



THORNLANDS STATE SCHOOL

Growing the Whole Child

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Principal Robyn Wilton

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Year 6 Update

Dear Parents

As you are no doubt aware, 2020 has been a year like no other and I want to thank you for continuing to work with us as we adapt to the circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Given it is nearing the end of Term 3, I thought it was timely to update you on our plans for Year 6 Graduation, and Camp.

Year 6 Graduation

You may not be aware, that during the pandemic, state schools are operating under prescribed guidelines from the Department of Education in conjunction with Queensland Health. In response to relevant Health advice, these Guidelines have changed frequently, with the guidelines related to School Functions, changing as recently as 26 August.

Here at Thornlands we take the health and safety of all of our staff, students and their families very seriously and we therefore implement these guidelines as efficiently and fully as we can. The guidelines around school events are quite complex, which in turn ultimately impacts how events are run and what format they should take. (Please see below the current relevant guidelines).

School functions and formals

School functions such as formals and graduations can be held at businesses that have approved [COVID Safe Industry Plans](#).

If there isn't an approved COVID Safe Industry Plan in place, the principal must ensure all measures have been taken to meet departmental and Chief Health Officer requirements.

Students from the same school do not have to socially distance in a school venue, but the school does have to adhere to occupant density restrictions with:

- *no more than one person per 2 square metres (up to a total of 50 people) for venues or spaces of 200 square metres or less or*
- *no more than one person per 4 square metres for venues or spaces of 200 square metres or more..*

Physical distancing of 1.5 metres must be maintained between adults at all times.

Queensland Health has also advised that dancing is not permitted at school functions, regardless of where they are held.

So what does this mean for us? Fortunately at our school we have a large hall which can cater to our very large Year 6 cohort and associated staff, enabling correct social distancing and occupant density restrictions, but does not allow for the attendance of parents at Graduation. Therefore, the ceremony itself will still go ahead, including the presentation of awards and graduation folders, the video montage of students and the Year 6 song, whilst adhering to the strict guidelines we have been provided. To ensure the significant adults in your child's life do not miss out on this very special occasion, we intend to make a recording of the ceremony and provide this to all Year 6 families as a memento.

The ceremony will take place on **Tuesday 1st December 9:30am** and the **dress code will be smart casual**. Please note, we do not wish parents to experience any undue expense and children do not need new clothes. It is most usual for boys to wear shorts and button shirts or appropriate T shirt. For girls, smart trousers, shorts, dresses or skirts (not too short) are suitable. Please remember shoes must be comfortable. (High heeled shoes would be most unsuitable). Students will remain in these clothes for the remainder of the school day.

More information regarding Graduation, will be sent home in Term 4.

Year 6 Camp – *Aspire Higher and Reach Your Potential*

After careful consideration of the latest Operating Guidelines, we have also made the very difficult decision to cancel our Mapleton Camp. Instead, we have booked a '**day camp**' which will take place over two days (**23 – 24 November**) here at school facilitated by UPP ("Unleashing Personal Potential"). This organisation comes very highly recommended and has been used in the past by Cleveland District State High School.

During this **day camp experience**, our Year 6 students will experience a variety of interactive and engaging activities, designed to inspire and motivate, and encourage individual reflection and action. Day 2 will be focussed on peer relationships, positive interactions, conflict resolution, transition and change in preparation for the path ahead, as they move onto High School.

Very soon you will receive a refund for Camp Mapleton minus the cost of the 2 day incursion for which you will be invoiced separately (approx. \$50). More information about the Day Camp will also be sent home early next term.

2020 has certainly ensured our Year 6 students have had an unusual end to their Primary School years, and one that will not be forgotten quickly. Whilst the next 13 weeks may not look the same as in previous years, we are working hard to make the final term of Primary school very special and memorable for these students.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts to keep everyone safe at school.

Yours sincerely,



Robyn Wilton

Principal