



[Principal's Corner](#)

[P&C News](#)

[School News](#)

[Community News](#)

[Curriculum Corner](#)

[Learning Support](#)

[PE News](#)

[Chappy Corner](#)

Principal's Corner - 5 March 2015

Last year was a transitional year for Thornlands SS as we progressively adopted a philosophy for managing student behaviour, which further enhanced the already positive approach that we had.

During 2014, a number of our staff attended several training days in “**Positive Behaviour for Learning**” (PBL) and this year are leading the implementation of it across the school. This **ensures consistency of expectations and responses to behaviour across the school.**

Part of our PBL approach was the **adoption of new school rules as follows:**

As a learner I will:

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe

These rules apply in every context at school, whether that be in the classroom, in the playground, moving around the school, on excursions, using the toilets, using the tuckshop etc. **Part of the PBL approach is that we explicitly teach the children what these rules mean in the various situations at school so that there is a common understanding of our expectations.** Every week the same focus lesson is taught across the entire school from Prep- Year 6.

A range of positive reinforcements are used to “catch” children doing the right thing and encourage them to continue their positive behaviour. The creativity, professionalism and awareness of the needs of their students, underpins the range of positive reinforcement used in our classrooms.

Of course, in order to ensure the safety, wellbeing and effective learning of everyone at school, there are also consequences for students who choose to break the rules. The aim is to assist these students to reflect and learn how to make better behavioural choices in the future.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to strive towards and maintain the high expectations for good behaviour of all of our students at all times. We aim to ensure that Thornlands SS is a calm, safe, disciplined and happy environment in which teaching and learning are the focus and where every individual student is supported to be the best they can be. **Working together we can achieve so much more, as we strive to “Grow the Whole Child”!**

Watch out for **parent workshops on a range of behaviour related topics in the coming months**, including the “You Can Do It” program, which we implement across the school to support social/emotional learning

It is amazing just how quickly Term 1 is flying by. We are now into the second half of the term, with a number of events to occur in the next few weeks. Please note that Tuesday, 17 March will be a Free Dress Day to draw the whole school community’s attention to the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. We are asking the students to wear the colour orange, if possible, as this is the colour which symbolises anti-bullying.

Also in that week on Thursday, **19 March is the school Cross Country. Thank you to Aaron Tuni**, our P.E. Teacher for organising such a great morning of fitness. Of course parents are very welcome to come and cheer the runners on. This was a great community event last year so **I look forward to seeing you there**. This year again, the Cross Country will be combined with the **P&C Fun Run**. Please help to raise funds for our P&C to pass on to our students, by returning the sponsorship form and money when requested.

Other events of note in the coming weeks include the Year 3 and Year 4 Camps, the Public Speaking Extension Day at CDSHS, and the P-2 Easter Bonnet Parade. I know you join me in thanking the staff who go above and beyond organising and supervising these extra opportunities for our students.

I would like to remind you to return the yellow **Student Resource Scheme** note which is now well 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**.

I encourage you to pay at least the \$20 for the E Learning programs immediately, so that your child/ren will be able to use them. 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.

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 Learn). 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.**

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 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.

Thanks for your support of our great school,

Regards

Robyn

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence cybersafety workshops

As part of the [National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence](#) on 20 March 2015, the Department of Education and Training is offering a series of interactive online cybersafety workshops for parents, teachers and students entitled "Mind your step".

Brett Lee, creator of Internet Education and Safety Services (INESS) and the department's Cybersafety team will facilitate six interactive online safety workshops from 10 – 20 March 2015.

[Register](#) now for the online workshops.

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/national-day/

www.behaviour.education.qld.gov.au/bullying-and-violence/Pages/Mind-your-step.aspx

Deputy's Desk

Project 600 this year is targeting a small group of students in Year 5 who will benefit from reinforcement of strategies in numeracy, as well as introducing new strategies. This program is part of a plethora of courses on offer through the School of Distance Education Brisbane. The students are learning on line by a teacher through the internet. We trust they will benefit from being part of this program. This is another example of a range of offerings that Thornlands State School has for students.

Parents/Carers, we have had a confirmed case of Chicken Pox in the school. Please be aware of the symptoms, and more information can be found on the Queensland Government Queensland Health website. The url is http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/ViralInfections/chickenpoxVaricella_fs.asp

School Photos

Our school photos for the Year 4 - Year 6 **27 March 2015**. The photographers will also take any sibling group photos that weren't taken on 27 February.

27 March - Year 4 - Year 6

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)

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!

Now Due	<p>Student Resource Scheme (yellow form) needs to be returned by today. Click here</p> <p>Band and Strings Levy and Hire for Students continuing from 2014 due now to remain in Music Program</p>
12 March	<p>Student Resource Scheme payment due Click here for letter. Click here for Agreement Form</p>
17 March	<p>Free Dress Day</p>
19 March	<p>Cross Country 9am - 11am</p>
23 March	<p>Parent teacher Interviews 3:15 - 6.30pm</p>
26 March	<p>Year 3 Camp Warrawee Click here for further information</p>
26 March	<p>ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for School) Click here for further information</p>
27 March	<p>School Photos Yrs 4-6 Click here for further information</p>
30 March	<p>Year 4 Camp QCCC Tamboine Click here for further information</p>
31 March	<p>Band and Strings Levy and Hire Moneys due now for new students in 2015</p>
2 April	<p>Easter Hat Parade 9.30 am</p>
3 Arpil	<p>School Holidays</p>

20 April	School Resumes
20 April	Year 6 Camp Mapleton Click here for further information
24 April	Anzac Ceremony Parade 10am
20 June	Winter Solstice Fair 12:30pm to 5:30pm Click here

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

Curriculum Corner

Assessment and The Feedback Loop

We have reached that inevitable time that comes along each term . . . assessment time. Yes, I hear the groans from far and wide. However, for both teachers and students this time of the term is more than just a 'grade' on a paper. It is a critical period of time as it is central to the teaching and learning 'feedback loop'. At this stage of the term students are undertaking mainly formative assessment tasks. These tasks are also known as 'assessment *for* learning' and provide specific information to both the student and teacher about student understanding and progress. This is in direct contrast to a Summative Assessment Task, which is assessment *of* learning. The main difference between 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 both teachers and students on their progress, however their main purpose is for reporting.

