



THORPDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Our School Values are:- Respect, Learning, Honesty, Fairness and Community

Newsletter 30th of January, 2015

Issue No. 1

CALENDAR

TERM 1 {January 28 ~ April 4}

February

- Fri 6th** - St John's First Aid
- Mon 9th** - Swimming
- Tues 10th** - Swimming
- Thurs 12th** - Swimming
- Fri 13th** - Swimming
- Mon 16th** - Swimming
- Tues 17th** - Swimming
- School council Meeting
- Wed 18th** - Family BBQ
- Thurs 19th** - Swimming
- Fri 20th** - Swimming
- Mon 23rd** - School Photos
- Thurs 26th** - Swimming
- Fri 27th** - House Swimming Sports
- Assembly 1:30pm
- Dismissal Time 2:00pm

March

- Sun 8th** - Thorpdale Potato Festival
- Mon 9th** - Labour Day Public Holiday
- Thurs 26th** - Y & D Athletic Sports
- Fri 27th** - Last Day of Term

Principal's Prattle

Let me start by welcoming everyone to the new school year. We have eight new families starting with us this year, so if you see a new face in the car park or in the school grounds go up and introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

Our new Preps settled into their class unbelievably well with not a single tear from any of the kids. I walked into their classroom around 9.30 on Thursday and couldn't believe how settled and on task everyone was. Well done Prep/Ones. Both the Year 2/3 and the 4/5/6 classes were buzzing with the excitement of the first day back. It was a wonderful start to the year for everyone at Thorpdale Primary School!

I would also like to welcome back Mrs. Alice Kenneth who will be taking on the roles of Science and P.E specialist as well as Intervention. The staff have been busy over the past week preparing and getting everything organised so that the year starts in the best possible fashion. The three classrooms seem very settled and the new Preppies are delightful, with all the other students doing their best to look after them and make them feel at ease. I would like to congratulate the Year 6 buddies on the great way they have helped the Preps get settled into the school environment.

Each week, I give out three Principal awards. This year I will be giving out these awards based on the school values of Respect, Learning, Honesty, Fairness and Community. Students will be able to assist by nominating students who they believe exhibit these qualities in and around the school.

Another aspect of schooling that I would like to push this year is the thought that 'Every Minute Counts'. This theme backs onto "It is not okay to be away", which has been a theme at our school during the past couple of years. At the back of this newsletter is a table showing you what just a little bit lateness could be costing your child. If we add in holidays taken during school terms it starts to look rather scary when you start adding up all the time lost

Staffing for 2015: Our staffing and classroom organisation for 2015 is;
Office- Mrs. Anne Bone (**Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday**)

Prep/One- Miss Emily Brereton **Room 3.**

Two/Three- Mrs. Robyn Roulston & Mr. Grant Nicholas **Room 4.**

Four/Five/Six- Miss Erin Reggardo **Room 2.**

P.E- Mrs. Alice Kenneth

Intervention- Mrs. Alice Kenneth & Mr. Grant Nicholas

Music- Mrs. Sara Bonnici (**Wednesday**)

Science- Mrs. Alice Kenneth

P/1 Classroom Assistance & 4/5/6 Classroom Assistance- Mrs. Anna Fahey

Our Year 4/5/6 students have been busy thinking and writing a speech explaining to their peers why they should be elected as a Junior School Councillor or House Captains. These are positions that are held in high regard and are quite sought after. The students and staff see these positions as extremely important in the successful running of the school so they are taken very seriously and quite a lot is expected from these leadership roles. All our Year 3/4/5/6 students get to vote on who they would like to represent them as their Junior School Councillor and House Captains. The students' speeches try to encapsulate what a good school councillor and house captain should act like. House Captains are chosen from the Year 5/6 students while our JSC members are chosen from our 4/5/6 students. Unfortunately, I did not have the results of these elections at the time of printing, so you will have to stay on tender hooks until next week.



Birthdays

- Olive Flanagan ~ 10th of January
- Chace Mara ~ 12th of January
- Melinda McCarthy ~ 13th of January
- Charlotte Durkin ~ 17th of January
- Jake Murphy ~ 19th of January
- Brandon Watson ~ 23rd of January
- Lucas Murphy ~ 26th of January
- Jessica Powell ~ 28th of January

Royal blue wide brimmed sunhats are required to be worn outside during Term 1.



Reading: All the staff would like to remind parents about the importance of reading. It is vital that someone in the family listens to your child read (The dog and cat do not count!) This is extremely vital in the junior and middle grades. Students in the senior grade still need to read on a daily basis, but in most cases this can be done silently. Although, listening to your child read occasionally is still very beneficial. Listening to them not only assists them with their reading, but it also shows them that you value reading and the importance of their school work/education. Don't forget to sign your child's reader cover to show this has occurred.

