



Term 1 Week 1 Date 3 February 2015

Principal News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was fantastic this morning to see all of our students back at Theodore Primary School. They all looked fabulous in their uniforms. As I walked around the rooms and chatted with students it appears that they have had a wonderful break and are **"HUNGRY TO LEARN"**. Likewise the teachers have also had a well-deserved break and are keen to get back to learning alongside their students.

On **Wednesday February 11th** we will be holding our "Meet the Teacher BBQ". This is a great opportunity for all families to come down to the school for a sausage sizzle and meet the teaching staff for 2015. At the BBQ you will also be able to pick up the Term 1 learning outlines for you child/ren.

Over the holidays we have had a lot of work done to the school. This has included new lighting, as well as new turf in the junior school. Throughout the year a number of work projects will take place to enhance the playground environment. The school also now has two new water fountains (for filling drink bottles). One is located on the Junior playground and the other is near Mereki unit.

I am looking forward to the 2015 school year. We have a fantastic team of teachers who I am sure will provide a high quality education for your children. As always I encourage you to talk to me about any concerns our issues that arise throughout the year or likewise please let me know about any positives that you encounter. You can contact me by phone on 61423100 or by email matthew.holdway@ed.act.edu.au. I am also more than happy to meet with you in person and have a chat. The best way for this to occur is to call the front office and they will arrange an appointment time.

I wish everyone all the best for the 2015 school year.

Regards

Matt Holdway

Principal

Lawrence Wackett Crescent, THEODORE ACT 2905

Phone:: (02) 614 23100 Fax: (02) 614 23121

Email: info@theops.act.edu.au **Website:** www.theops.act.edu.au

Principal: Matthew Holdway **Deputy Principal:** Tracey Stewart



SCHOOL DATES AND INFORMATION

Dates to Remember

- 11 Feb** Community BBQ
- 25 Feb to 27 Feb** Yr 5/6 Borambola Camp
- 26 Feb to 27 Feb** Yr 3/4 Birragai Camp
- 6 March Whole school** Swimming Carnival
- 9 March** Canberra Day Public Holiday
- 16 March** Yr 5/6 Southside Buroinjin Camp
- 20 March** TPSSA Swimming Carnival
- 23 to 27 March** Family Interviews
- 1 April** K to Yr 6 History Incursion
- 3 & 6 April** Easter Break

COOL LITTLE KIDS PROGRAM

- 10:00am to 11:30 am on Wednesday mornings**
- Session 1:** 25th February
- Session 2:** 4th March
- Session 3:** 11th March
- Session 4:** 18th March
- Session 5:** 25th March
- Week's break**
- Last Session:** April 8th



Where: School Hall

Time: 12.20pm to 12.50pm

Friday 27 February

Friday 13 March

Friday 27 March



Theodore Primary School New staff



Jenny Murch - Learning Support

My name is Jenny Murch and I have taught mainly in Tuggeranong schools since 1993, before that I taught in NSW and WA. I have retired from an executive role in the school system after a decade and am returning to teach in the classroom. I will be at Theodore 4 days a week from Monday to Thursday. I am looking forward to working with the students and the community that Theodore Primary staff proudly brags so much about. I have felt very welcome and am looking forward to a productive year. I was very excited to see many familiar faces on day one of people who have children attending Theodore that I know. My passion is helping students that at times find school work challenging, and photography, so I will often be seen

around the school taking numerous photos of school functions. I will be working across the school and look forward to meeting your child/children and you. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any concerns that I may be able to assist with.



Alice Lowes - Yr 5/6 Teacher

I am very excited about teaching here at Theodore. This is my ninth year of teaching and I have taught at three previous schools in the Tuggeranong Valley. The majority of my teaching has been in the senior part of the Primary School. I am looking forward to working with my new team this year and meeting all the families here at Theodore. I am starting the year with a reconstructed knee and will be hopefully moving faster each new week. I really enjoy teaching Mathematics and Science and I am looking forward to a fun year ahead.



Briana Gracie - Yr 5/6 Teacher

Hi, my name is Briana Gracie and I'm really excited to be joining the Theodore team! This year I'll be teaching Year 5/6 in the Molonglo unit with Mrs Lowes, Ms Swift and Ms Tracy. Working with children is my passion and I love watching them grow and learn each year. I have taught at several Primary Schools in the ACT and have also been lucky enough to teach in the United Kingdom. I am looking forward to getting to know you all throughout a fun-filled and education year!



Leanne Straatman - Kindy teacher

What an amazing start to our Kindy year and thank you for the opportunity to be able to teach and learn with your child. No two days are the same at Kindy and each and every day I am inspired by the knowledge and insight the children share with us.

