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Principal's Corner - 5 February 2015

Welcome to the 2015 school year for all existing Thornlands families and a special welcome to our many new families. It has indeed been a very smooth start to the year. Thanks to our whole school staff for their efforts in ensuring this is the case and special thanks to the **teachers who have created welcoming and highly organised classrooms** for their new classes. I have also been very impressed with the **polite, friendly and happy way in which all of our students have returned to school - quickly and calmly settling to their learning**. Thanks as well, to all of you, our parents, for ensuring that your children have all the requirements they need in the classroom and for ensuring they are wearing their school uniform. That in itself is a demonstration of pride in our school, which is to be encouraged.

In the week prior to the students' return, the whole staff were hard at work participating in three **Pupil Free Days**. During these days I was **once again absolutely impressed with the highly professional way in which the staff at Thornlands share their expertise and support each other in their learning**. It is very exciting to be part of this team of highly committed and skilled individuals - teaching and non teaching - working together to benefit all of our students. **As parents you can be very confident that your children's education is in great hands at Thornlands SS! This year we welcome a number of new staff – Tiffany Truscott, teacher of PYC, Lauren McKercher, teacher of 1M, Sam Gerry, teacher of 3G, Makaela Tragoudistakis, teacher of 6M, Liesl Tyndall SEP and Kim Hartley, Year 3 teacher aide. I am sure they will quickly feel at home as part of our happy Thornlands Team.**

Our **Explicit Improvement Agenda for 2015** builds on the good work of the last couple of years with consolidation of the **effective teaching of reading and writing** being the key focus. The other priority, of course, is ensuring that our most capable students are being extended to the full range of their potential.

This aligns with **Our school Vision** which is about ensuring **the very best outcomes for each and every one of our students:**

MORE –

Making

Our

Results

Excellent

We are grateful for “**Great Results**” funding again this year (\$20k) which will enable us to structure additional programs and support for all of our students from Prep-Year 6. (I will include more information on this in upcoming newsletters.)

Of course a Thornlands education is not just about academics. Thornlands SS values very highly a holistic approach with a range of extra curricula activities, to maximise the strengths and interests of each individual (“**Growing the Whole Child**”). In fact this term sees the Year 3 and 4 classes going on camp. This is a great opportunity, so early in the year, to develop strong peer relationships and teamwork in these groups of children. Thank you in advance to the teachers who spend many hours organising these events and take time out of their own lives to accompany the students to camp.

Another key focus for us this year is the full implementation of **Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)**. Last year a lot of staff training was undertaken in this area. Whilst we already have a very consistent approach to managing student behaviour at Thornlands – as endorsed by the **outstanding Discipline Audit results** that we achieved in October (See report on our website)- PBL will enhance this consistency even further and ensure that positive behaviours are given an even stronger focus.

Be aware that if you have not already done so, you will shortly receive, from your child’s teacher, a note outlining their **classroom behaviour plan**. This will detail the class/school rules and the consequences for breaking these rules as well as the strategies the teacher will utilise to reward students for good behaviour. I ask you to discuss this plan with your child/ren in order to assist us in ensuring the best possible behaviour at school and **return the cut off slip at the bottom**.

General Parent - Teacher Information sessions for all year levels will also be held in the foreseeable future. Details about this will be sent home soon. Please note, this is not the time for discussion about individual children, but is rather a general information session regarding classroom routines etc.

Parent Workshops – a range of parent workshops will be conducted this year on a range of topics including ways in which you can support your child's learning at home, PBL, oral language etc. More information on this will also be sent home soon.

As in previous years, we will be having a **whole school Assembly on Monday afternoon at 2:30pm** in the Hall. All parents are most welcome to join us.

Don't forget that **school is a wonderful way to meet new people** and form new friendships. I encourage you, our parents, to become involved in the school, in whatever way is most convenient for you in 2015 – whether that be helping in classrooms, volunteering in the tuckshop, assisting with fundraising, or just simply attending P&C Meetings to hear what is going on. The opportunities are many.

For those of you who would like to come along, **the first P&C Meeting for the year is Tuesday, 17 February at 7:00pm**. The AGM will be followed by a General meeting. All parents are very welcome.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your children at school, the classroom **teachers are the first point of contact between you and the school**. They are in a position to know your children best and I encourage you to ask questions of them if you have any concerns at all. Please be aware though, that teachers are busy before school preparing for the day, so it is best to make an appointment at a suitable time so they can give your conversation the attention it deserves. Don't forget, also, that **teachers like to receive positive feedback, so I encourage you to pass that on too**.

