Friday 22nd July, 2016

Acting Principal
Mr Ryan Trama

Teachers
Mrs Libby Johnson
Mrs Louise Fulwood
Mrs Annette McLean

Student Support Teacher
Mrs Louise Cowley

Support Staff
Ms Jane Trevethan
Mrs Brenda Stahlhut
Ms Lorraine Lewis
Mrs Jenna Morris
Mrs Mel Kelly

Grounds Officer
Mr Ray Stahlhut

Cleaner
Mrs Donna Bennett

P&C President
Mr Darren Kelly

Address
PO Box 8
Thallon Qld 4497

Email
The.principal@thallonss.eq.edu.au

Website
www.thallonss.eq.edu.au

Students of the week

Don’t forget to ‘like’ Thallon SS on facebook
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Thallon-State-School/812063525540326

The Thallon SS way is to be at school every day, always do your best, live and learn together, be safe, responsible, respectful and an active learner!
**PRINCIPAL’S NOTE**

**Welcome back** for what will be a very exciting and rewarding Term 3 at Thallon SS! I trust that everyone enjoyed their school holidays.

One of our **focused school improvement priorities** is Reading and Comprehension. We are striving to improve the reading competency of all students within our school. One way that we are doing this is through streamed ability reading groups. These groups focus on the explicit teaching of reading skills, including decoding and comprehension strategies. Please continue to support your child’s reading at home, by ensuring that your child is reading to you, listening to you read, and reading for enjoyment daily.

**Reporting a student absence or change in after-school travel arrangements** is to be done by messaging the school mobile prior to 9am if possible - 0428 348 958. When reporting an absence, ensure that you provide a reason for your child’s absence. **Our target is zero unexplained absences.**

**Athletics Carnival**

What a fantastic day! Well done to all of our wonderful students who competed, and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship! Thank you greatly to Mrs Johnson and the staff that put so much time into organising the event! Thank you also to Ray Stahlhut and Kym Wright for marking the lines and setting up equipment the afternoon before, the P&C for putting on the BBQ, all the volunteers who helped out on the day, and Constable Josh for volunteering as our ‘starter’ for the day.

**Sport**

Congratulations to Clancy Wright who recently represented the DDSW region at the State Cross Country trials.

Also, a **special thank you** to Donna Bennett for her kind donation of multiple book sets for our students to enjoy.

**Focused School Improvement Priorities, 2016:**

- Reading and Comprehension
- Number Facts and Problem Solving

**Winter Music Festival**

Well done to our Instrumental Music band members who travelled to Dirranbandi for the Winter Music Festival on Thursday, 21st July. The experience of performing on stage was invaluable for all participants!

**School Opinion Surveys**

Last week, students brought home a blue sheet with instructions for completing the 2016 School Opinion Survey. The survey is designed to help schools identify what they do well and what they can improve. We would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. Remember, if you don’t have access to a computer or the internet at home, our school facilities are available for you to use to complete the survey. The survey closes on Friday, 29th July.

**Acting Principal: Mr Ryan Trama**

Remember, the Thallon SS way is to be at school every day, always do your best, live and learn together, be safe, responsible, respectful, and an active learner!

**Attendance**

We finished Semester One with a whole-school attendance rate of 95.2%, falling short of our target of 96.5%.

In the Semester One report card envelope, you would have received an individual attendance report for your child/children. The purpose of this was to highlight the effects, positive or negative, that your child’s attendance can have on their learning outcomes. If your child’s attendance was 95%, they missed the equivalent of half a day per fortnight. If your child’s attendance was 90% or below, they missed the equivalent of at least one day per fortnight during Semester One. Your child’s attendance does affect their learning outcomes.

I **would like to thank the parents who’s children are exceeding our target of 96.5% attendance, in particular the parents of our eleven 100% attenders from Semester One!**

Below is a snapshot of our whole-school attendance for the beginning of Term 3:
Thallon State School Newsletter

Athletics Carnival

The 2016 Thallon Athletics carnival was once again a huge success and a fun filled day of amazing athletic performances, great sportsmanship and huge efforts by the Thallon students.

