On Thursday 2nd June, Students from Hebel, Dirranbandi and Thallon celebrated the 60th Birthday of Under 8’s Day with cake decorating, sand play, dancing, pasta play, parachute games, physical games and party hat making. All students had a great day playing and making new friends.

Students of the week

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**

This term is absolutely flying by, with week 9 just around the corner!

**Attendance**

Our whole-school attendance is steady at 95.6% in 2016. Your child has the best chance of being successful when they are at school every day!

One day per fortnight doesn't seem like much, but…….

That equals 20 days per year. Which is 4 weeks per year. Over 13 years of schooling, that’s equivalent to missing nearly 1.5 years of education.

**Sport**

Congratulations to Clancy Wright who recently competed in the DDSW Cross Country trials. Clancy managed a very pleasing sixth position!

Congratulations also to John Murphy, who was selected as a shadow representative in the Balonne District Tennis Team!

**Winter**

As the frosty winter mornings are now setting in, please ensure your child wears their green Thallon SS tracksuit pants and jumper to school.

We are happy to warm your child’s winter lunch in our microwave. Simply attach a note with the time required for reheating, to a microwave safe container.

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**Focus Areas of Improvement**

Our focus areas for improvement in 2016, are:

- **Reading and Comprehension**
- **Number Facts and Problem Solving**

To improve reading at Thallon SS, we are improving our explicit whole-school approach to teaching reading procedures, decoding strategies, comprehension strategies, and vocabulary.

One way you can help improve your child’s reading results is by actively engaging in daily home reading, which also plays a highly important role in your child’s reading and comprehension development. Ensure that your child is reading to you, listening to you read, and reading for enjoyment, daily.

**Awesome school events!**

**Under 8’s day** was a huge success! It was fantastic to see the joy on the faces of our young students as they continue to develop their love for schooling. Thank you to Mrs Johnson for organising a great day, and to the volunteers who made it possible!

**Bush poet, Murray Hartin** is visiting our school and community in Week 10.

Our **Athletics Carnival** is being held in Week 11, on Thursday 23rd June. We look forward to seeing everyone there, supporting our little athletes and helping out where you can!

**Acting Principal: Mr Ryan Trama**

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**Attendance - Year level breakdown, Semester One**

What an awesome effort by our Year 3 cohort to be surpassing our attendance target of 96.5% this Semester! Our Year 2 cohort is also very close to achieving our target!

Ultimately, we need to work together to ensure that every child, within every year level, within our whole school, is achieving our attendance target of 96.5%, every day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>93.33%</td>
<td>96.08%</td>
<td>98.11%</td>
<td>95.87%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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!
Year 3-4

We are hard at work in Years 3 and 4! As we’re approaching week 9, assessments are in full swing. It’s exciting to see the tremendous progress that our students are making! Please ensure that your children are attending school every day to give them the best chance of experiencing success.

In Maths, students have been learning how to read simple maps using symbols, compass points and scale.

In Technology, students are researching, and designing a pair of sports shoes!

Mr Trama

P-2 Catch up

Unfortunately, I have been away for a couple of weeks will illness and I apologise for the disruption to the children’s routine. Thank you to the staff who took my place.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the flying arts visit and produced amazing pieces of artwork. The day helped culminate our History unit in P-2. We have been learning about changes from the past to the present in various technologies, family roles and daily life. We have found it very interesting to see the changes in clothing, cars, washing machines and lawn mowers, to name a few.

In Mathematics, we have been learning about time in our measurement unit. We have learnt about digital and analogue time and the positions of the hands on the clock to represent units of time. The prep students have been learning about the days of the week and important events through our school week.

We have enjoyed some books written by Australian author Pamela Allen. We have particularly enjoyed the rhyming and clever illustrations.

We all had a great at Under 8’s Day and made new friends with other children from surrounding schools.

Please remember to read with your children each night and to practise spelling words.

Mrs McLean and Mrs Libby

5-6 News

This week sees us fully involved in assessment tasks covering many subject areas, including English, Science and History. These tasks often take a couple of weeks to complete and require a lot of time and effort on the students’ behalf, as they research and piece together all the parts required in the tasks. The tasks are a culmination of the content and skills we have been learning and developing over the Term or Semester.

In English, the task involves studying media advertisements, identifying language features and methods used to influence audiences in order to create an advertisement. Our Science assessment will involve carrying out a scientific investigation, recording and explaining the results as well as completing a knowledge test. After a Semester of work in History, students in Year 5 will be required to identify the cause and effect of changes and continuities in a colony and develop a description of the experiences of a free settler; Year 6s will have to identify change and continuity before and after Federation, describe the causes and effects of these changes on Australian society, and develop a description comparing experiences of different groups in Australia during the Twentieth Century.

It was great to see many students participating whole heartedly in the free dress day as their State of Origin favourites. The tennis competition has moved into the third round, at the same time as Moonie and Balonne sports captains motivate their teams for the Athletics carnival!

