



[Principal's Corner](#)

[P&C News](#)

[School News](#)

[Communtiy News](#)

Principal's Corner - 5 June 2014

School captains step up to the stage

One of the exciting new things happening at Thornlands this term is that our dedicated school captain team have now taken over the running and chairing of parades. Since being officially handed the microphone in late May, the team consisting of Ivy, Jade, Jamie and Jarrod have done a great job and have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and maturity in fulfilling the daunting task of running parades in front of an audience of around 800, which is made up of students, staff and parents. I congratulate them on their efforts so far and look forward to continuing to work with them.



Rally Readers Program

Our Great Results funding has enabled us to create Rally Readers at Thornlands this year. All year one and year two students are members of Rally Readers. All students participate in small group guided reading lessons four days each week. Students work at their own level to develop, consolidate and extend their reading skills.

Students engage in reading strategies to develop decoding, fluency, literal and inferential

comprehension. A strong foundation in these skills allows gives each of our students the best chance of future success in their schooling and also helps developing Higher Order Thinking skills.

Such innovative programs are one of the reasons why Thornlands consistently ranks as one of the highest performing schools not only in the Redlands but across the whole state. Can I please thank Cathy Hemmings for her continued leadership in this area.



ICAS

Congratulations to all of our students who have started to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) across the areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. These tests are being conducted throughout this term and Term 3 with over 1 million students will participate from 20 countries around the world. It was wonderful to see those students who elected to participate working so hard. Students participating in these competitions will not only receive a certificate for their efforts, but will be able to see where their performance ranks not only within Australia but also compared with other countries across the world.

It was great to see such a large number of students representing Thornlands SS by actively participating in ICAS and we look forward to getting their results back later in the year. Can I please thank Kristy Warriner for coordinating our school's participation in ICAS.





New school email address

In addition to our new website, the school also has a new email address admin@thornlandsss.eq.edu.au. The old school email address (admin@thornlanss.eq.edu.au) is no longer functional. Can you please update your own records to reflect this change and I encourage you to email through any concerns/queries/feedback to our new email address.

Principal's Pride Awards

It has been fantastic to see the response to this new category of awards that was announced in the last newsletter. The Principal's Pride Awards will be presented to those students who meet the school's high behaviour expectations as well as demonstrating pride in being a student at Thornlands SS.

The first category recognises those students who maintain 100% attendance over the 5 week period between weeks 6 and 10 of this term. It is great to see that as of today there are still 340 students eligible to receive an award in this category. Regular school attendance not only has a positive impact on students' social and emotional wellbeing but greatly increases the opportunity for improved academic results.

The second category recognises those students who consistently wear their full school uniform correctly and with pride over the same 5 week period between weeks 6 and 10 of this term. It has been great to see the response from our students and families with the vast majority of our students correctly wearing their full school uniform each and every day. Wearing the correct uniform not only allows students to clearly demonstrate their pride in our great school, but also plays an important role when students are participating in excursions and extracurricular activities.

Please note that in order to help ensure the safety of all of our students it is important that they are easily identifiable from a distance as a student of Thornlands SS. It is a condition of students participating in excursions and extracurricular activities that they be in full school uniform (including music excursions, cluster sports days, etc), in particular they are required to wear the school jacket or a plain black jumper. School camps and certain excursions will continue to be designated free dress activities.

All students and families will be reminded of the specific dress requirements via the permission letters for the individual events.

Andrew Beattie

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

9 June	Public Holiday - Queens Birthday
17 June	ICAS Spelling test
20 June	Prep Fairy Tale Ball 5:30-7:00pm
25-27 June	Year 6/7 Camp Goodenough
26 June	Year 5 St Helena 8:15-3:00pm Click here for Information
27 June	Last Day of Term 2 Under 8s Day
14 July	Term 3 Commences
19-20 July	Musical Rehearsal Weekend

23 July	Prep Info Session 9:00 - 11:00
29 July	ICAS English test
4 August	CDSHS Science Day
11 Aug	EKKA show holiday
18-20 Aug	Yr 5 Camp - Maranatha
6 Sep	Musical - Dress/Technical Rehearsal
11 & 12 Sep	Evening Musical Performance
18 Sep	CDSHS Volleyball Day
19 Sep	Last Day of Term 3
6 Oct	Public Holiday - Labor Day
7 Oct	Term 4 Begins
20 Oct	Pupil Free Day
22 Oct	Prep Info Session 9:00-11:00

Click to view [2014 School Calendar](#)