Congratulations to …

- Overall Champions Clancy Wright and Hannah Johnson
- Record Breakers: Clancy Wright (discus) and Hannah Johnson (long jump)
- Age Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Girl</th>
<th>Boy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Years</td>
<td>Abigail James</td>
<td>George Trindall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Years</td>
<td>Mikaela Beatty</td>
<td>Noah Perry Atkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Years</td>
<td>Claire Willis</td>
<td>Mac Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Years</td>
<td>Skyla Cotterell</td>
<td>Beau Beatty</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Years</td>
<td>Shayla Meppem</td>
<td>John Flick</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Years</td>
<td>Lauren Earle</td>
<td>Clancy Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Years</td>
<td>Hannah Johnson</td>
<td>Blade Trindall</td>
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March past: Balonne

Overall: Balonne

Thank You to …

- Parents and community for their support throughout the day!
- Mrs Johnson, along with the many staff, parent and student helpers for organising and conducting our excellent Athletics Carnival.
- Groundsman Mr Ray Stahlhut, and Mrs Kym Wright for completing the line marking.
- Senior Constable Josh Price for being our starter
- Janna and James Spienenburg for judging the Athletics March Past.
- Our hard-working P & C for supplying a delicious, healthy menu for the day.

Winter Music Festival Dirranbandi

On Thursday 21st July the students from Thallon went to Dirranbandi to participate in the Winter Music Festival. All students enjoyed the day and had fun playing up on stage in front of everyone.
**P-2 Catch up**

Welcome back to Term 3. We trust that you had an enjoyable holiday.

This term in P 1 2, we will be focussing on comprehension whilst reading in reading rotations. Some strategies we will encourage are:

- Making a personal connection to the text.
- Visualising as you read, making a story or a movie in your head.
- Determine what are the important ideas and gathering facts for research.
- Inferring as you read, what could the text mean, what is happening next.
- Ask questions as you read.

We will use Blank’s levels of questioning to help with comprehension. Moving from concrete or literal ideas, such as naming objects in the text or pictures, to inferential understanding and applying our knowledge through questioning.

Preps are beginning to sound out words, stretching out the words as they say them and recording the sounds they hear.

In Mathematics, one concept we will be looking at is measurement, in particular, length, mass and capacity. Objects can be measured using informal units such as pencils, straws and hand spans. It is important if you are measuring using informal units to use the same unit or item for measuring when making comparisons between items. When we measure, we are careful to be accurate, no overlaps and no gaps!

In Geography, we are looking at significant places and how to record places on a map using symbols. We will be discussing features of places and whether they are natural, managed or constructed features.

Lots of new learning will be happening this term. Remember, It’s not okay to stay away!

Regards,

Mrs McLean & Mrs Libby.

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**5-6 News**

Congratulations to all students on their fantastic efforts during Sport’s Day. Excellent sportsmanship was displayed. Our class were sad to return to school and find that Kyle had left for another school. We wish him good luck and hope to see him again soon. We would also like to welcome Hayden back to our class and hope he enjoys his time with us.

This term in English, we have started a unit looking at literary texts written in earlier times. Students are learning that events and characters are created within historical contexts. The mediums we are looking more closely at are narratives, diary entries and letters. In History, we are investigating significant events and people, who have helped shape and develop Australia’s colonies/states over time. This term in Science, we will be looking at Physics and learning about the production of heat, light and sound, and their properties and attributes. Tennis will continue again, beginning in Week 3. The Student Council are planning some up and coming events. They are once again holding ‘Thallon’s Got Talent’, so start thinking about what you could do.

Regards, Mrs Fulwood

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**3-4 News**

It’s fantastic to be back at school for Term 3, and I’m excited to see the progress that our students make throughout this Semester.

We have just moved into our new Year 3/4 classroom in the school library, which will be a highly positive learning environment for our students. In English this term, we are focussing on comprehending traditional stories from Australia and around the world, and creating spoken retells from alternative perspectives. To support your child’s learning, have them retell the stories they read to you during their home reading.

Regards,

Mr Trama
**Playgroup**
Where: Thallon State School  
When: Tuesday 26th July  
Time: 9:00am - 11:00am  
What to bring: Yourself + Child/children birth to 5 years, drink and a snack.  
Cost: No cost  
Come along and enjoy a social morning out in a safe and friendly environment.

**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29th</td>
<td>Sunday 7th</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mungindi Poet’s Breakfast</td>
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<td>Friday 5th</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dunga Derby</td>
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<td>Monday 8th</td>
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<td>Show holiday</td>
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<td>Tuesday 9th</td>
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<td>Balonne Track &amp; Field</td>
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<td>Wednesday 31st</td>
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<td>Public Speaking Competition</td>
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**School Uniforms**
The school now have size 16, 14, 4 small in school shirts.  
For any enquiries regarding uniforms please contact Lorraine at the school between 8.30am—9.00am and after 3.00pm or call her on 46259139.