Should you feel that more follow up is required, please be aware, that the Deputy Principals and I have an “**open door**” policy. We are happy to talk to you if you would like to do so. Feel free to contact us through the school Office. For your awareness, **Maureen Harvey is the DP overseeing the lower school (P-2) and John Tucker the upper school (Yr 3-7)**. We prefer to be proactive and frequently find that a simple conversation can help solve issues or concerns while they are still relatively easy to deal with. Working together- school and parents - we can achieve the very best for your children.

A few things for you to be aware of:

- **Staffing** You may be aware that on Day 8 of each school year enrolment numbers are audited and based upon that information the final staffing is allocated for the year. Due to our ongoing enrolment growth, we have started 2015 with one more class than we had last year (29 classes). Even so there is still a possibility that we will gain another class at Day 8. This will mean quite a number of students will need to move classes to ensure equitable class sizes across the school. Whilst this is a little disruptive in the short term, as some students have to move classes, the outcome overall is smaller class sizes and I know that you all agree that this is a positive. Should this need to occur, parents of students who are affected by this will be informed as soon as possible.
- **Absences** If your child is absent from school for any reason please ring the absence line to inform us of the reason.

- Late arrivals and early departures We understand that sometimes things happen that necessitate a student arriving at school late, or leaving early. However, we ask that you please keep this to a minimum. A lot of valuable learning time can be lost if students regularly miss 10 minutes here or 30 minutes there. We would like students to be learning at school from 8:45am- 3:00pm wherever possible.
- Arrival at school The bell, indicating the start of the school day goes at 8:45. The time before school is very busy for teachers as they prepare for the school day and so they are unavailable to supervise students. For this reason, there is no play in the mornings and students must sit in the area under and in front of A Block. It is therefore advisable that, if possible, students should arrive at school no earlier than 8:30am. I ask for parent assistance with regards to this important matter and thank you in advance for your help.
- Parking and driving around our school. Please abide by the rules when driving around our school. Be aware that periodically the police or Redlands City Council officers do issue tickets to those caught doing the wrong thing. The safety of our children is at stake.

We all look forward to working with you in 2015

Thanks for your support of our great school,

Regards

Robyn

School Photos

Our school photos will be taken on the **20 and 27 February 2015**.

20 February - Years 4-6, School Captains, sporting and musical groups.

27 February - Prep - Year 3

For the convenience of our school community Advanced Life have now introduced Online Ordering. School photos can now be ordered and paid for using a secure online Web Portal. Please note: Photos can still be purchased using an envelope.

The preference of our school is that Orders and Payments be made through the Web Portal as this reduces the administration and associated order issues related to the return of cash & envelopes on photo day.

To place your order visit www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code- 14P PKH FD4. A full set of instructions on how to order can be found on the back of the order flyer. The order code can also be found printed on the envelopes supplied by advancedlife. Please be aware that-

- 1. Sibling/Family Photos may be ordered online or via envelope. To ensure a smoothly run photography day, Online Orders for Sibling/Family Photos will be cut off 48hrs before our photography day to allow a list of students that require Sibling/Family photographs taken to be compiled. Sibling Photos can still be ordered after the Online cut off date by collecting an envelope from the office in the usual way and returning the envelope on photo day with payment enclosed.
- 2. All Online Orders should be placed on or before our day of photography. Please Note: Once orders are closed a LATE FEE will apply.
- 3. The Online code above Web Portal may also be used to order previous years' sports and other group photos at any time.
- All Online Orders placed through the Web Portal will be returned to school for collection.

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, included is the link to Crime Stoppers Queensland below.

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

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

Student Resource Scheme \$80 (includes Elearn)

Participation Agreement Forms will be sent home with each student this week. To satisfy audit requirements, could parents/guardians please complete Agreement form, stating whether Yes, you wish to participate or No, you do not wish to participate, and return the form to either your class teacher or the office by 13 February. Families can use one form, just list student names and year level. Please indicate Payment Arrangements.

[Click here to view covering letter.](#) [Click here to view Participation Agreement Form](#)

DATE CLAIMERS

Money collection days are Tuesday & Thursday Before 10am

Eftpos is available!

12 Feb	Yr 2 (2C, 2B & 1/2P) Redlands Museum Click here
13 Feb	Student Resource Scheme (yellow form) needs to be returned by today. Click here Yr 2 (2T & 2SM) Redlands Museum Click here
16 Feb	Parent Information Sessions Click here
17 Feb	P&C AGM & monthly meeting 7pm in staffroom
20 Feb	School Photos Yrs 4-6 Click here for further information
27 Feb	School Photos continued - Prep - 3 Click here
12 March	Student Resource Scheme payment due Click here for letter. Click here for Agreement Form
20 June	Winter Solstice Fair 12:30pm to 5:30pm Click here

Click here to view [2015 School Calendar](#)

Curriculum Corner

Welcome to the 2015 school year. I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful break and were able to spend quality time with family and loved ones. What an amazing start to the year we have had! Everything has run so smoothly and I know this is in part to the preparation that you as parents and carers do prior to day one. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is ready for the new academic year. A special mention must also go to our hard-working and dedicated teachers, many of whom have been burning the midnight oil for the past three weeks ensuring classrooms were bright and stimulating and resources suitably challenging and ready to go from day one.

