time at our school is enjoyable and rewarding.

Regards John Tucker & Maureen Harvey

Curriculum Corner

The Feedback Loop

For many, the halfway point of the term signals the inevitable ‘hump’ to be surmounted. However, to teachers and students, it signals something that is much more important to student learning, that being the feedback loop. It is at this time of the year the students are starting to undertake Formative assessment tasks, also known as assessment for learning. This is in direct contrast to a Summative Assessment Task which is assessment of learning. The main difference between a Formative and
Summative assessment tasks is that the formative assessment tasks are designed to give students an opportunity to ‘test’ what they have learnt and for the teacher to provide feedback to the students based on how they could improve and areas to work on. Summative assessment tasks do, of course, provide feedback to students on their progress, however their main purpose is for reporting. Both Formative and Summative assessment tasks are used for Moderation.

**Moderation and Consistency**

This week all teachers have been involved in year level moderation sessions after school. This practice enables consistency of expectations to be established across year levels in relation to the assessment criteria. It also gives teachers an opportunity to discuss the progress of students, areas of strength across the cohort and areas that may need revisiting prior to the next assessment task.

**Online Learning – Learning of the Future**

Thornlands is certainly an exciting place to learn! We currently have a total of thirty students who are involved in three separate online learning courses in partnership with the Brisbane School of Distance Education (BSDE). Groups of students from both Year 5 and Year 7 are currently undertaken lessons to extend their problem solving skills whilst another fourteen students ranging from Years 3 to 6 are developing and refining their creative writing skills. In each of these lessons, the students log in to a web conference where they are able to interact with their on-line teacher and each other to work collaboratively and gain feedback. After each lesson, it is extremely satisfying to see the students so motivated and excited about their learning. This is definitely learning of the future in action!

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled for Monday 31 March from 3:15pm – 8pm. Bookings will be available through the website: Parent Teacher Online from next Monday 17 March. If you do not have access to a computer with the internet, please contact your child’s teacher directly. This is certainly a worthwhile opportunity to discuss your child’s progress in relation to year level expectations.

**ICAS – International Competitions and Assessments for Schools**

ICAS is a highly regarded and well known assessment program run through the University of New South Wales. They provide assessment in Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing which enables schools and parents to identify students’ level of academic performance in relation to the State and Nation. Shortly all students in Years 2 to 7 will receive a note detailing the costs and dates involved in ICAS testing in 2014. If you wish your student to participate, the permission form and money will need to be returned by Week 10, Thursday 6 April.

**NAPLAN**
In 2014 NAPLAN will take place in week 4 of Term 2: the 13 – 15 May. Shortly, all students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will receive information and an overview regarding NAPLAN in 2014. One of the most frequent questions I receive is, “How do I help prepare my student for NAPLAN?” NAPLAN is all about gathering data about student performance against what the skills and knowledge they should have around the stage of schooling. Often just including them in your usual routines and chores can really make a difference. For example, asking your child to count out 5 bananas, or use the scales to weigh butter, look for particular words/labels on packets or shelves and even plan travel using a bus or train timetable. Not only does it give them additional practice but they witness firsthand how being literate and numerate is imperative to daily life. Helping students make these connections is definitely half of the battle.

In recent years, there has been a general shift to test student’s literacy and numeracy skills through activities that replicate real life situations as much as is practicable. NAPLAN* tests (National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy) also attempt to do this in a number of sections including spelling. Rather than testing in the traditional ‘dictation’ format, students are required to at first identify the incorrectly spelt word and then rewrite it correctly. This clearly tests the ‘life skill’ of editing rather than a student’s ability to ‘spell’ in isolation. The former is clearly a more difficult skill to master as the incorrectly spelt word acts as a distracter. I have included some samples from last year’s NAPLAN test for your information and to share with your child.

If you have any questions or concerns about NAPLAN, please don’t hesitate to discuss these with either your child’s teacher or myself. All Year 3, 5 and 7 classes will be involved in preparing this term for NAPLAN, which will take place in week four of Term 2. NAPLAN tests from the past three years are available on the [Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority Website](http://www.naplan.edu.au/tests/tests_landing_page.html) for parents to peruse. Perhaps you might like to work through some of the samples with your child.

Good luck and happy practising!

Kind regards,

Kristy Warriner

Head of Curriculum

We are also running a jelly bean guessing competition, if you would like to participate, guesses are 50 cents each or 3/$1. You can find the jar of jelly beans in the front office. The lovely office ladies can supply you with paper & envelopes for your guesses. Guessing will close on Wednesday 19 March.

Many thanks Margaret Bina
LITERACY INTERVENTION

FAST FORWORD PROGRAM

Thornlands State School will be implementing a computer based learning intervention called **Fast ForWord** during Term 2 and Term 3 this year.

Fast ForWord is an **evidenced based cognitive training program** that is designed to improve auditory processing, working memory, attention, language and literacy skills.