Swimming News: Our swimming program will start on **Monday 9th of February**. We will be having nearly Three weeks of intensive instruction with swimming happening on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Our Swimming Carnival has been pencilled in for the Friday afternoon on the 27th of February. **(That is if the weather is kind to us and allows us to get all our sessions in.)** Information and forms will accompany this newsletter. We would love to see a few parent helpers, especially in the junior grade where getting them dressed and undressed and then walking them down to the pool can be quite a chore.

Sunsmart School: As we are a sunsmart school we adhere to our policy of having all our students wearing a broad brimmed hat when they are outside during recess and lunch time. Please ensure that your child's hat is well labelled to try and safeguard that in the event that the lose it, it can be easily identified and returned.

Yinnar & District Sports News: The Yinnar & District Whole School Athletics Day will occur on Thursday 27th of February, so pencil it in to your dairies as it is a great day for the kids.

Medical Alerts: At the start of each year I have to update our medical register for any of our students who have a medical condition that could affect them at school. These could include: asthma, allergic reactions, seizures, eczema, etc. If your child has any of these conditions could you please let me know. All asthma sufferers need to have an up to date Asthma Management Plan and all asthma sufferers must now have their own spacer.

School Council News: Our first meeting for the year will be on Tuesday 17th of February. School Council and School Councillors play an important part in governance and giving the school its direction. This year we will have at least one position vacant with another four positions being open. This is a great way you can assist the school and not only your child's education but that of the entire school. Meetings generally only take an hour of your time and there are only 8 meetings for the year and they are held in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. So why not give it a go? Have a chat with one of our existing members or myself to find our more? They are James Fahey, Dan Ray, Tania Seccombe, Melissa Lister, Stuart Jennings, Colleen Jennings and Kristy Guy.

School Photos: School Photos will be held on Monday 23rd of February. Please ensure that your child/ren are in full school uniform on that day. Order packages will be sent home closer to the day.

Bus Travellers: Just a reminder to all parents of our bus travellers. If your child is not travelling on the bus, could you please ensure that you have either sent in a note, rung the school or let the teacher on duty know that you are taking your child so we don't have teachers looking for students who have already left with their parents or friends? Also a note is required if your child is getting on or off at another bus stop that is not their own regular bus stop. Notes are also required from non bus travellers who wish to travel on the bus in special circumstances.

Drinks at school: Just a reminder that children should not be bringing soft drinks or cordial along to school in their drink bottle. Students are allowed to have their drink bottle filled with water in class.

Brain Food: All our classes, have a brain food time during class. The teachers have asked that during this time children bring in a healthy snack such as fruit, vegetable, nut or cheese. The staff would like to thank you for your cooperation in this undertaking!

Art Smocks: Just a reminder about children's art smocks. Each child should have some sort of art smock which they can leave at school. (Dad's old long sleeve shirt is good) We all know that our kids are going to wipe the paint off their fingers on something; it's a much better option to wipe it on the art smock rather than their new school uniform!

Conveyance (travel) Allowance:

Students attending Thorpdale Primary School who live more than 4.8km from their nearest school and don't have access to the school bus may be eligible to claim conveyance allowance. Conditions apply - please see Anne in the office or go to website www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschol/lifeatschool/traveltoschool.htm.

Clothing: Each year we get a whole range of clothing and personal items left at school without names on them. To stop this from happening, we ask that you label your child's clothing, shoes, lunchboxes, etc, so that any lost or misplaced item can be identified and returned. Thank you!

"Munchies" and Thorpdale Potato Festival: If you would like to be involved with "Munchies" or the school's fundraising at the Thorpdale Potato Festival this year please return the form sent home today so that rosters can be organised.

St John Ambulance will visit our school on Friday 6th of February to deliver free First Aid in Schools training to our students. Through the First Aid in Schools program, trained St John presenters will lead students from Prep to Year 6 through tailored sessions on the importance of First Aid and what to do in the event of an emergency. Our junior students will learn about how to identify when there is an emergency, keeping themselves safe, and how to call for an ambulance. Senior students will learn about delivering CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and the things they can do to assist in an emergency.

Students will be given a special piece of homework for parents to complete. We encourage you to "do your homework" and go online with St John to see how much you know about First Aid. Are you First Aid READY?

More information about the St John First Aid in Schools program can be found at: www.stjohnvic.com.au/schools

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS:

Lucas Boothey: You have received this award because of the excellent way that you look after your school books. That is a great way to show respect for your belongings. Well done, Lucas

Kaci-Lee Pickering: You have received this award because of the wonderful way you treat your classmates. You are not only kind, but you respect other people's opinions. Well done, Kac-Lee.

Brooke Hunter: You have received this award because of the beautiful manners you use in the classroom. Using your manners is a wonderful way to show someone that you respect them. Well done, Brooke!

Mr. Nic.

Cubs and Scouts

Thorpdale and District Cubs and Scouts start Tuesday, 3rd of February from 7:00pm until 8:15pm, for children aged 7 - 15 Years old. For more information, please contact Sarah Giessler on 0428 599 062 or 56 346 12