**Thallon PBL Expectations**

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be an Active Learner!

**PBL Focus:**

**Week 3** Be an Active Learner  
Use toilets during break  
Use hygienic practices  
Be Responsible  
Return to class promptly  

**Week 4** Be Responsible  
Keep workplace tidy  
Be an Active Learner  
Follow Routines
Community News

P & C News

Jag the Joker!

The P & C require volunteers to sell tickets for ‘Jag the Joker’ at Francis Hotel. Volunteers are required to be there from 5.30/6.00pm to 9.00pm. The dates when volunteers are needed 5th August. Please contact Darren Kelly on 0475 880 053 if you are available on any of these nights.

Francis Hotel – Thallon
Friday, August 5th from 6:00pm
Dinner by Thallon State School P&C
Live Music

Come along and join in the fun and support this great event!

Photos

Thallon State School

Thallon Progress Association

MEETING

When: Tuesday 2nd August
Time: 7.00pm
Where: Thallon State School

Student Banking

Student banking will be done on Thursdays so if your child has banking they need to put it in the green letter box outside the office on Thursday mornings. If you would like your child to do banking please contact Miss Lorraine on 4625 9139.
Michael Grose’s top 10 parenting tips for school meetings

1. Confirm the meeting
   If the meeting has been called by someone at the school then confirm that you will be attending. Confirm also if someone such as another parent, family member, friend or professional will be attending the meeting. If in doubt, find out if more than one person will be attending from your child’s school, including an outside professional such as a speech therapist or other specialist.

2. Work from a fresh slate
   Sometimes meetings can be marred before they start as negative past experiences can carry residual resentment. Every new meeting offers a fresh opportunity to create better outcomes for your child.

3. Prepare well
   Before a meeting or conference, list any questions that you want to raise. Keep the questions short and to the point. Similarly, it may be useful to list some of your child’s strengths and areas of improvement that you’ve seen at home. Writing information down in advance ensures that your point of view is expressed and that critical information is covered. Similarly, make sure you take notes during the meeting so that vital information isn’t missed.

4. Listen first
   Give the teacher a chance to make an assessment of your child’s progress or behaviour. This may sound obvious but some meetings never get off the ground because an enthusiastic parent takes over.

5. Ask specific questions
   Clarify the information you don’t understand, asking for concrete examples. Drill down to get a clear picture of any issues involving behaviour.

6. Stay solution-focused
   If your child’s behavioural or learning challenges are discussed it’s tempting to be defensive or sceptical. Ask for concrete examples to help you gain a clear understanding from the teacher’s perspective. Look over the proof offered such as observational records or testing results using these as the basis for moving towards a solution. Ask the teacher and other professionals what any test results may mean in terms of progress, strengths, needs and further support.

... Michael Grose’s top 10 parenting tips for school meetings ...

7 Remain calm
If the meeting doesn’t go well, stay calm. Meetings involving your own child can be very emotive because you and your child’s teacher are often discussing issues that are outside your direct control. Calmly stating your needs and views is far more effective than general accusations or inflexibly taking a stand. Ask for a break if you need one, even suggesting you meet at another time if your emotions are taking over.

8 Consider there are many ways to be right
Keep in mind that everyone wants the same thing—your child to make progress. Teachers view your child through a different lens than you and their conclusions and solutions can seem at odds with your own views. It may be at these times that you need to trust the professionalism of your child’s teacher who has more than likely experienced these same challenges before.

9 Ask what you can do
Show your commitment to producing better results by asking for exercises that you can do at home to develop skills. It may be a good opportunity to ask for recommendations for outside resources to help you and your child. Often teachers know about camps, activities, organisations or events that can encourage educational and social growth.

10 Consider how to discuss at home
Once a meeting is over consider how you will talk about it with your child. Discuss areas that need work in positive, specific terms. "We talked about your reading and your teacher suggested that we need to..." Involve your child in discussing plans for improvement. Make sure these plans are doable rather than overwhelming him or her with an exhaustive list of suggestions. Small inroads in progress or improved behaviour have been found to have a snowball effect, impacting on broader areas of improvement.

Parent teacher meetings and conferences take many formats including the direct involvement of children. Regardless of the format you will be more effective if you go in with a positive attitude, an approachable demeanour, and a willingness to work collaboratively with your child’s teacher to reach the best outcomes possible for your child.

Michael Grose


parentingideas.com.au