The programme is based on **strong scientific research**. It consists of computer exercises based on research into how the brain learns best. The programme is **individualised** as the exercises adapt with every click of the mouse to ensure each participant is always training at the right level while maintaining motivation and confidence.

**The school has a limited number of student spaces available at a cost of $400 per student.**

**To be involved in the Fast ForWord programme your child needs to work online for 50 minutes five days a week, Monday to Friday. Twenty-five minutes training time will be available before school in the computer lab and a further twenty-five minutes training needs to be completed daily at home.**

The programme will commence term 2 and conclude term 3, **twenty-two weeks in total** which includes access at home during the June/July holidays. The programme is being offered to students in years 4, 5 and 6. It is a privilege to be chosen to participate in this programme through school.

A Perth based Audiology and Speech Pathology company, **Sonic Learning**, will assist the school in implementing this intervention programme. As part of their assistance there will be a **parent information session** which you are encouraged to attend. Shahin Seker, Education Consultant from Sonic Learning will be present at this session and available to explain the programme and answer any questions.

**Date: Tuesday, 18 March**

**Time: 3.15pm to 4.00pm**

**Venue: Computer lab, school library**

If you are unable to attend this information session but wish your child to be considered for the programme please email Cathy Hemmings at chemm1@eq.edu.au to register your interest. Payment due dates and details will be available soon, but the majority of the $400 will be due by the end of term 1. I encourage you to visit [www.soniclearning.com.au](http://www.soniclearning.com.au) to see videos and learn more information about Fast ForWord.
Regards

Cathy Hemmings

Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy

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 9:00 till 11:00am. 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 like a beach party and baking pizzas. Just turn up or you can call Jane on 0409 950 642 or Jacqui on 0407 778 221.

Gardening Club

The Gardening Club will be meeting on Wednesday mornings from 9am - 12pm. So if anyone would like to spend a couple of hours on a Wednesday morning digging in the dirt and playing with plants please come and join us. It is amazing how much can be achieved in such a short period of time when we all work together. I will meet you at the office to sign in at 9am. If you would like any further information, please contact Tanya Macnamaran 0438445501 (leave a message) or email jatmacptyltd@bigpond.com

Note from Mr Tuni
It has been a busy start to the year in sport at Thornlands. We have had a number of children in a range of sports go along to Redland District Trials. We have had some of those students make district teams. We would like to congratulate the following students:

**Swimming:** Oliver C & Sharna H

**Netball:** Taylah A

**Rugby League:** Rhys G & Kai W

**Touch Footy:** Eleanor T & Jarrod T

**Week 1**

The Australian Government has recently developed Physical Activity Recommendations for Children and Young People. These are that:

1. Children and young people should participate in at least 60 minutes (and up to several hours) of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity every day.
2. Children and young people should not spend more than 2 hours a day using electronic media for entertainment (eg computer games, Internet, TV), particularly during daylight hours.

The Recommendations are intended to identify the minimum level of physical activity required for good health in children and young people from 5-18 years of age.

**Why is physical activity important?**

* Promote healthy growth and development.
* Build strong bones and muscles.
* Improve balance and develop skills.
* Maintain and develop flexibility.
* Help achieve and maintain a healthy weight.
* Improve cardiovascular fitness.
* Help relaxation.
* Improve posture.
* Provide opportunities to make friends.
* Improve self-esteem.

**Week 2**
Physical Activity ideas for families:

Children need physically active role-models if they are going to get active themselves. You can also build children’s interest by asking them to choose a family activity. Some other ideas for involving the whole family in activity are:

• Go on a walk or bike ride together
• Play a game of backyard Cricket and get all the neighbours involved too
• Take a weekend bush walk at a national park
• Go swimming at the local pool, or take an afternoon trip to the beach
• Rollerblading
• Go ice skating

Thanks

Aaron

To find out about the exciting Earn2Learn Promotion click here.

P&C News

Tuckshop News

Click here for the New Summer Menu

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<th>Wednesday 12 March</th>
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<th>Friday 14 March</th>
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<td>Lisa W</td>
<td>Sheena R</td>
<td>Kellie R</td>
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<td>Vesna M</td>
<td>Bronwen L</td>
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<td>Jemma P</td>
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<td>Louise E</td>
<td>Amanda J (ice block sales)</td>
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<td>Faye D</td>
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<td>Norma T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leanne B</td>
<td>Deeca N</td>
<td>Sorrann P</td>
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Please remember to update your child's class online at flexischools

New 2014 Tuckshop Menu sent out week 1. Please disregard all others.

