Public Speaking

Principal’s Award

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

Principal’s Award
Congratulations to Chloe James and Jackson Kelly for being awarded with the Principal’s Award for weeks 7 and 8 respectively. Chloe’s attendance is absolutely awesome, achieving an amazing 100% so far this year! Jackson consistently demonstrates kindness towards others, and is often the first person to lend a helping hand.

Minjerribah Camp 2016 (North Stradbroke Island)
My apologies for the incorrect due date being printed on the ‘expression of interest’ forms for camp. Please return forms, to indicate whether or not your child will be attending our whole-school camp, by Friday, 9th September.

School Review
Our full school review, which was a highly rewarding process, has been completed. The findings of the review will help to shape our strategic direction over the next four years. A summary of the review will be published on the school’s website once it becomes available. Thank you to the P & C members who kindly provided home bake, meat, salads and fruit for day two of the review.

Public Speaking
Well done to all students who participated in the Thallon SS Public Speaking competition on Friday, 26th August. We had students from Year 3 to Year 6 take part, and they all did an outstanding job! Our students overcame their nerves and showed great perseverance to produce some excellent work, that we are all very proud of. A massive thank you to our judges, Mrs Jan Hamilton and Senior Constable Josh Price, for their help in making the day a success. Thank you also to the parents, carers, and community members, who attended and showed their support. Congratulations to Clancy Wright, Lauren Earle, and Sam Christensen, who represented Thallon SS at the Balonne District Public Speaking Competition at St George SS on Wednesday, 31st August. Our students did themselves, and our school, very proud!

Focused School Improvement
Priorities, 2016:
- Reading and Comprehension
- Number Facts and Problem Solving

South-West Athletics Carnival
We had two students represent Thallon SS in the Balonne District team at the SW Athletics Carnival held in Chinchilla on Friday, 2nd September. Hannah Johnson competed in the Under 12 Girl’s long jump, as well as the 100m and 200m sprint events. Clancy Wright competed in the Under 11 Boy’s discus event. I look forward to updating everyone on their results in the next newsletter!

Tennis Coaching Clinics
Doug Murphy has volunteered to run tennis coaching sessions at the Thallon tennis courts on Thursday afternoons between 3:20pm and 5:30pm. The sessions are now beginning in Term 4, and will be held in weeks 1, 2, 3 and 4. The cost of each session is $2 per student, to cover the cost of tennis balls. All Thallon students are invited to attend!

Horse Sports
Well done to Georgie Hill who participated in Goondiwindi State School’s Horse Sports Day on Friday, 19th August. She had a great day and won 5 ribbons!

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
Here is our attendance rate per year level so far in 2016. Our whole-school attendance target is 96.5%.

Remember - At Thallon State School, Every Day Counts!

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
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<td>94.47%</td>
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<td>97.16%</td>
<td>94.62%</td>
<td>92.59%</td>
<td>91.17%</td>
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3-4 News

Very well done to the Year 3 and 4 students who demonstrated great grit to present their public speaking topics last week.

Students have recently completed an assessment task for English, which required them to orally retell a narrative text from an alternate perspective. We are now beginning our next English unit, where students will continue to explore narrative texts from other countries. Students are working towards creating a multimodal narrative.

In Maths, students are learning about various types of metric units of measurement, including, length, weight and volume.

In History, students are enjoying exploring and posing questions about Indigenous life in Australia before and after European settlement.

Regards,
Mr Trama

5-6 News

Congratulations to all of the students who presented their public speaking speeches last week. A lot of personal time and effort went into their preparation, and it was wonderful to see the results and the improvement made over the last twelve months. Well done to Lauren, Clancy and Sam who attended the Balonne District Public Speaking Competition in St. George on Wednesday, 31st August.

Students are investigating the properties of light in Science, and are enjoying the activities requiring team work, predicting, observing, analysing, recording results, carrying out fair testing and summarising their results.

