Highly experienced and enthusiastic teaching and support staff

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Friday 20 February</th>
<th>Stage 3: Borambola Excursion - Second instalment due</th>
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<tr>
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<td>ASSEMBLIES: K / Stage 1: Eucalyptus at 1.50pm to 2.20pm</td>
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<td>Stage 2 &amp; 3: Waratah at 2.25pm to 2.55pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 25 February</td>
<td>DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL</td>
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Today our students and staff from Stage 2 and 3 are at Albury Swim Centre for our annual swimming carnival. They have a glorious day for the event. My thanks to the parents who have assisted in any way shape or form at the carnival today, and Mr Baily and Mr Burgess for their organisation of this carnival. The District Swimming Carnival is on Thursday February 25 – next week - for those children who are winners today.

It is not often we have someone from Primary school attend University. Master Ben Fowler was accepted into the GERRIC January Student Program at the University of New South Wales in Sydney in the Christmas holidays. He won the Lauren Kipic Scholarship to participate in the ‘Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone’ workshop. This was a fabulous experience for Ben and his family.

Congratulations to our leaders who were all inducted last week and received their badges. Our leaders for 2015 are:-
Captains: Asha Smith and Kai Wilson
Vice Captains: Hannah Parr and Lincoln Park-Hardy
School Councillors: Nicola Brownlaw, Millie Rand, Ben Armstrong and Hayden Smith
House Captains: Banjoras- Connor Ayers and Danica Beeson; Boolganas: Liam Rule and Mikaela Kelly; Tamaroos: Riley Heywood and Klaire Neal; Wareens: Harry Ward and Chloe Kluver.
The following children are SRC representatives for their class: Priya Goode, Talia Whitbourn, Seanna Nichols, Lucy Brennan, Tilly Tainton, Jake Holmes, Ebony Haywood, Grace Armstrong, Daniel Harvey, Joshua Collins, Kiera Gardiner, Riley Holland and Tyler Creek.
To all parents who attended the Information sessions last week a big “Thank You”. It was fabulous to see so many parents at each session. I hope you gained lots of information from the meetings and had the opportunity to introduce yourself to your child’s teacher. If you need time to discuss your child’s learning or provide background, please make an appointment either directly with the teacher or through the school office. Teachers will be offering parent teacher interviews during the next week. Please take advantage of those to share information about your child with their teacher. After all you know them best and know what works best with them!

Our formal assemblies for 2015 commence this week. Times are advertised in the dairy at the start of the newsletter. Assemblies will be held fortnightly from this week. At each assembly we will be viewing a class item, presenting class awards and later in the term badges for positive behaviour. Parents are invited to attend our assemblies to celebrate the learning and achievements of our students.

Kind Regards

Joan Courtney
Relieving Principal

Thurgoona Public School
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Notes Home

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<tr>
<th>STAGE 3: ‘AUSTRALIA – THE STORY OF US’</th>
<th>Year 6 to 7 forms: – please return to Mrs Broomfield by 20.3.2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>STAGE 3, BONEGILLA MIGRANT EXPERIENCE</td>
<td>MUST be returned to Thurgoona Public School by Wednesday, 25 February 2015.</td>
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Cool Kid Winners – Excellent behaviour in the playground

Winners for this week are: Aliyah Cross, Elouise Timbery, Emily Cogdell, Tahlee Tracey, Blaise McGlynn, Logan Simic, Jack Waite and Lillee Broekman.

News from Stage 3 Waratah

Stage 3 Waratah students have their say....... 

Jayden Ayres: I am looking forward to go to Bonegilla Migrant Experience.
Amelia Bartholomew: I am looking forward to going to Borambola.
Jesse Beeson: I am looking forward to going to Borambola.
Chloe Burnside: I’m excited to go to Borambola, but I don’t like sleeping time.
Zac Cook: This year I want to improve my English EG: story writing, spelling and more.
Zac Gigliotti: This year I want to improve on my English and Maths.
Bianca Honeyman: This year I am trying my best to improve on my maths and I can’t wait till athletics day.
Caitlyn Martin: I am looking forward to Borambola camp and all the art we will do.
Isabella Power: I am looking forward to the upcoming trip to Borambola and helping in the garden.
Riley Heywood: I am looking forward to all the sports carnivals, cross county and sports activities.
Brodie Hamilton: I am looking forward to going to Borambola.
Millie Rand: This year I am excited about Borambola and art with Mrs Ward!
Mikaela Kelly: This year I am excited about going to Borambola, Bonegilla migrant experience, gardening and art with Mrs Ward!
Hannah Parr: This year I am looking forward to working in Waratah’s class garden, including planting new plants and trying the vegetables and fruit that we grow.
Shelby Ayers: I am looking forward to eating more water melon. We have two more growing on our vine at school.
Maddi Gyoles: I am looking forward to going to the Bonegilla migrant experience!
Lincoln Park-Hardy: I am looking forward to sport activities and sport carnivals.
Joshua Collins: I am looking forward to the PSSA soccer.
Kenny Douglas: I am looking forward to swimming, improving my football skills and having a good year.
Amelia Tuckwell: This year I am looking forward to doing art in Mrs Ward’s class like the art we have already done.
Tine Read: I love the water, so I am looking forward to swimming at the carnival and I am enjoying this year because people are listening to me.
Hannah Swinkels: Hannah was away, but we think Hannah will enjoy doing her best learning and creating some amazing art pieces.
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Nathan Tickell: I am looking forward to the cross country and I am enjoying being in stage 3 Waratah because there are great kids in this class and I love our garden space and the art.
Gemma Bowling: I am looking forward to improving my reading and my spelling!
Hubie Timbery: I am looking forward to doing lots of art this year.