P&C Association has made Thornlands uniform hats available directly from the Tuckshop

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

Lycra Swimming caps $5.00 colors available

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.
- Gluten Free Bread now available $1.00

Operating hours are 8.am-1.30pm Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

Before school sales 8.15-8.40am

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

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<th>Karen V</th>
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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

*Thornlands SS P&C is seeking support from local family businesses interested in placing advertising signs on the school’s South St fence-line and pool fencing in 2014. It is expected that the costs for the advertising space will be no more than approximately $70 per month, which will help the P&C with raising funds for the school, and businesses the opportunity to advertise to the school community and passing traffic. If you would like to submit an expression of interest for next year (and potentially future years), please contact Dee-Arn Plain on 32069113 or deearnplain@yahoo.com*

**Thornlands State School P&C**

**Directory of Parent Contact Details - 2014**

In 2014, the Thornlands State School P&C is introducing a Directory which will contain the contact details of parents from within the school. This directory will be issued only to the participating parents, of the current students at this school. It will not be available to anyone outside of the school community, and will not be published on the school website.

**Voluntary inclusion**

You have the right to select what information, if any, is to be included in the directory. The information that you provide is to be completely voluntary and at your own discretion. By completing the form you will be authorising Thornlands State School P&C, to include the specified details in our directory.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this directory is to assist parents to contact other parents from within the school for such things as birthday parties, play dates or just ensuring that you have not missed any vital information from your child's class. It's a way to help keep the lines of communication open.

**Class Parents**

In 2014, the P&C will also be introducing Class Parents to each class. This is to help build a strong sense of community and build social friendships from within the school. Class Parents will be responsible for arranging social events with the parents from your class. This could include coffee mornings, lunches or class play dates at a local park, the options are endless.

This directory will allow your Class Parent to contact you and keep you informed of any upcoming events, be that social, school events or P&C run events.
**Business Owners**

The Business Details section of the form is available for parents that own their own business. Advertise your business details to other parents in the school. Let us help support the businesses owned by our own school families.

**How to Participate**

A copy of the Parent Contact Details form is available for completion at the school office. Alternatively, you can email Tanya Macnamara ([jatmacpptyltd@bigpond.com](mailto:jatmacpptyltd@bigpond.com)) with the details that you wish to include.

Available options for publishing are:

**Child/ren’s Surname:**

**Child/ren’s Given Name/s:**

**Class:**

**Parent/Carer’s Name/s (Mother/Father/Carer):**

**Home Phone Number:**

**Mobile Number (Mother/Father/Carer):**

**E-mail (Mother/ Father/ Carer):**

**Parent Address (Mother/Father/ Carer):**

**Business Details (for business owners)**

**Business Name:**

**Business Phone Number:**

**Business Type (e.g. Plumber):**

**E-mail / Website:**

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**Uniform Shop News**

The uniform shop will be opening on Fridays 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

Student Banking

For those parents and carers wishing to open a new Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver/Dollamite account, we have a representative from the Cleveland CBA branch present to assist us 8:15-9:00 Monday 17 March. Come and visit us in the new parent room (The fishbowl) located underneath the year 2 classrooms. All you will require is your child’s birth certificate, or our principal can verify the child’s ID. Parent/Guardian’s ID only requires a current driver’s license or passport. Our P&C will receive $5 for every account initiated by the school, plus commission on future deposits through student banking. Our usual student banking will continue to be conducted Tuesday mornings, where our regular savers can continue to earn reward prizes and great bonus interest on their savings.

Your volunteer Student Banking Coordinators this year are Kristy Spry, Lisa Wilson, Natalie Hewitt and Michelle Caughey. Please feel free to come and see us if you have any banking questions.

Community News
Daytime Adult Squad / Fitness has started!!

Exciting news!! We now have Adult sessions on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 9am to 10am.

Whether you're a mum, dad, grandma, grandpa, shift worker, have a day off or even on holidays, everyone can come along and benefit from swimming. It's great as support for injuries and is an all round fitness activity. Let’s face it - with the heat we’ve been having, it would be great to just be in the pool. There is different programs to work through and all abilities are catered for, so don't be put off by thinking its a "squad" and you wouldn't fit in. Even if you just want to come and do a few laps, there is something for you.

Cost of squads is $10 for your first sessions of the week, and $5 for extra sessions during the same week. Includes entry, all programs, advice and support.

So if your wanting to work on your own fitness, getting ready for the start of a winter sport, or having some time for yourself, drop the kids at school, grab a friend, and head to the pool.

Hope to see you there.

Yours in swimming,

Sue Aitken (0421 906 238)

Panorama Drive
Thornlands, QLD , 4164
Our Sponsors

Please click on any advertisement to email the affiliated business or view further details such as company brochures, flyers or promotions.
Got The Sniffles?

We are here for you from illness to wellness 7 days a week. We pretty much have everything but a spoonful of sugar to make the medicine go down. Thornlands Pharmacy is conveniently located across the road from the school, so you can do your pharmacy run on your school run.

OPEN 7 DAYS
Mondays to Fridays 8am-7pm
Saturdays & Sundays 8am-1pm
Shop 23 Cleveland Redland Bay Rd,
Thornlands QLD 4164
Tel 3829 2944
pharmacy thornlandspharmacy.com.au