In English, students are finalising their letters to the future, and taking a closer look at adverbial and adjectival phrases, and how they help to create complex sentences.

We continue to encourage all students to learn their number facts and improve their times, so as to ensure greater speed and success in all maths’ operations. Presently, students are revisiting order of operations and the use of powers in their work.

Regards,
Mrs Fulwood

P-2 Catch up

Hello all,

We are very pleased with the response to increased homework completion in the P-2 Class. There have been many students on our homework heroes chart, well done! It is great to see the Prep students increasing their sight word knowledge.

In our Library sessions, we are finding out how to find books in the library, by looking at the author’s last name and finding the appropriate section in the Library. We have been learning how to care for books, turning the pages carefully and carrying them appropriately. We have been enjoying the ‘Hairy McClairy’ series and predicting what will happen in the text.

We have been focusing on literal (right there in the text) and inferential (think on our own) questions, while reading texts to increase our comprehension of texts. Increasing our general knowledge also helps with predicting what will happen in texts, as well as our comprehension of texts.

Regards,
Mrs McLean & Mrs Libby

P & C News

Jag the Joker

Our nights to sell tickets for Jag the Joker at the Francis Hotel are 2nd Sept, 30th Sept, 28th Oct and 25th Nov. Please contact Darren on 0475 880 053 if you can spare a few hours on one of these nights.

Working Bee

On Saturday, 10th September, we are having a working bee at the school from 9am. If you have a few hours to spare please come along, bring a wheelbarrow and shovel, and lend a helping hand. Remember, many hands make light work! Any donations of home bake for the day would be greatly appreciated.

P & C Meeting

The next P & C meeting is next Tuesday, 6th September at 3.30pm. We would love to see you there.
Horse Sport
Georgie represented Thallon State School on Friday, 19th August in Goondiwindi for Horse Sports. There were over 130 riders from 28 schools. She competed in 10 different games and won 5 ribbons!

Playgroup
Where: Thallon State School
When: Tuesday 6th September
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

Thallon PBL Expectations
Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be an Active Learner!

PBL Focus:
Week 9 Be Safe
Remain within permitted areas
Week 10 Be Respectful
Demonstrate good sportsmanship

Important Dates

**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 Friday 18th: North Stradbroke Island Camp 2017

**March**
- Friday 10th: Thallon Trivia Night
Community News

**SW Touch Football**

Clancy competed in the SW touch team at the state touch football competition. Clancy won some awards; The sunnies were for the best talking during a game, and the Hawaiian shirt was for best defence in a game.
The South West team beat North West, which won them the Country Cup.

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**Thallon Progress Association**

**MEETING**

*When:* Tuesday, 6th September

*Time:* 7.00pm

*Where:* Hotel Francis
**Community News**

**Tennis News**

**Tennis Coaching Term 4**

Doug Murphy will be running 4 tennis coaching sessions after school, at the Thallon tennis courts. Thallon students of all ages are welcome, for a gold coin donation each week.

Time: 3.20 – 5.30pm

Bring your tennis racquet, water bottle, afternoon tea, sunscreen and a hat.

Week 1: Thursday 6th October
Week 2: Thursday 13th October
Week 3: Thursday 20th October
Week 4: Thursday 27th October

**Thallon Singles Tennis Finals**

Thursday 15th September
Commencing at 2.00pm
1. Girls: Hannah Johnson vs Lauren Earle
2. Boys: John Murphy vs Clancy Wright

**Mungindi Swim Club**

**AGM**

Wednesday, 28th September

6pm at the RSL

AGM will be followed by a general meeting.

Please pass this information onto anyone who is interested in the upcoming season.

Enquiries to Alison Picton or Kym Wright 0438489170.

Hope to see you all there!
Thallon State School Newsletter

Photos

Poets Breakfast

Balonne Public Speaking

Prep’s ‘Birds eye View’ of Bedrooms
Helping kids focus in the age of distraction

Finding ways to turn your kids from flitters to focusers – how teaching your children to ‘stick with it’ can have lifelong benefits.