We enjoyed eating the watermelon that grew in the garden over the holidays. It wasn’t quite ripe, but it tasted sweet and it was juicy!

The movie Paper Planes had us interested in making a paper plane that flew a long way. The best prototype we made was the ‘O’ wing design.

Riley dreams of how far his ‘O’ wing will fly and Lincoln is keen to test his.
Confident engineers, Nathan and Zac are ready to test their ‘O’ wings.
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Library News

Library Opening Times Term 1 2015

During these times the library is open to read, enjoy some quiet activities or to borrow and return books. Books can also be borrowed and returned during class library sessions.

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If you have any unwanted games, puzzles or cards we would love them. Please send them into the library.

P & C News

With our AGM on Monday March 9, 2015 at 7pm in the Library, expressions of interest are being sought as all Committee positions will be declared vacant. Details for Committee roles, responsibilities and information regarding the P&C positions will be displayed in the newsletter window. Information is also available from our School web page which links directly to the P&C Federation fact sheets on www.thurgoona-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

In particular our dedicated previous Fundraising and Uniform Shop Coordinators are unable to undertake these roles for 2015. This may be something that interests you.

All volunteers will be well supported learning a new role by any outgoing committee member and the P&C team.

Please contact either Jane (0438 412 162) or Trish (0407 480 907) if you would like any further information.

We look forward to welcoming all new members and volunteers.

Just a reminder, that P&C Membership forms are available at the front office. The membership fee is $1 – you will be eligible to vote on any decisions to be made at all P&C meetings until March 2016. Completed forms and membership money can be left in the P&C box in the front thank you.

Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

The Pre-loved uniform shop will be open from 8.45am – 9.15am on the following dates:

- Friday 20 February 2015
- Friday 6 March 2015
- Friday 20 March 2015

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

Hats, Library Bags, Reader Bags & Sport Socks can be purchased from the Canteen.
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NAPLAN TEST DATES - Reminder

Below are the dates for the NAPLAN test for Year 3 and 5 this year. Please add these to your calendar to make sure family holidays don’t clash.

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<tr>
<td>Language Conventions test</td>
<td>Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 May 2015</td>
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<td>Writing test</td>
<td>Writing task</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 May 2015</td>
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<td>Reading test</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numeracy test (Yrs 3 and 5)</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>Thursday 12 May 2015</td>
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**Catch up Day**
- For students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day  Friday 15 May 2015

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mission Australia – Parenting Riverina Programs - January 2015 to March 2015

‘Keeping Children Safe’

A program which aims to assist parents / carers to have greater awareness of child abuse and neglect and its effects. It also assists parents / carers to protect children and become more committed to creating a safe environment for children and young people.

Albury dates – To be held at the Mission Australia Office, 2/432 Townsend Street, Albury.

**Session 1:** Monday 9 March, 10am to 2.30pm
**Session 2:** Monday 16 March, 10am to 2.30pm
**Session 3:** Monday 23 March, 10am to 2.30pm

Numbers are limited to a maximum of 20 people. For general enquiries and bookings please contact the Riverina Parenting team ParentingRiverina@missionaustralia.com.au or phone Stacey (Customer Service Officer) on 02 6942 8001.
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Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:
- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:
- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principal may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.
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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. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences
You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order
If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court
School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they’ll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 538

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5120

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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Term 1 2015
Red entries on the calendar are new.

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<td><strong>9</strong> P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>17</strong> TPS Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td><strong>19</strong> Eat Well, Play Well</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> Stg 3 Borambola</td>
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<td>Stay Well Presentation</td>
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<td>Yr 7 Transition Forms -</td>
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Thurgoona Public School