Teaching has been one of my passions for many, many, years and I can honestly say that I hope to be teaching for many more years to come. It is truly an honour to be able to share the love of learning with the children I meet; they constantly amaze me with their thoughts and abilities.

My teaching journey began some twenty years ago in children's services from director of a long day care centre to playgroup coordinator for a small country town and its surrounding districts. I have had the pleasure through the years to work as a family day care coordinator, learning support Autism, through to teaching at an Early Childhood School at Isabella during the last six years. These are just a few of my ever changing roles that my career has taken me. I am very grateful for all the opportunities and although my titles have changed throughout the years, one true philosophy still remains the same: That is to entrench the love of learning for all children as they grow and change through the years no matter what age, stage or ability in the early years of life.

I look forward to the growth and development of your child's journey through Kindy



Karen Watson - Bilbies Preschool teacher

I have worked in ACT preschool's since 1984. I have mainly worked in Tuggeranong preschools including opening Theodore Preschool in 1991. I have also worked in special education programs for preschool age children and in Indigenous preschool programs for 6 years. I am retired but am very happy to have continuing opportunities to work in preschool programs. My interests include going on holiday , reading, biking and relaxing.





School News



ALERT: CAMPS FOR YEAR 3-6

Both the Birrigai (Yr 3/4) and Borambola (Yr 5/6) camps occur in Week 4. This means that we must have all payment, medical forms etc finalised as soon as possible. Camp meetings will be held this week to hand out various forms and pieces of information. It is really important the parents/carers seek out this documentation and return it to school

ASAP. The management teams of both camps have set timelines and dates for us to submit information so your cooperation with returning information promptly would be much appreciated.

Thankyou,

Corinne Follett

Senior Executive teacher/camp coordinator



A NOTE ABOUT FRUIT BREAKS

At Theodore Primary we encourage the students to bring along fruit and raw vegetables as healthy snacks which can be eaten during class time. This year, no designated time will be given to 'fruit breaks' as such and the students will be expected to continue working whilst they eat. To this end we seek your

cooperation in only sending fruit such as apples, bananas, grapes, pieces of carrot etc which are quick and easy to consume. By all means send along yoghurt, oranges (that require peeling), little tubs of peaches/pears etc as great foods to be consumed at recess and lunch. Teaching your little people is our core business and we want to make sure that this precious time is used wisely.



COOL LITTLE KIDS PROGRAM (Children with anxiety)

The Cool Little Kids program is designed for children from 3 to 8 years. The program was developed by the Macquarie University Emotional Health clinic to address anxiety problems in children. Anxiety in children is common and affects around 1 in 10 children. Anxiety can effect children and cause them to perform below their best, experience problems with their peers, and miss out on activities such as sport or sleepovers.

Participation in the Cool Little Kids program will give parents strategies to assist their children to build confidence and develop skills to help them manage their anxiety and other negative emotions as they grow.

The details for the group are as follows:

10:00am 11:30 am on Wednesday mornings

Session 1: 25TH February **Session 2:** 4th March **Session 3:** 11th March **Session 4:** 18th March **Session 5:** 25th March

Week's break Last Session: April 8th

If you have any questions or would like to enrol, please contact the Tuggeranong Child and Family Centre on 62078228.

Private Piano & Guitar Lessons held @ School

Is your child interested in learning a musical instrument? Private piano and Guitar lessons are held at school starting this week. If you are interested please contact the music teacher to book a place.



Guitar Teacher - Harley
Mobile - 0423 108 895
Cost : \$30 half hour



Piano Teacher - Kerrie Keun
Mobile - 0416 091 295
Cost : \$30 half hour



Thank you to Christa Robinson for sewing the home pockets for the preschool Bilbies group .



SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School phone number: 6142 3100 Fax: 6142 3121

School email address: info@theops.act.edu.au

Before and After School Care - Communities @ Work operate an After School Care Program for Preschoolers to Yr 6 students from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at the school. Please contact the Communities @ Work coordinator on 62936500.

Bikes are to be walked through the school and left locked at the bike racks. The school does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen bikes. By law, a helmet must be worn while riding.

Car Park - Please drive slowly and safely in our car park. If using the drop-off zone in front of the school please keep in the left lane. The Right lane gives access to parking and/or leaving the school.

Children leaving school before 3:00pm - If for any reason you need to take your child from the school before 3:00pm please come to the front office and sign your child out or if returning them, sign them back in. This is for safety and security reasons so we know exactly who is in the grounds.

Classes - begin at 9:00am. Students are reminded to come to the front office if they have a problem. There are notices on external windows and doors as reminders. Please send your children as close to 9:00am as possible. The school day ends at 3:00pm.

Complaint or Concerns - Many concerns are resolved quickly and easily by discussing the matter directly with the school. First speak directly to your child's teacher or talk to a member of the executive team. If you continue to be concerned please make an appointment to see your principal. If you need assistance contact the ACT Education and Training Directorate, Liaison Unit, on 6205 5429 or DET.CommunityLiaison@act.gov.au.

