Welcome to 2015!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all new children, families and staff. We have started the year with 16 classes and 401 students. Class information was sent home last week – please see the office or look on the school website if you did not receive this note.

We have several new staff joining our team this year. To make it easier for you to identify them I have included their photos and roles below.

Mrs Belinda Zumbo is a new addition to our school this year. Her role is as Student Welfare Teacher and basically she is replacing Mrs Haynes our School Councillor. Mrs Zumbo will be here on Mondays and Wednesdays. She will be supporting students identified by the Learning Support and Welfare Teams and supporting them at school. Referrals can be made by parents. I will include more information on Mrs Zumbo’s role and next week.
Developing leadership skills and social responsibility

Our diary for the term is filling quickly. Please take special note of the following two important events.

- **Parent Information Sessions - Tuesday 10 February.** I would encourage all families to attend as this provides an excellent opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, ask questions and hear all the relevant information and answers to questions to ensure learning experiences throughout the year are positive.

*Times:-*

- Kindergarten – 4:00pm to 4:30 pm in K Bottlebrush / K Pandorea
- Stage 1: 4:40 pm to 5:10 pm in the hall
- Stage 2: 5:20 pm to 5:50 pm in the hall
- Stage 3: 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the hall

- **Student Leader Inductions:** Our elected students will be inducted during a ceremony on Wednesday 11 February at 10:00am in the school quadrangle. This will be followed by a morning tea for the leaders and their families.

As we start the new school year we have a couple of small reminders:

- Term 1 is ‘No Hat No Play!’ Children need to wear hats in the playground at all times or sit in designated areas for the play period.
- Absences need to be explained by a note, email or phone call to the school with a reason – unfortunately the department does not accept ‘sick’ as adequate which means the absence remains unexplained. Families planning holidays during the school term are encouraged to complete an exemption form prior to the absence. These are available from the office.
- If your child needs to leave school early please complete a sign out note at the office and present to your child’s class teacher when you collect them from their classroom.
- Our teachers are on duty from 8:30am each morning. Before this time there is no supervision. We ask that students do not arrive at school any earlier than 8:20am.
- Students needing to bring mobile phones to school for safety purposes before and after school are required to hand them in to the office at 9:00 am and collect at 3:00 pm. These are held during the day in a secure place.
- The first small car-park on Bottlebrush St is a staff car-park and delivery area. For safety reasons we ask that you do not walk through this area as vehicles are not looking out for pedestrians.

We look forward to a happy and successful year of learning and working together to the benefit of your child/children. Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any queries, questions or concerns.

*Regards*

*Joan Courtney*  
Relieving Principal

### Notes Home

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**Thurgoona Public School**
Developing leadership skills and social responsibility

Sport Uniform Days

INFANTS — Wednesdays
PRIMARY — Fridays

Bus Pass

![Martin's Travel Group Albury](image)

All students on Martins services will have free travel up to and including Friday 13th February. This is to allow time for new applications to be processed. As from Monday 16th February, if no bus pass is produced, a fare will be charged.

Telephone: 02 6040 4400  9am to 5pm - Monday to Friday
Facsimile: 02 6040 4011
Address: 66 Fallon Street, Albury, NSW, 2640
Email: coach@martinsalbury.com.au

P & C NEWS

A very big welcome to all parents and carers for another amazing year at Thurgoona Public School.

*Our first P & C meeting for 2015 is to be held on Monday 9 February at 7pm in the P & C Room.* All parents and carers are most welcome to attend.

Our P & C Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on March 9, all positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and interested people can nominate for a position at the AGM.

Jane Patterson
P & C President
On behalf of the P & C Committee

INFORM INFORMATION AND SHOP OPENING TIMES:

**Pre Loved Uniform Shop**

Look for the blue double doors on the left as you come through the main entrance.

**Open Friday 6th February 8.45am – 9.15am.**

Donations are greatly appreciated. You can leave them at the canteen.

Hats, Library Bags, Reader Bags & Sports Socks can be purchased from the Canteen.