Parent/ Teacher Interviews

At Thornlands State School we formally report on student progress four times per year. In Terms 1 and 3 this is in the form of a Parent/Teacher Interview, with written report cards issued in Terms 2 and 4. This year our Term 1 Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled for Monday 23 March from 3:15pm – 6:30pm. Bookings will be available through our school website via the [Parent Teacher Online](#) tab from Monday 16 March. Next week you will receive your login information and instructions. If you do not have access to a computer with an internet connection, please contact the office or 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 2015. If you wish your student to participate, the permission form and money will need to be returned by Thursday 26 March.

NAPLAN

In 2015 NAPLAN will take place in week 4 of Term 2: the 12 – 14 May. Shortly, all students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will receive information and an overview regarding NAPLAN in 2015. 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. For those who may be unfamiliar with NAPLAN, I have included some sample questions below from past tests.

Year 3 Language Convention

Kookaburra



Here is a kookaburra.

It has a sharp beek.

It has broun wings.

It has long layl feathers.

I was verey happy at the park.

We went driveing in the new car.

Jake sumtimes surprises his family by making biscuits for them.

A nurse helps sick people.

The bus stoped and the children got on.

At school, I lurn many things.

Year 5 Language Conventions

The spelling mistakes in these labels have been circled.

Write the correct spelling for each circled word in the box.

Book cover

Last week we went on an eckscursion. 20

The pirates found the presious jewels. 21

We could see the sails on the tall marsts from the shore. 22

There was great exitement before the fireworks commenced. 23

The school will hold its annuel swimming carnival next week. 24

The runners were exorsted after the race. 25

All Year 3 and Year 5 classes have commenced NAPLAN preparation activities. For your information, NAPLAN tests from the past four years are available on the [Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority Website \(ACARA\)](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. http://www.naplan.edu.au/tests/tests_landing_page.html

Good luck and happy practising!

Kind regards,

Kristy Warriner

Head of Curriculum

PE News

Congratulations to our school swimming team who competed last Friday at the Cluster Swimming Carnival. This was our first time at this carnival and we came out with our heads held high, huge smiles on our faces and a fourth place overall for our efforts, WELL DONE!!!

On Thursday 19 of March our annual school Cross Country will be held between 9am and 11am. The Cross Country will be for Prep right through to year 6. A rundown of the morning is below. A note for all children who are required to run outside the school as part of their course will be sent home soon.

9:10	War cries/ Introduction/ Welcome	
9:15	Event 1	6 yr girls (born 2010) – 500m run 6 yr boys (born 2010) – 500m run
9:25	Event 2	Prep girls – 500m run

		Prep boys – 500m run
9:40	Event 3	12 yr girls (born 2003) – 2100m 12 yr boys (born 2003) – 2100m
9:45	Event 4	7 yr girls (born 2008) – 500m 7 yr boys (born 2008) – 500m
10:05	Event 5	11 yr girls (born 2004) - 2100m 11 yr boys (born 2004) - 2100m
10:10	Event 6	8 yr girls (born 2007) – 1000m 8yr boys (born 2007) – 1000m
10:20	Event 7	9 yr girls (born 2006) – 1400m 9 yr boys (born 2006) – 1400m
10:35	Event 8	10 yr girls (born 2005) – 1400m 10 yr boys (born 2005) – 1400m
11:00	Children will return to class with teacher ready for 1 st break.	

Presentations to be done on special assembly.

Learning Support

Fast ForWord at Thornlands State School

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. Ideally, an additional 20 minute session needs to be completed at home at least three times a week, if possible.

The cost for the 22 week program in 2015 is \$400. Full payment would be required by the end of term 1. Please note there are a limited number of places available. To purchase a two term subscription privately for your child to train at home the cost would be over \$1200.

If a child has trouble listening, they usually have difficulties learning. Fast ForWord provides fast and lasting results, treats causes not symptoms, builds listening brains and is an award winning program.

For further information about the Fast ForWord program or view a demonstration video, visit www.soniclearning.com.au If you are interested enrolling your child in this program, or require more details, email Cathy Hemmings, at chemm1@eq.edu.au

Help your child build the cognitive skills needed for efficient and effective learning and reading.

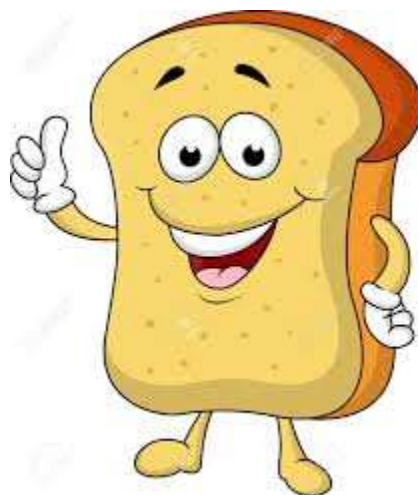
Regards

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!

Library

It's great to see students coming in to borrow with their parents in the mornings. Library hours are 8:15 am until 3:00 pm. The Library is also open at both breaks for students to read and borrow. Many thanks for bringing in plastic bags to use as Library bags for students who forget theirs. Keep them coming!

P&C News

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.

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.