Principal's Corner - 19 February 2015

There were many proud parents at the Student Leaders’ Induction Assembly on Monday. Thank you to Dr Mark Robinson (State Member for Cleveland) and Kim-Maree Hardman (Redlands Councillor) for their attendance. I have been very impressed with the calibre of all our prospective student leaders this year and I know that they will fulfill their duties very capably during 2015. Congratulations to all our school leaders – Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains, Band and Choir Captains and Student Councillors.

Please note that our regular school Assembly is held in the Hall every Monday afternoon at 2:30pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend. Parents will be informed on the previous Friday if their child is to receive a Student of the Week Award, so that should you wish to be present on Assembly to watch this, you can make arrangements to do so.

This year at Thornlands we will have a clear focus on consolidating the work we have done in the last 2-3 years particularly in reading and writing; also on ensuring that our most capable students are extended to their full potential. Ensuring we have a consistent approach to the teaching of maths will also be a key focus. The teachers utilize a range of student data to identify areas of strength and weakness and provide very targeted learning experiences to build on these.

At Thornlands we aim for

MORE –

Making

Our
Results

Excellent

In other words we want each and every child to reach their full potential- whatever that may be – in all domains - academic, social, emotional, cultural and so on- “Growing the Whole Child”.

Teamwork is important to all of us here at Thornlands. For many years a strength in curriculum has been enabling year level teams to plan cooperatively once a term with the HOC (Head of Curriculum). This is a very important aspect of effective curriculum delivery as it enables a lot of professional sharing and consistency across classes and will certainly continue in 2015.

Another effective strategy that will continue this year in order to further enhance consistency and curriculum leadership across the school is the maintenance of Curriculum team leaders in each year level. A key teacher in each year level has agreed to take on additional responsibilities in leading their year level team with regards to teaching and learning. It has been wonderful to see the professionalism deepen across our school as a result. Our students are the ones who benefit most from this.

This year we are enhancing our team structure even further by assigning dedicated teacher aides to each year level. Overall this is significantly more teacher aide time than in previous years, which is possible due to the Great Results funding ($203,970) which is to support all year levels in 2015. Already this additional classroom support and consistency is reaping benefits in classrooms.

Also as part of our Great Results Guarantee we will again be conducting our “Rally Readers” program in Year 1 and 2. This will begin in a few weeks’ time. There will be more information on this in upcoming newsletters.

A most important note outlining the Student Resource Scheme was sent home recently. This is now overdue. We ask that you pay $80 towards a range of resources that children use in their classroom including $20 for the E-learning programs – Mathletics and Reading Eggs. These programs offer invaluable reinforcement of student learning and they are fun! $20 for a year’s access to all of these programs is exceptional value. I encourage you to make this payment to further enhance your child’s learning opportunities. Note that students will not be able to access these programs until the $20 subscription has been paid.

Please note it is your choice whether or not you participate in the Student Resource Scheme, however if you choose not to, we will be asking you to provide certain resources for your child's use eg paper. I am sure you agree that roughly $15 a term (excluding the E Learning programs) is a minimal amount, however it is very significant to our school budgeting. Please note that the yellow form, indicating whether or not you will be taking part in the scheme, was due back last Friday, 13 February. Payment, however, is not due until 13 March 2015. If you are experiencing difficulty making payment, please contact the school Office. We are only too happy to arrange a payment plan to ease the financial burden at this time of year. Thank you in advance for your support on this most important matter.

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the Parent Teacher Information Sessions that were held on Monday. I’m sure you all appreciated the professional yet relaxed and welcoming atmosphere in each classroom. The relationship between home and school is most important in maximising each student’s
potential and this is a great opportunity to establish that early in the year. Thank you to Kristy Warriner (Head of Curriculum) and Cathy Hemmings (Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy) who took the opportunity on that afternoon and again later this week to conduct a Parent Workshop on ways in which parents can support Reading at home.

Watch out for information on a range of other parent workshops that will be conducted this year on a range of topics including ways in which you can support your child’s learning at home, Behaviour Management, the “You Can Do IT” program, oral language etc.

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 3-6). 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 important things for you to be aware of:

- **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.
Thanks for your support of our great school,

Regards

Robyn

School Leaders

It has been a pleasure to be involved with the student leader selection process for this year’s student leaders.

