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

Principal’s Award

Congratulations to Hannah Johnson (Year 6) and Sophie Flick (Year 2) for being awarded with the Principal’s Award for weeks 5 and 6 respectively. Both students consistently demonstrate ‘The Thallon Way’ and are excellent role models within their classrooms, and our school. Excellent work!

Full School Review

Our Full School Review is on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th August, 2016. The Department regularly reviews the performance of Queensland state schools to ensure they’re achieving great outcomes for students. Community feedback is an important part of school reviews, with parents, students and the community encouraged to have their say. If you would like to contribute to our school’s review, the reviewers will be available at the school at 3pm, on Monday, 29th August.

NAPLAN

Our 2016 NAPLAN results have been released, and parents/carers of Year 3 and/or Year 5 students, who participated in NAPLAN, have received their child’s individual student report.

The fantastic success stories within our data include:

- 100% of Year 3 students are achieving above the National Minimum Standard in Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy.
- Percentage of students in the Upper Two Bands in Reading and Writing has improved for Year 5.
- Percentage of students in the Upper Two Bands in Reading and Spelling has improved for Year 3.

Tennis Coaching Clinics

Doug Murphy has volunteered to run tennis coaching sessions at the school on Thursday afternoons between 3:00 and 5:30pm. The sessions will be held in weeks 9 and 10 of Term 3, and Weeks 1, 2 and 3 of Term 4. The cost of each session is $2 per student, to cover the cost of tennis balls. All Thallon SS students are invited to attend!

2016 School Camp

We are very excited to announce that our 2016 whole-school camp to North Stradbroke Island is planned for Term 4, Week 7 (14th-18th November). Please refer to the information letter sent home today for further information. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thallon Public Speaking Morning

Students are working hard in preparation for our public speaking morning on Friday, 26th November. We hope to see you there!

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!

Focused School Improvement

Priorities, 2016:

- Reading and Comprehension
- Number Facts and Problem Solving

Attendance

This graph shows the attendance rate of our Year 3 cohort for Semester One, 2016. These superstars are continuing to exceed our attendance target of 96.5%, by achieving an amazing 97% attendance rate to-date this year!

Remember - At Thallon State School, Every Day Counts!
**3-4 News**

Term 3 is continuing to fly by, and our students have been hard at work, completing assessments. It has been awesome to hear students retell the story 'The Lorax' from an alternative perspective. This requires students to think of the story from their chosen character’s point of view, and not from the point of view in which the text was written. Ask your child to retell this story for you at home!

Students have recently completed a Math’s assessment task, which required them to identify, represent, and compare fractions.

I have been very happy with the effort that our students are putting in to their whole body listening, as this allows us to do our best work.

Please ensure your child is completing daily home reading.

**Regards,**

Mr Trama

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**P-2 Catch up**

Year Two’s comprehension of texts is improving by taking notes while reading and summarising facts into sentences. They have produced a poster with some interesting facts about various animals. Year Ones are becoming more fluent and understand what has happened in a story by visualising what is happening in their head. Preps are beginning to use the pictures to comprehend texts. Well done.

Reading with an adult every night, helps to build on a child’s knowledge of high frequency words, and builds their vocabulary and fluency. Thank you to those parents who take the time to read with their children and ask questions about their reading. We have a homework heroes reward system for those completing their homework, including reading every night.

In Geography, we have been recording data on the features of places and representing this data in a graph. We have learnt some new terms such as; personal scale (for example, our bedroom) and local scale (our town or community), when looking at images and maps of places.

Keep up the good work! Great to see our attendance improving.

**Regards,**

Mrs McLean & Mrs Libby

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**5-6 News**

Congratulations to all the children who ventured to the Poet’s Breakfast and participated. Many were rewarded, winning various sections of the competition. Murray Hartin was a great support to students as they came forward to perform in front of an audience.

Presently, students are preparing for the Thallon Public Speaking Competition on Friday, 26th August. At the same time, they are beginning an English assessment task, where they are writing a letter to a student who is living fifty years in the future. Students are required to use language that will demonstrate their understanding of the present day.

Maths monitoring tasks involving budgeting, saving, and using percentage discounts have been conducted.

After a few weeks of exploring heat in Science, we are now investigating the properties of light.

**Regards,**

Mrs Fulwood

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**P & C News**

A huge thank you to all the parents for helping out with the Dunga Derby and the Poet’s Breakfast. The team did a fantastic job in catering for 250 people at the Dunga Derby. Your support was greatly appreciated, and both events were very successful!

Thank you also to Libba Brosnan for donating the eggs for the Poet’s Breakfast.