New Uniforms are stocked at Lowes, Olive Street, Albury. Remember to say you are from Thurgoona Public School.
Developing leadership skills and social responsibility

Canteen News

**Wednesday Specials** – Not available at the moment, further details in upcoming newsletters.

New volunteers are needed for the canteen. If anyone can spare some time or you are new to the school and would like to support the school that would be great.

Please leave your name and phone number with the office (see slip below) or please see Amanda.

A working with children check needs to be done before you can assist it’s easy to do and free, see the accompanying note.

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**THURGOONA PUBLIC SCHOOL CANTEEN HELPERS REPLY**

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Please return to office.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**READYSTEADYGOKIDS** – 2.5 – 6 Year Olds!
For more information: readysteadygokids.com.au or 1300 766 892

**COMMUNITY SPORTS EVENT INFORMATION:**

**SOCcer Boomers FC** – Sunday 8th Feb at Glenn Park 11am to 1pm
Contact: Belinda Martin 0437 310 688 / bommers.registrar@gmail.com

**Albury United Soccer Club** – 12 Feb at Jelbart Park West 5pm – 6.30pm
Contact: Jodie Greschke 0418 407 805

**Melrose FC** – Rego Day is on Sun 8th Feb between 10am and midday at Melrose Park
Contact: Sue 0438 443 023

**FALcons Family Fun Day – Hockey Club** at Hovell Tree Pizza Oven – Sun 8th Feb 11am to 2pm
Contact: Debbie Mynett 0414 831115

“**Touch Football**” – Albury City Boys and Girls 9 – 13yrs
Starts Tuesday 24th Feb 4.30pm – 6.00pm - Cost is FREE
Contact: Mandy Wilson 02 6023 8295 or 0409 468 848

Lauren Jackson Sports Centre – **Billy Ball** Commences 10 Feb 2015 and Kangaroo Hoops Commences 11 Feb 2015
Contact: Laurenjacksonsportscentre.com.au or 02 6043 5810

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Thurgoona Public School
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Thurgoona Public School
Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

From 2010, all New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

1. in school or registered for home schooling, or
2. in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
3. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals don’t consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

Must I send my child every day?

YES. It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child’s hair regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.

Translated information about head lice and how to treat them can be found at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/language/support/documents/headlice infosheet.htm

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice is not a valid reason for prolonged absences from school.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If your child doesn’t learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.
Developing leadership skills and social responsibility

Why is arriving at school on time important?

Arriving at school and class on time:
- ensures that your child doesn’t miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert;
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine;
- gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore;
- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations.

If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school principal in advance and request leave and/or an exemption from school.

Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be, you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport?

YES. Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport.

Do not keep your child away from school for the following:
- birthdays
- shopping
- minding other children
- routine check ups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:
- send a note, fax or email to the school;
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

All absences must be explained to the school. Bilingual absentee notes and further information on attendance can be found on the Department’s website under the heading “School Attendance (School Attendance)” at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/lanuagesupport/documents/index_s.htm

The principal of the school has the right to question parents or carers’ requests for their child to be absent from school.

The principal may also question any explanation given for a child’s absence from school.

My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. The principal may seek support from a home school liaison officer or Aboriginal student liaison officer.

Who are home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers?

Home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers have been specially trained to help you with your child’s attendance.

They work with school communities to encourage all students to attend school regularly.

For further information about the Home School Liaison Program you should contact the program manager at your local Department of Education and Training regional office. Contact numbers can be found at the website address: www.det.nsw.edu.au/contactus/index.htm or by telephoning 131 536.

Do you have problems with getting your child to school, for some of the following reasons?
- won’t get out of bed
- won’t go to bed
- can’t find their clothes, books, homework, school bag...
- school lunches not ready
- slow to eat breakfast
- homework not done
- watching television late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- test or presentation at school
- birthdays
- screaming and not letting go of you.

Here are some suggestions which are based on setting regular routines:
- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have a set time for starting / ending breakfast. A routine is important.
- Set time for daily homework activities
- Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate
- Be firm, children must go to school
- Provide lots of positive encouragement
- Be firm, a birthday is not a holiday
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child’s hand into that of the teacher and then leave.

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.