If you are not satisfied you may lodge a written complaint to. The Complaints Policy - Education and Training Directorate Form are available from the policy section of the Directorate www.det.act.gov.au. You have the right to approach the ACT Human Rights Commission. Details are available from the Commission website www.hrc.act.gov.au/humanrights

Containers for food - Tins (especially lids) and glass containers are dangerous to have in lunch boxes. We encourage you to use plastic containers at all times please.

Current Contact Numbers - It is very important that we have your current contact number and at least one other emergency contact number. If your child is sick or has had an accident we need to be able to contact you immediately.

Dogs - ACT Dog laws prohibit dogs, even on a leash, from being on the premises (including the grounds) of primary schools at any time. For the safety of our students, dogs should not be on the school grounds. There are obvious problems when the dogs use the playing areas as a toilet. We also have some students who are very frightened by dogs.

Hats - Children are reminded that they need to wear sun smart hats whilst outside at school. The Department of Education has asked us to recommend that parents remove the cords of school sunhats. This follows reported near-miss strangulation in an ACT school involving sunhat cords and playground equipment. We have also been advised that children are not permitted to play on fixed playground equipment if sunhat cords have not been removed. This took effect from 20 October 2005.

Liability for the loss, damage or theft of students' personal property at school. Advice from the ACT Government Solicitor indicates that notwithstanding the merits of each particular incident, schools generally cannot be held responsible for the

Intervening acts of third parties relating to the loss, damage or theft of students' personal property. Parents and students are advised that schools do not provide private insurance cover to automatically compensate for the loss, damage or theft of bicycles or other personal property and nor will they be legally liable for the loss.

Medication - Departmental policy requires schools to ensure that: Any request for administering medications must be in writing. The medication must be accompanied by clear written instructions on the method of administration, timing and dosage.

We would be grateful if such letters regarding medication could be sent as soon as possible.

Mobile Phones - All mobile phones brought to school must be left at the front office in the morning. Phones can be collected at 3:00pm. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Notes - Please remember all notes that go home for an event have a definite closing date, which is usually two days before the event. Your assistance with returning all notes, along with your permission is crucial to informing us as to whether the event can proceed or not. There is a section in the newsletter advising when notes are sent home and a list of upcoming events.

No Smoking - Smoking on all grounds of ACT schools is not permitted. This includes the oval and carpark.

Playground - The school playground equipment should only be used by students during school hours under the supervision of staff. In the interests of the safety of all children, parents should ensure that their children do not use this equipment before or after school or when a staff member is not supervising.

Student Absences - Class rolls are marked both morning and afternoon by the class teacher. All student absences are recorded. The teacher records an **S** when written advice has been received that the child has been sick or an **L** when written advice states that the child has been on leave for that particular day. If the class teacher does not receive any information in regard to the student's absence then an **A** is recorded for the specific day. All student absences are totalled at the end of each term and recorded on student records. Staff will send home letters requesting an explanation for all unexplained absences. Our aim is to see all children attending school as regularly as possible.

Unauthorised Access to School Rooves - Parents are reminded of the dangers inherent when children climb onto the school roof. Your support in reminding children of these dangers is requested. Signs have been erected at the school warning of dangers of accessing the school roof.

Volunteers and Visitors - All classroom helpers, volunteers and visitors must either come to the front office to sign the volunteer's book or sign the book in the Unit or collect a badge to wear while in the school. This is for safety and security reasons so that we know exactly who is in the building. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.



Your Child's Safety at School

Providing for your child's safety when at school in our care is a major responsibility of our staff. Theodore Primary School has an Emergency Management Plan. The principal and staff are prepared to make prompt and responsible decisions in any situation that could threaten the safety of the students.

The need to close a school and evacuate the students before the regularly scheduled closing time could arise from a relatively minor emergency such as a prolonged interruption of power or from a major event such as a fire, earthquake, or severe storm. At times, communication and/or transportation may be disrupted. In the event of a major disaster information will be disseminated in a number of ways, including:

- Broadcast by local radio and television stations.
- Published in the local newspapers and, as possible, posted on the school website.

Theodore Primary School Release Policy

- No student will be dismissed from school unless a parent (or individual designated by a parent) comes for him/her.
- No student will be allowed to leave with another person, even a relative or carer, unless we have written permission or that particular person is listed on the student's Emergency Contact Details in our office and is able to identify him/herself. If the information changes, remember to call the office to update your details.
- All parents or designated persons who come for students must sign out at the office or from the alternate release location, which will be established on the school oval. Signs will be posted if this alternate location is required.