The assembly on Monday went very smoothly and all the leaders were very enthusiastic about being part of the student leadership team.

This year was also a little different in that some students did not know which position they were receiving until Monday’s assembly.

We now have 51 students who hold leadership positions at the school, and it promises to be a most exciting year.

There will always be opportunities for all students to help out at the school, and we encourage all students to be involved to continue to make Thornlands School a great place.

Below are our 2015 School Leaders  Archie S, Alex M, Principal Ms Robyn Wilton, Kara R and Emma K
Regards

John Tucker
Deputy Principal

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](http://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.

4. 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.

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)

Thank-you to all who have returned the yellow Participation Form. For those who have not yet returned their form please do so as soon as possible.

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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Now Due</strong></td>
<td>Student Resource Scheme (yellow form) needs to be returned by today. Link here</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Band Strings Levy and Hire for Students continuing from 2014 due now to remain in Music Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>School Photos Yrs 4-6 Link here for further information</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Feb</td>
<td>School Photos continued - Prep - 3 Link here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Student Resource Scheme payment due Link here for letter. Link here for Agreement Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>Year 3 Camp Warrawee Link here for further information</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Band and Strings Levy and Hire Moneys due now for new students in 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 June</td>
<td>Winter Solstice Fair 12:30pm to 5:30pm Link here</td>
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Curriculum Corner

Reading in the Library

For those of you who may not know, our Library is open from 8:15am each morning for students to come in and read. It is so great to see the number of families who take the opportunity to share a book together on our comfy chairs.

The Clarke Family enjoying a book before school. (Rodney and Angela Clarke with Makenna from PYA).

StartSmart Visit: Be Clever With Your Coins

Currently students in Years 1, 3 and 5 are engaged in financial literacy presentation entitled ‘StartSmart’. The StartSmart program introduces students to the skills of financial literacy in a way that students can understand and enjoy. Year 1 and 2 children work with ‘Money Girl’ who introduces them to ‘spend to their needs’ and ‘wait for their wants’. The sessions are exciting, hands-on and use fun rhymes and colourful characters to engage the children and put them on the path of practising solid financial habits.

In Year 3 students are challenged to identify the factors that influence their spending. The workshop equips the students with the skills and knowledge to maximise saving and the ability to spend smarter.

The Year 5 workshop gives students a practical framework for realistic, financial goal setting by encouraging them to ‘See it, Earn it, Save it’.
Students discuss the opportunity to earn money and making a savings goal a reality.

**Parent Information Sessions**

This week we hosted our ‘Meet the Teacher’ parent information sessions alongside a Prep Oral Language session and an information session for lower school parents about the ways to assist with reading at home. It was great to see the number of parents and carers who took up these opportunities. These sessions have been so well received. We will definitely offer further sessions throughout the year.

If you have any questions on any of these programmes or on the curriculum in general, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Kristy Warriner

Head of Curriculum

**PE News**

Hi and welcome back to another year of sport at Thornlands State School. Last Monday our School Swimming Team competed in the newly formed Bayside District Primary School Swimming Trials. Congratulations to the following children who represented our school so valiantly on the day; Anika C, Taleeya P, Bailey H, Hamish T, Tayla P, Paige M, Sharna H, Cody T, Jaz P, Kara R, Mitchell A and Curby B. A special mention goes to Sharna H who made the Bayside District Team for Breaststroke and Hamish T who also qualified for the Bayside Team as a Para-athlete in the Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Hats off to Hamish who as a Para-athlete had to race against the able-bodied children in order to achieve the qualifying standards required to make it through to the Met-East Trials, well done!

On another note, I have had some parents ask me if the Active After School Sports Programs are running again this term. The answer to this is," No". The program is currently being updated and streamlined and will be available again at the beginning of Term 3 and will now be called ‘Sporting Schools’. In the mean time I am endeavouring to have QLD Basketball come into the school one day a week after school to run a user pay Hoops Program for students who are interested. Students will be notified about this at a later date. Cross Country Training for children in grades 3 – 7 has started again on Monday and Wednesday mornings starting at 8am on the oval. If your child is interested please have them see me for a permission note.