Goal Setting:

This week, all students from year 1 to Year 6 will bring home their first learning goals for the year. At Thornlands State School we encourage all students to take ownership of their learning and one way of doing this is through goal setting. The goal setting process encourages students to identify areas in which they can improve or extend their learning. The goals are then formulated in conjunction with the teacher taking into consideration the learning focus and demands of the curriculum unit they are currently undertaking. If you have any questions about your child's goals, please make a time to discuss this with your child's teacher.

Parent Information Sessions:

Our Parent Information Session is set for Monday 16 February. This is the perfect opportunity to meet your child's teacher and find out first-hand the expectations for the new academic year. We encourage all parents to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would be only too happy to assist you in any way I can.

Kind regards,

Kristy Warriner

Head of Curriculum

Music News

Band:

Mr Higgins

- Lessons start Monday and Tuesday week 3
- First Senior Band rehearsal week 3, 7:45am Tuesday 10 February

Strings:

Mrs Slater

- Lessons start Wednesday week 3
- First Senior String ensemble rehearsal week 4, 8am Wednesday 18 February

Senior Choir:

Mrs Connor

- All students in years 3-6 are invited to join
- Friday mornings at 8am in the music room
- First rehearsal Friday 6 February

Junior Choir:

Mrs Connor

- All students in years 1 and 2 are invited to join
- Friday afternoon session at 2:20pm in the music room
- First rehearsal Friday 6 February

Drum and Guitar Lessons:

Bruce and Brock

- Lessons each Thursday beginning 5 February
- Contact Bruce on 0420536704 with any questions

Kate Connor - **Music Teacher**

Library News

It's been a great start to the year in our Library. Library lessons have begun, and students are borrowing books to take home. Preps, Year 1 and Year 2 students borrow one book per week, and Year 3 upwards borrow two. Any child who is signed up for I Read @ Home may borrow an extra book. Borrowing is done in Library lessons, but students can also borrow before school (from 8:15), and both lunch breaks.

Students are expected to have a bag to protect their borrowed books, and we always need donations of plastic bags for this purpose in case students forget their Library bags. Please bring any donations to the Library.

Book Club orders have been distributed to classes and they are due back by 16 February. Parents can now order and pay online without the need to hand in an Order Form at school. Go to <http://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/> for details.

Chappy Corner

Welcome Back

Well, here we are – another year begins! I hope everyone had a happy, safe and best of all relaxing holiday. To all our new Thornlands SS staff, students and families, welcome, I look forward to meeting you. And of course welcome back to our existing Thornlands community!

For those of you who do not yet know me, my name is Angela, and I'm the school Chaplain. I run programs and activities for students, help out in the classroom where I can, and offer social and emotional support to the Thornlands SS community.

Every Thursday morning we also run a free Chappy breakfast for students, from 7.45am in the hall, please join us!

If there's anything at all I can do for you, or if you have any questions, please contact me at awolf36@eq.edu.au, or on ext 131, Thursdays and Fridays. Look forward to hearing from you!

Chappy Ange

Chappy Breakfast

Students, start your day the healthy way.

Every Thursday morning in the hall, from 7.45am, enjoy a free breakfast.

Brought to you by the Chaplaincy program at Thornlands State School.

See you there!

P&C News

A warm welcome back to school, to all our Thornlands Families . Exciting year ahead for all parents and students.

Our first Fair in 5 years is being held on Saturday June 20, 2015.

Soon all classes will be given stalls to organise and run on the day . DON'T PANIC !!

All this means is with lots of volunteers and participation with donations, it will run smoothly and it will ease the load amongst parents.

THE NEXT FAIR MEETING IS BEING HELD on Monday 9 February, IN THE UNIFORM SHOP@ 3.15 PM. PLEASE COME ALONG TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT . (children welcome / afternoon tea provided) Any Help is Great Help , lots you can do from home, in your own time .

NEW PARENTS TO THE SCHOOL - A great way to meet other parents.

Thank you , and hope to see lots of Helpers there . Any queries please email deearnplain@yahoo.com (T.S.S Fundraising Coordinator).

Uniform Shop

Opens: Monday mornings - 8.30am - 9.30am

Community News

Summer is on the way!

Click [here](#) for more information regarding swimming lessons at our school pool.