Thanks to Milo Morris for helping to sell Joker Draw tickets.
Balonne District Track & Field

On Tuesday, 9th August, John Flick, Shayla Meppem, Clancy Wright, Lauren Earle and Hannah Johnson represented Thallon SS at the Balonne District Track and Field Carnival. All of the children were excellent representatives of the school. Shayla placed third in the discus, Clancy placed second in the discus and Hannah placed second in the 100m and 200m sprints, and long jump. Hannah and Clancy qualified for the South West Track and Field Regional Carnival. They will travel to Chinchilla on Friday, September 2nd. Congratulations to all students who were involved!

Playgroup

Where: Thallon State School
When: Tuesday 23rd August
Time: 9:00am - 11:00am
What to bring: Yourself + Child/children aged from birth to 5 years, a drink and a snack.
Cost: No cost

Come along and enjoy a social morning out in a safe and friendly environment.

Important Dates

**August**
Friday 26th           Thallon Public Speaking
Wednesday 31st       Public Speaking Competition
                      St George

**September**
Tuesday 6th           Thallon P & C Meeting
Thursday 8th          Thallon’s Got Talent BBQ & Disco
Thursday 15th and
Friday 16th            Mural Artists visit

**November**
Friday 11th            Small School’s Swim Carnival
Monday 14th to North Stradbroke Island
Friday 18th            Camp
                      2017

**March**
Friday 10th            Thallon Trivia Night

Thallon PBL Expectations

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

PBL Focus:

**Week 7** Be Safe
Report dangers to an adult

**Week 8** Be an Active Learner
Straight there, straight back
Complete set tasks
Community News

Balonne Sports Photos

Thallon Progress Association

MEETING

When: Tuesday 6th September
Time: 7.00pm
Where: Thallon State School
Community News

Mungindi Show School Entry Results

A. Poetry
1. Highly Commended: George Trindall, Abigail James, Lucy Hindle, Clancy Wright, Lauren Earle
2. Third Place: Chloe James
3. First Place: Hannah Johnson

B. Persuasive Letters
1. Highly Commended: Chloe James
2. Third Prize: Chloe Long

C. Short Stories
1. Highly Commended: John Murphy
2. Third Prize: Clancy Wright
3. First Prize: Hannah Johnson, Lauren Earle
4. Most Outstanding Short Story of the Show: Lauren Earle

C. Original Works
1. 10 Years and Under: George Trindall with “The Dog Sat on the Log”
2. 11-16 Years: Blade Trindall with “My Dad”

Thallon Tennis Singles Competition
Congratulations to all those who have competed in the tennis, particularly those listed below who have made the Semi-Finals. Good luck to all competitors.

Girls:
Lauren Earle, Hannah Johnson, Skyla Cotterell and Ella Hill

Boys:
Blade Trindall, Jackson Kelly, Clancy Wright and John Murphy

Poet's Breakfast Results

A. Best Recitation of a Poem Written by Another
1. 10 Years and Under: Clancy Wright
2. Open: Clancy Wright
3. Monologue: Clancy Wright

B. Group Recitations
1. 10 Years and Under: Year 3/4 with “Mungindi Show”
2. 11-16 Years: Year 5/6 with “Marching Song”
Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child's behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend's children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

But it's hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child's progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

**Kids develop at their own rates**

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends' kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child's improvement and effort and use your child's results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. "Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago" is a better measure of progress than "Your spelling is the best in the class!"

**Gender matters**

It's no secret that boys' and girls' brains were developed by different architects.

One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills.

Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

more on page 2 ➤

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

parentingideas.com.au

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The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks...

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can't hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour's child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It's better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also, recognize that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child's performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children's performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn't have too much personal stake in your children's success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love”.

Michael Grose
Free one day workshop for parents and carers

Workshop: 16-17QLDPC3
Location: Goondiwindi QLD

Like all school-aged students, young people on the autism spectrum benefit from strong, positive relationships between home and school. Positive Partnerships use evidence based materials and practical resources to help support these relationships by facilitating workshops for parents and carers.

This workshop is suitable for parents, full time carers and grandparents.

What will you gain?

The Positive Partnerships parent/carer workshop intends to:
- Increase understanding of the impact of autism on learning
- Introduce a planning tool that can be used to share an understanding of your child
- Explore ways to work in partnership with your school
- Share information about how to access support both inside and outside of school
- Provide an opportunity to network and share strategies with other parents/carers

Workshop details

Venue: Jolly Swagman Motor Inn
1 Andersen Street
Goondiwindi QLD 4390

When: One day workshop — Wednesday 14 September 2016
9.15 am – 3.00 pm (Registration from 8.30 am)

Online registrations open on Wednesday 3 August 2016 and close two days prior to the workshop.

If you have an email address and access to a computer please register directly through our secure website www.positivepartnerships.com.au.

You will receive a confirmation email of your registration.

If you have any enquiries phone the Positive Partnerships Infoline 1300 881 971 or email parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au.

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The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Department of Education and Training.