Yours in Sport

Aaron Tuni

PE Teacher
Learning Support

**Fast ForWord at Thornlands State School**

**Parent Information Session**

Thornlands State School has successfully provided intervention to support literacy skills for a range of students during the last two years using the Fast ForWord Program.

Fast ForWord is an evidence based computer program that was developed by neuroscientists and has been shown to facilitate significant improvements in essential cognitive skills such as **auditory processing, working memory, concentration and focus, phonemic awareness, language and literacy skills**

Students chosen to participate in the program are assessed to obtain an individualised baseline. Each student’s statistical data is closely monitored daily and assistance is provided by a member of the Thornlands State School staff. Students are required to attend sessions before school each day, Monday to Friday from 8:15 to 8:45 over the course of terms 2 and 3. An additional 20 minute session needs to be completed at home each afternoon.

**The cost for the 22 week program at Thornlands in 2015 is $400. Please note there are a limited number of places available in our 2015 Fast ForWord Program.**

A parent information session will be presented by Shahin Seker, Educational consultant from Sonic Learning to explain the benefits and research of the Fast ForWord program. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please attend this session to learn more.

**Date:** Tuesday, 24 February, 2015

**Time:** 3.10pm - 4.00pm

**Venue:** Panorama Computer Lab, library

For registration to attend this Fast ForWord information session email Cathy Hemmings, at chemm1@eq.edu.au

Regards

Cathy Hemmings

Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy

Chappy Corner

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

FUNDRAISING MEETING

An invitation to all our wonderful families, to our first FUNDRAISING MEETING. The meeting will be held in the uniform shop on Wednesday 25 February@1-3 pm (afternoon tea provided). WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP PLEASE.

The meeting will be about planning all future fundraising events for the year. So, if you would like to be involved and have your say, we welcome your ideas. For any further information please email Dee -Arn at deearnplain@yahoo.com. See you there! New parents very welcome!

TUCKSHOP HELP

TUCK SHOP NEEDS YOU! Can you spare some time? Come and say hello!!

We always need helpers, especially on Fridays!! If you can spare two hours or a little bit more on a Friday morning from 8:30-9:00am, then it would be really appreciated. With the new tuckshop menu, we are getting a
great response from families, but Fridays are still our biggest lunch day and we are very short handed! Just drop in on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday and catch up with other parents and our tuckshop team. See you there.

FAIR NEWS !!!  FAIR NEWS!!!  FAIR NEWS!!!

We are having our first school fair in 5 years, and we are inviting the local Thornlands business community to be part of the fun. If you would like to become a sponsor and support this major event in our local community (from stalls to fireworks) please contact Dee-Arn Plain at deearnplain@yahoo.com. It's a great way for you to get noticed.

ITEMS NEEDED

PRE LOVED BOOKS WANTED - good quality books are needed for our book stall. Please bring them to Miss Claire(2C) and 1/2 P. Thank you very much.

MARKET STALL HOLDERS - We are SEEKING market stall holders (arts/craft) for the fair. Spaces are available so if you, or you know of anyone that would like a stall please contact Steve at steveninaus@hotmail.com.

Classes have elected there stalls for the fair. If you are unsure on what your child's class is doing, please speak to their teacher and they will be happy to let you know what donations they need for the event. Thank you very much for everyone's help with this.
Next fair meeting will be on **Monday 23 February** @ 3.15 pm in the uniform shop. Everyone is welcome. Please bring any reports that you may have for discussion. Look forward to seeing you. Please contact Dee-Arn Plain at [deeamplain@yahoo.com](mailto:deeamplain@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

**Uniform Shop**

Opens: Monday mornings - 8.30am - 9.30am

**Community News**

![Sue Aitken Swim School Logo](image)

**Summer is on the way!**

Click [here](http://www.thornlandsss.eq.edu.au) for more information regarding swimming lessons at our school pool.

Panorama Drive  
Thornlands, QLD , 4164  

07 3821 8111  
07 3821 8100  
07 3821 8181  

[admin@thornlandsss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@thornlandsss.eq.edu.au)  
[http://www.thornlandsss.eq.edu.au](http://www.thornlandsss.eq.edu.au)