Executive News

What a pleasure it has been to do the ‘rounds’ with Mr Holdway each morning over the first few weeks of the year and see how settled and engaged in learning our children are. Classes are busy learning the Theodore Primary School values of Respect, Personal Best, Integrity and Compassion and building on how those values can be reflected in their classrooms and in their relationships with adults and other students in the school.

I am amazed at how quickly our newest and youngest students, in preschool and kindergarten, have respectively adjusted to their new routines. Investigation time in both settings has been busy and full of positive learning experiences. Our play based program follows the pedagogy of Walker Learning, www.earlylife.com.au

“Walker Learning” provides planned play experiences to develop skills for life including:

- Resilience
- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Thinking skills
- Self concept
- Intrinsic motivation

These skills for life work alongside skills of literacy, numeracy, the arts, science and other curriculum areas and are placed within the individual interests, collective culture and communities of the children and their families. Walker Learning uses evidence from how children develop neurologically, developmentally and through the influences of culture and family, to set up the learning environment to reflect indoor and outdoor learning and places and spaces that reflect calm but stimulating range of investigations and places to explore, experiment and learn.

Walker Learning places an emphasis upon relationships between teacher and child and family. It views the child holistically and values emotional and social life as important as the academic. Walker Learning is a holistic approach to teaching to the whole of a child and committed to developing children who can think for themselves and for others, can create and imagine, who are strong in their literacy and numeracy, and who can navigate the challenges of the world with intrinsic motivation and a strength of character made of a strong sense of self and resilience.”

Year 4, 5 and 6 students will be invited to be part of the Kulture Break Dance Nation group for 2017. A note will be sent home to families regarding this program soon. Students will have 16 lessons at school, be involved in a spectacular theatre experience in June and receive a Dance Nation t-shirt.

I am always available to assist you and your children and I look forward to working with the Theodore community as we continue our journey during 2017!

Tracey Stewart
Deputy Principal
Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM, 6.30pm Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 Assembly</td>
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<td>12.20pm in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Mar</td>
<td>Whole School Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>Redgum Book Club Orders Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 Borambola Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 3/4 Birragai Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Mar</td>
<td>Canberra Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 6 Leadership Opportunity Speech Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Mar</td>
<td>Whole School Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 National Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 3/4 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.20pm in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Mar</td>
<td>Tuggeranong Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>7 Apr</td>
<td>Yr 1/2 Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12.20pm in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2 May</td>
<td>Kindergarten Health Checks</td>
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Notes and Money to be Returned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 6 T-shirts and Hoodies Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kindy Health Check Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>Student Info Pack Permission Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming Note and Money</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 3/4 Camp Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 Camp Notes</td>
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School News

Community Liaison Officer

Just a quick note about my new role in the school. We are trialling having a "Community Liaison Officer" at our school. It is a bit of a work in progress and I would love some extra ideas for our community. My role is about supporting students and families who are needing a little extra to do well at school - learning, having friends, and hopefully enjoying school. Part of the role is to liaise with other resources in the community and work with these agencies in the school. I will write more in week 5 but would love to hear some of your thoughts too. Parent groups? Information sessions? Lots of possibilities. I am very much looking forward to meeting more families and seeing what we can do together. I am up in the front office area so feel free to pop in and say “hey”.

Cheers, Simone Dawson

Learn Piano in 2017

This year piano lessons at the school are being taught by Nicola Franklin. Nicola has been teaching piano for over fifteen years and is excited to be working at Theodore. Lessons for beginner through to intermediate grade students are $30 per half hour lesson. Contact Nicola on 0412 709 318 or at Nicola.emily.franklin@gmail.com for more information.
Kindergarten - Chipala News

What a busy start to 2017 we have had! We started this term by helping all the Kindergarten children to become familiar with others, to try new things and to be part of the larger group in Chipala. So far we have all had a visit from some turtles, been to and borrowed books from the library, experienced our first Science and PE lessons, become familiar with our learning environments and have shared a family BBQ. We are looking forward to our first school swimming carnival in a few weeks’ time on Wednesday March 1st. Remember on this day students wear a t-shirt in their house colour. More information about the swimming carnival will follow.

Mrs Leheny, Mrs Bart, Mrs Swift and Tracy have been blown away by the enthusiasm and ideas students have displayed during morning Investigations. It has been rewarding to see the students trying new things and working as problem solvers. We have really enjoyed getting to know our Foxes, our Crocodiles and our Starfish.
Kindergarten Health Checks are happening this year!