Mrs Fulwood

Important Dates

**June**
- Tuesday 7         P & C Meeting 3:15pm
- Wednesday 15      Murray Hartin Community Poetry BBQ
- Thursday 16       Murray Hartin Cluster Enrichment Day
- June 20           NRL Visit
- Thursday 23       Athletics Carnival

**August**
- Sunday 7          Mungindi Poet’s Breakfast
Murray Hartin School Visit
Bush poet, Murray Hartin, will be visiting Thallon and holding workshops with our students, followed by a Bar-B-Q and poetry recital on Wednesday 15th June. Workshops will encourage students to write and perform poetry recitals, and perhaps even go on to perform at the Mungindi Show Poet's Breakfast on Sunday 7th August. On Thursday 16th June, high-performing English students from around the cluster will be invited to an Enrichment Day in Thallon, to engage in extension workshops.

Cross Country
On Friday 27th May Clancy Wright participated in the S.W. Cross Country held in St. George at the Golf Course. Congratulations Clancy what a stellar effort placing 6th on the day.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
The Nationally Consistent Collection of data on School Students with Disability provides information about the number of students with disability in schools, where they are located and the adjustments they receive.

It requires teachers and schools to make evidence-based decisions about:
- the number of students who are provided with reasonable adjustments to address a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Disability Discrimination Standards for Education;
- the level of adjustment that students with disability are being provided;
- the broad category of disability.

This data will be provided to the Australian Government, it is aggregated and not individualised. The data will be collected between the period of 16 May - 5 August.

If you do not wish for your child to be part of the data collection please contact the school administration.

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

PBL Focus:

Week 9
Be Respectful
Give each other personal space
Allow/Give others privacy

Week 10
Be Safe
Walk during transitions
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 are 10 June, 8 July, and 5 August. Please contact Darren Kelly on 0475 880 053 if you are available on any of these nights.

On Thursday, 2nd June the P&C catered for the Under 8’s Day. The ladies did a wonderful job. A huge thank you to Sam Hindle, Kym Wright, Jenna Morris, Holly Parcell and Libba Brosnan for all their help in the tuckshop preparing lunch for all of all of the children. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Library News

A huge thank you goes to Kenny and Kym Wright for their very generous donation of $641.00 worth of books. Thanks Kym for kindly offering to cover the books.

Thank you to all parents who supported our recent Book Fair. Commission from sales will enable us to purchase $447.00 worth of books.

All of these wonderful new books will help all students to improve their reading skills as they progress through school. All of this fantastic support is greatly appreciated!

Jane Trevethan

Thallon Progress Association

MEETING

When: Tuesday 7th June at 7.00pm
Where: Thallon State School
When things go wrong at school

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers. Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school. By and large, schools deliver on these expectations. They are generally safe places for kids, staffed by hard-working teachers who have the best interests of their students at heart. Achievement, discipline and student well-being are high on the list of priorities for most teachers.

Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school-life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence. During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there’s been a significant increase in aggressive incidents at schools involving parents reacting to their children’s grievances. This not only presents a danger to teachers but harms the all-important teacher-parent relationship.

Here’s a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1. **Stay calm and rational**
   It’s natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they’ve come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2. **Get all the facts**
   Once you’ve calmed down, then get the facts about the situation. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there’s a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can’t see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It’s the job of parents to help kids process what happens in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3. **Assess whether to go to school or not**
   Kids, like adults, like to vent and will benefit from having told their side of a story to a trusted source. Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope.

   If your child has a recurring problem that he can’t solve himself, or you think adult intervention maybe needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child’s teacher or year level coordinator.

more on page 2
When things go wrong at school...

4 Go through the right channels
Approach the school calmly, going through the school office, or directly to your child's teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it's often easier to approach them directly.

5 Look for solutions rather than blame
Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child's teacher as an ally, not a foe. "I'm really worried about Jeremy. He's been acting strangely lately and I need some help" is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what's best for your child. Listen to your teacher's viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6 Stay in touch
Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can't be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child's teacher over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other. Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.

Michael Grose

Thallon Sports Day

Thursday, 23rd June

Thallon Recreation Grounds

March Past 9 am

Sprints-60m, 80m & 100m

Morning Tea—could all families please bring a plate of food to share.

800m—9-12 year olds

Field Events—shot put, discus, high jump & long jump

Lunch—A BBQ lunch can be ordered & purchased.

200m—9-12 year olds

Ball Games—for all children

Relays—for all children

Presentations

BYO chair

All children need to bring a water bottle and a hat.

Come along for a great day!
If you haven’t heard the yarns “Turbulence”, “The Hog Whisperer” or the haunting “Rain From Nowhere” you probably haven’t heard of Murray Hartin.

But the Moree boy has been part of the festival/bush poetry/entertainment scene “for a long time”, including 13 years with his mad mates in The Naked Poets, and remains a favourite with audiences across Australia.

His rapid-fire, rhyming recitals, which can cover anything from the perils of yoga to the difference between oestrogen and testosterone, create vivid and often hilarious mental images that will stay with you forever.

Murray will be in the district doing workshops on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th June with Thallon and students from the local cluster. Local students will perform their original poems that evening, which should be a stack of fun.

Come along for a good night out.