	<p>Thornlands State School <i>Tradition and Excellence!</i></p> <p>PREP</p>
<p>Wednesday 23 July and Wednesday 22 October</p>	<p>2015 Information Sessions</p>
<p>Details: Meet in school hall on South Street 9:00a.m. - 10:30a.m. All welcome. Information Session & Visit Classes Register at school office: phone 3821 8111</p>	
<p>Enrolment Interviews: From 1 August For an Appointment and All Enquiries ... Contact the School Office: Phone: 3821 8111 Email: admin@thornlandsss.eq.edu.au</p>	
<p>Orientation Day: Wednesday 10 December Introduction to teacher and class: 9:00a.m. - 10:00a.m.</p>	<p>Booklists: Booklists will be available from the office in November</p>
<p>Students must be born between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 to enrol into PREP 2015</p>	



From the Deputies' Desks

FANFARE MUSIC COMPETITION

Recently both the Senior Concert Band and the Senior String Ensemble participated in the FANFARE state-wide music competition for schools around Queensland. There were over 680 ensembles from 400 schools and 23,700 students who participated. At our heat the Senior Strings received a Silver Award and the Concert Band a Bronze Award. Congratulations to both the teachers and the students for a wonderful effort.

PBL

Thornlands State School has adopted the Positive Behaviour for Learning Framework. As such, you will notice that our school rules have changes to: As a Learner I will; Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful. These three school rules now underpin all the other rules which are prevalent within the school.

SPORTS DAY

The first Cluster Sports Day was held last Friday. Students from Years 5-7 participated in various sports at numerous venues. Students were well behaved and enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the sports competition with other schools. We look forward to the school Athletics Days later this term.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Class photos have been distributed to all students who ordered them. What beautiful children you have! Family Group photos were given to the oldest child in the family photo. Group photos (school captains, house captains, student council, choir, band, strings) are on display in the admin foyer. If you wish to order one or more of these photos, please collect and complete an order form, enclose correct money and return to the school office by Friday 20 June.

STUDENT INFORMATION

As a general reminder to all parents and carers regarding personal information, could you please ensure that the school has the latest information regarding details about your child/children, i.e. Telephone Contacts, Home Address, Medical Information, Indigenous Background, other Emergency Contacts and any Legal/Custody Orders. This ensures the school has accurate record for auditing purposes.



Curriculum Corner

As you are hopefully aware, reading and comprehension is one area which we have identified as a Teaching and Learning focus for 2014. Comprehension is central to all learning areas and research time and again continues to highlight the link between academic performance and reading ability.

It is important to note that fluent reading or decoding does not necessarily equal understanding. Without comprehension (understanding and making meaning from what you read) students aren't truly 'reading'. To comprehend a text, good readers actively engage and employ a number of identifiable strategies to make meaning. It is these strategies that our teachers are explicitly focussing on during both their guided reading time in the classroom and during any lessons where students need to actively engage with a text.

According to the **Australian Curriculum**, Comprehension Strategies are the strategies and processes used by readers to make meaning from texts. Key comprehension strategies include:

- activating and using prior knowledge
- self-monitoring
- predicting likely events
- questioning
- identifying literal information explicitly stated in the text
- making connections
- making inferences based on information in the text and their own prior knowledge
- visualising by creating mental images of elements in a text summarising and organising information from a text
- integrating ideas and information in texts (summarising and synthesising)
- critically reflecting on content, structure, language and images used to construct meaning in a text

Other useful strategies teachers will also address during the lessons:

- skimming and scanning
- word-attack strategies
- fix-up strategies

To assist students in developing their understanding and use of these comprehension strategies, teachers will focus and explicitly teach one key comprehension strategy over approximately a two week period. Through the teaching and learning cycle, students will engage in a variety of activities to reinforce this strategy and its purpose when reading and comprehending texts. Each newsletter I will outline the current teaching focus with some suggestions for activities at home so you can also engage in the use of a particular strategy and therefore and reinforce their learning.

Over the past two weeks students have been focussing on 'Activating Prior Knowledge' and 'Self-Monitoring'.

Activating Prior Knowledge

Prior knowledge is the unique set of knowledge each individual student brings to the reading experience. It is a combination of the student's attitudes, experiences, and knowledge. By activating their prior knowledge, students are able to make connections to what they already know. This provides a base on which they can build new knowledge.

In the reading process, Activating Prior Knowledge takes place before a student reads a text. Questions you can ask your child about the book prior to reading to help to 'activate their prior knowledge':

- What do I already know about the topic?
- What have I read, seen, or experienced that may be similar or reminds me of this text?
- What have I read before that seems similar?
- Do I recognise the author's name?
- What type of text is it? Fiction or Non-fiction, narrative, explanation, report, recount, procedure or

exposition?