All kindergarten students in the ACT are eligible to receive a FREE health check.

**HEARING CHECK**
- If you have not returned your child’s Kindergarten Health Check Consent and Questionnaire, information packs will be sent home early in Term 1.
- SIGN – Complete The Kindergarten Health Check Consent And Questionnaire.
- RETURN – To your school by 17th February 2017.

Your school can provide you with the date of the health check.

Theodore Primary School
(Official Site)
Our school is participating in Redgum Book Club this term. The catalogues will be sent home this week.

To view the current catalogue, please open the link Redgum Book Club Term 1 2017 You will find many more great titles on their website that you can order this term, with books starting from $2.00.

The catalogue is now open and closes on 6th March. Ordered books will be delivered free to the school week commencing 20th March. Every book order will earn resources and books for our school.

Redgum Book Club newly released books for term 1:

- **Lion: A Long Way Home (Young Readers Edition)** - A true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds, now a major motion Australian film starring Nicole Kidman
- **Alice Miranda Holds the Key** - From Australian best-selling and multi-award winning author, Jacqueline Harvey
- **Red Dog: True Blue** - A charming story of a young boy and his dog adventuring through the outback
- **Middle School: Word of Mouse** - James Patterson's newest illustrated story follows the illuminating journey of a very special mouse
- **There's a Snake in my School** - From Number One bestselling author David Walliams, comes this spectacularly funny picture book
- **Mr Romanov’s Garden in the Sky** - Heartfelt, evocative and compelling – another masterpiece from the award-winning Australian Robert Newton

How to place an order:

- Order and pay online by credit card or PayPal at www.redgumbookclub.com.au
- Email your order with your credit card details to: orders@redgumbookclub.com.au
- Fill out the order form on the back of the catalogue and post it with a cheque.

If you have any questions about Redgum Book Club orders, please contact Lesley at schools@redgumbookclub.com.au
P&C News – 2017 P&C Annual General Meeting

Invitation to Parents/Carers, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles
2017 P&C AGM Wednesday 22 February 2017, 6:30pm in the Library

The P&C would like to ask you for your support, participation and help in 2017. The more we all get involved, the more we can achieve for our children. So if you are a Mum, Dad, Uncle, Aunty, Grand parent, or simply want to help out our school, please get involved.

We have been very lucky to have had a great group of parents help us over the years, but as their children move on to high school there is a need to replace them with new parents and carers. You don’t need to have any special skills, just a willingness to help out - and those of us in the P&C will be there to support you.

All P&C Committee positions become vacant and the new Committee will be formed at the AGM. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to nominate for a position on the committee, nomination forms are available at the Front Office. If you can’t attend the meeting, but want to be part of the committee or just help out, please contact TheodorePandC@yahoo.com.au

P&C Positions to Fill are:

**Executive Committee**
- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Secretary/Public Officer
- Executive Committee Members (4 required)

**Sub-Committees**
- P&C Fundraising Convenor
- P&C Fundraising Secretary
- P&C Fundraising Committee Members
- Preschool Fundraising Convenor
- Preschool Fundraising Secretary
- Preschool Fundraising Finance Officer
- Preschool Fundraising Committee Members

**Other roles:**
- School Banking Officer(s)
- P&C Council delegate
- Calwell High School liaison
- Uniform liaison
- Canteen liaison

The P&C meetings are held in a relaxed atmosphere twice a term on Wednesday at 6:30pm in the 3rd and 8th week of term. Mr Matt Holdway and Ms Tracey Stewart also attend these meetings.

If you have any questions please email us on TheodorePandC@yahoo.com.au, otherwise just come along to the meeting to find out more!

Thanks and we look forward to seeing you.

The 2016 P&C members
Community News

Legs Dance recommences
Thursday 16 Feb at 8.00am
Come along and try!
Community News

Parents and Guardians who live far from school or public transport can apply for the School Drive Subsidy.

If you live a long way from public transport and need to drive a student to a public transport pick up point or to school, you may be able to get financial assistance.

The School Drive Subsidy provides eligible parents and guardians twice-yearly payments to help cover some of the expenses of getting children to school.

To find out if you’re eligible, and to apply online, visit www.transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive.

If you have any questions, please email schooldrive@transport.nsw.gov.au

Brochures are available at the front office.