We are prepared to care for your student in emergency situations. If you are not able to reach the school, we will care for your student until you or an authorised person arrives. We have a number of staff members with first aid training, and we will be in communication with local emergency services. In case of an emergency we ask for your help in the following ways:

- **Do not call the school. It is essential that telephone lines are open for emergency calls.**
- **Stay tuned in to the local radio or television for updated developments.**
- **Avoid traffic congestion at the school by not driving immediately to the school. The school access route and street entrance areas must remain clear for emergency vehicles.**

During the school year your child will be trained in the necessary emergency procedures. He/she will learn how to react, where to assemble, and what to expect in an emergency situation. If you have any questions or comments about our emergency preparations, please call the office on 6142 3100.

Matthew Holdway

Principal



P&C & Board News

Theodore Primary - School Board

We want YOU for the Theodore Primary School board! If you're keen to contribute to the governance of Theodore Primary School, you should nominate for the vacant parent representative position on the board. No prior experience is necessary. Meetings are held twice per term at 3.15pm on a Wednesday and run for around 1 hour.

Nominations open 2 Feb and close 16 Feb 2015

The functions of the school board are to:

- Establish strategic direction
- Monitor and review school performance
- Develop and review policies
- Develop, maintain and review curriculum for the school and approve the school budget.

Nomination forms are available at the Front Office.

Metro Canteen

Metro Online Canteens starts up again THIS WEEK. Lunch is available Wednesday to Friday by ordering online ONLY at www.flexischools.com.au.

New families can register just by clicking on the Canteen Orders link and following instructions from there.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 9AM on day of delivery.

VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY SOUGHT FOR 2015. It only requires 45minutes on your chosen day to collate orders and hand out to students.

All Canteen enquires can be made to Wendy Stevenson 0416402859 Wendyanne08@gmail.com

Student Banking

Welcome back everybody!

Hope you all had a wonderful restful break, that didn't include too much spending!

For those who are familiar with school banking we are restarting Wednesday 11th February. For those that are new or haven't quite got you children bank accounts, now is the time! I can even help you get the accounts opened; it doesn't get easier than that!

This is how it works; I collect the bank books from the office on Wednesday morning before **9.15am** and return them to the office for collection by the students or family member that afternoon around **2.45pm**.

If you wish to start an account there should be account application forms at the front office.

If you have any questions please call

Annalisa 0431 980 561

Student Banking Officer



Preschool T-Shirt Orders due 13 February

This year we are again organising T-Shirts for the preschool children.

- The children will be easily identifiable on excursions and visits to the Primary School
- No more discussions in the mornings on what children want to wear to school
- Learning to wear a uniform in preparation for Primary School

We will be ordering our 2015 Theodore Preschool T-Shirts on the 16 February 2015. If you would like to order a fantastic t-shirt, please return this order form with full payment to either Karen Watson , Janene Joyner , Susie Tebb or Jayne by Friday 13 February 2015 . No orders will be taken after this date.

Please complete the order form and return it with your cash or cheque made payable to "Theodore Preschool " T- Shirts are \$22.00 each.

T- Shirt Order Form

Colour _ Sky Blue T- Shirt with navy writing

Design as below T- Shirt will say Theodore Preschool.

Size Chart	2	3	4	6	8
To Fit chest size	56cm	58cm	60cm	64cm	66cm

Please note size 2 and 3 are a slightly different shirt and are a lighter colour

Childs Name: _____

Class: _____

Size Chart	2	3	4	6	8
# of shirts					

I enclose my payment of \$ _____ (\$22.00 per shirt) by **CASH** **CHEQUE** **DIRECT DEPOSIT**
(Please circle)

Direct Deposit : **BSB 633 000, Account number 1455 29558 please include Name and Preschool T- Shirt**

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____



Playgroup @ Theodore Primary School

Are you interested in bringing your child/ren to a playgroup at Theodore Primary School on Wednesday mornings? Have fun with your child as we sing, play, read, laugh, talk and enjoy being parents. The playgroup will be run each week by a qualified teacher and all are welcome from babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers through to parents, grandparents and carers.



All Welcome!

Theodore Playgroup will recommence next Tuesday 10th February at 9am in the Music Room (next to the kitchen). Bring your little ones along for 90 mins of fun, play and books (and the opportunity to meet other parents and carers!)

For more information phone the school on 61423100 or speak to Rowan at the school.

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65 SHEPPARD ST, HUME TEL: 62601171



Theodore Primary School "Meet the Teacher BBQ"



When: Wednesday 11th February

Where: Shade Shelter

Time: 5.00 to 6.30pm



What to Bring

- The Whole Family
- Picnic Rug
- Water bottle /drinks

This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher and other members of our community. The school will supply sausage

sandwiches.



Information packs will be handed out during this time. Please pick yours up!!