- What sort of words or language features might I find?
- The illustrations tell me . . . about the text.

Activating Prior Knowledge is an important first step for building up to more challenging comprehension strategies such as making inferences. Students can't make inferences if they aren't linking in to what they already know about a topic.

Self-Monitoring

Simply, self-monitoring is being aware of your own thinking whilst you are reading and determining if it makes sense. Self-monitoring is vital to comprehension as it empowers students to have control over the reading process. It helps them identify when and where meaning was lost and therefore use appropriate strategies to restore meaning and understanding.

When meaning has been lost, students are encouraged to:

- Re-read
- Read on
- Adjust reading pace
- Use the context to guess the meaning
- Use prior knowledge and experiences to make a connection/ visualise
- Use pictures or diagram clues
- Look for a part in the word they already know (base word, prefix, suffix)
- Use a dictionary
- Ask for help

It is self-monitoring or 'fix up' strategies that all 'beginning' readers are taught. However, as students become more proficient decoders, they often forget these early strategies, especially when engaging in challenging and subject specific texts. It is important to remind them of these strategies to assist in re-establishing meaning.

Questions for Self-Monitoring

- Did I understand what I just read?
- What was the most important piece of information?
- What did I find interesting or unusual?

If you have any questions about these strategies or anything else curriculum related, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me. Happy Reading!

Kind regards,

Kristy Warriner Head of Curriculum



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 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.



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

BUNNINGS BBQ

Great news! We have secured a place at BUNNINGS VICTORIA POINT for a sausage BBQ on Saturday the 19 July. This gives us lots of time to organise and get valuable volunteers together. We need volunteers on the day between 8:00am and 4:00pm.

If you, your partner, or both can spare some time to serve or barbeque (a minimum of 1 hour with no maximum) WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

So, please keep this day clear in your calendar and if you cannot volunteer, come down and support this great cause. All money raised from this event goes back into our children's education and much needed resources.

Thank you very much

Contact Dee-Arn on # 0451024120, deearnplain@yahoo.com

HOPE TO HEAR FROM WILLING VOLUNTEERS SOON.

GET READY TSS FOR A FRENZY...

OUR INAUGURAL 5 CENT FRENZY!

For the entire duration of term 3 we will be asking all students to collect as many 5 cent pieces as possible and bring them in to school each week. We will collect these and keep a running tally for each class. The challenge is on! Let's see which of our fantastic classes can raise the most money over the entire of term 3.

There will be a prize awarded to the winning class and although we can't tell you exactly what this is yet, we can say that it WILL be worth winning!

For now, we need all of our students to start collecting change at the shops with mum and dad, scrounging around piggy banks and hidden deep in couches. Seek the support of grandparents, extended family & friends to save their 5 cent pieces too.

We hope you all take up this challenge. Maybe students could ask their teacher to challenge another class? Let's create a FRENZY and raise some much needed money for our great school.

I wonder which class will win the 5 cent FRENZY for 2014...

Uniform Shop News

As of second term, the uniform shop will be opening on Mondays 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

Money for collection from the Second Hand Uniform Shop - Karen Brown



Student Banking

In term 2 there are two new exciting reward items available to students who save 10 silver tokens. The rewards available this term are:-

- Whale Shark pencil case NEW
- Penguin or shark plush toy keyring NEW
- Handball
- Scented pencils

Don't forget students simply need to make three or more School Banking deposits in Term 2 and they will automatically be entered into the competition to win some fantastic prizes including:

Major student prize.

- Five nights' accommodation at the Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast
- VIP Passes for two adults and three kids to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet'n'Wild Gold Coast
- Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure and
- A \$3,000 travel gift card to get them there. Runner up student prizes
- 130 Toys"R"Us Gift Cards to the value of \$250 each to spend on their favourite toys.

Your volunteer Student Banking Coordinators 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



Redlands PCYC Holiday Activities

Redlands PCYC is running FREE school holiday activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students aged 10-17 years old. So come along and get involved. Please click [here](#) for further information and access the [participation form](#).

Parenting & Enjoying Teenagers 2014 Programs

A relaxed and enjoyable program for parents with children 10 years +. Bookings are essential! To enrol or find out more phone BABI admin on 3393 4176 or click [here](#) for further information.

Panorama Drive

Thornlands, QLD , 4164

07 3821 8111

07 3821 8100

07 3821 8181

admin@thornlanss.eq.edu.au

<http://www.thornlanss.eq.edu.au>