As a society we often debate about the ‘right’ amount of screen time, and with the introduction of personal screens over the last decade, to add to TV, laptops and desktops, the focus on a single task has slowly ebbed away. The British Psychological Society found that too much screen time (more than their recommendations of no more than 2 hours per day) could unintentionally cause permanent damage to a child’s still-developing brains, impacting the capacity to focus, to concentrate and to give attention to tasks.

Distraction is often managed through the delicate art of re-direction or encouragement to combat the ‘but I just can’t do it!’ However, this brave new world of binge watching TV, entertainment on demand and socialisation via hand held devices created kids that always have options for those tasks that require some stubborn determination? Is so how might this new way of living and relaxing challenge our kid’s capacity to stick with a difficult task when they have a world of entertainment at their disposal?

Dr Daniel Goleman, an award-winning psychologist and TED speaker, emphasises the need for people to engage in skills that foster emotional intelligence. Goleman’s belief is that ‘kids learn best when they can maintain sustained attention, whether to what a teacher is saying, their textbook, or their homework. The root of learning is keen focus; distractions kill comprehension.

But the new normal for young people continually interrupts their focus with distractions. Neuroscientists tell us that the more a young person can practice keeping focus and resist distraction, the stronger and more richly connected this child becomes. The same token, the more distracted, the less so. Rebecca, a NSW schoolteacher who is passionate about the topic, finds that the evidence is clear in our own homes and in classrooms: ‘we now have young people who are experts at ‘flitting’ from one device to another and she refuses to take a defeatist approach because without focussing those “flitters” to “focusers” who risk the next generations creative or scientific masterminds we risk losing children who are able to “sit still and agonise over a task long enough to see it through to its marvellous end”.

Tips for helping kids maintain focus and attention

1. Build your child’s focus

As with all tasks the aim is to start small and build your child’s capacity to master the concept of ‘sticking with it’. Cath, a school counsellor, finds that she can use the same strategies with the teens she works with and her primary school aged children when she gets home: ‘It’s all about breaks and rewards. Set a timer between breaks and then on a break they need to do something active like a push-up. Then there is a little reward for staying on task for a particular amount of time.’

2. Remember it’s all about the journey

Parents and researchers agree that understanding what can be gained from being focused is the key to engaging your ‘flittering’ child. Our solution driven society is often focused on what we receive at the end rather than the process to get there. Teaching your children to tolerate the unexpected can have wonderful benefits, as can sitting with something that may have previously been viewed as unachievable.

3. Keep calm and focus

Use calm methods to engage children who become distracted: breathe, relax and high five each other when working alongside your child or when with a group of children. Talk about what might be achieved at the end and make it a fun process.

Screens, for all their negatives and benefits, are here to stay. Many argue that they provide complexity and new experiences to our children’s world by identifying exciting technologies but they also provide avenues to ‘top out’ of the hard yards.

Reaching what you thought was unattainable by engaging in a simple focus and ‘sticking with it’, can provide lifelong lessons.

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.
St George State High School P&C
Presents
A DAY TO
create

A day for women to experience various art workshops in St George

SATURDAY
22nd October 2016
8.30am to 4pm
Registration & Stalls open 8.00am
Venue: Balonne Skill Centre
2 Victoria St, St George

Cost: $100 per participant which includes tuition fee, high tea morning tea, lunch and gift bag. Minimum age 12. Participants complete two 2.5 hour workshops with a tutor.

2016 Tutors
Patricia Heymans: Watercolour Painting
Olivia Ross: Photography
Sylvia Bridge: Patchwork
Mary Jibson: Embroidery
Lola Cuffe: Quilting

Limited Spaces so book early! RSVP by 10th October.
Registration Forms Available from:
St George State High School Office
Or
St George State High School Website
Or
Email: awood142@eq.edu.au

Further information contact: Annette Woodrow on 0429657354