



Executive News

What a pleasure it has been to do the 'rounds' in the mornings over the first five weeks of the year to see settled and engaged children in our classes. Students have been 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
- Resilience
- 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."

This week our Kulture Break Dance Nation group for 2018 commenced. There are a record number of Year 4 to 6 students doing our dance program this year which is very exciting. We have also commenced another Redcap group, which is run by the Salvation Army and teaches self-regulation, with some of our Year 3 students.

Last week many of our 5/6 and 3/4 students participated in camps at Jindabyne and Birrigai respectively. All reports indicated that a fabulous time was had. We had some very tired campers on their return. The students who remained at school had great fun with DJ Cliff (Mr Armitage) playing games and doing team building activities.

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 2018!

Tracey Stewart
Deputy Principal



Dates to Remember

19 Mar	Yr 6 Parliament House Excursion
21 Mar	Swimming Carnival @ CISAC
22 Mar	Y1 Lanyon Homestead Excursion
23 Mar	Year 3/4 M and 4L Assembly
27&29 Mar	Preschool Botanic Gardens Excursion
28 Mar	Board & P&C Meeting
30 Mar	Good Friday
2 Apr	Easter Monday
6 Apr	Year 5 Assembly
12 Apr	Cross Country
13 Apr	Last Day Term 1
30 Apr	First Day Term 2

Notes sent home with this issue

14 Mar	NAPLAN Year 3 and Year 5
14 Mar	ICAS selected years
14 Mar	Year 3 & 4 PG Viewing

Cross Country Change of date

Dear Parents,

There has been a change of date in the Theodore cross country carnival. The new date is Thursday 12th April week 10, Term One. Please add this to your calendar and there will be another reminder sent home prior to the day.

Thanks You

Brooke Wood



School News

Playground Tickets

To acknowledge positive behaviours on our playground we give green Playground Tickets to students who are showing our school values - Integrity, Respect, Compassion and Personal Best. For example: Graham in 2D was showing compassion when he helped his friend up to sickbay.

Each unit collects the Playground Tickets at the end of each break and then draws several tickets out at unit meetings fortnightly. Winners of the lucky draw come up to the front office to receive a lucky dip and congratulations for showing our school values on the playground.

Cheers, Simone Dawson

Parking safely and legally around schools

The ACT Government has developed a short video to help communicate with parents about the need to ensure they park correctly around schools.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6B6PPgOC8I>

YOUR REMINDER TO PARK SAFELY AND LEGALLY AROUND SCHOOLS



Every day across Canberra, parents are parking illegally in school zones and putting all kids in the area at risk. With school parking patrols increasing in 2018, if you keep doing it, you will get caught and you will be fined.

Video – [Parking safely around schools](#)



Science News

I would like to begin the year by saying how thrilled I am to be teaching my favourite subject and learning alongside the budding scientists of Theodore. We will have many exciting opportunities for our students to extend their science learning beyond the classroom this year.

The Kindergarten students have begun to work towards completing a CSIRO CREST award by participating in a unit of work around native and introduced animals. We have been investigating how the needs of animals are different because animals move differently, eat differently and live in different places. We have already met some real native animals such as Stampy the blue-tongued lizard and we look forward to meeting some more.

The 1/2 classes are really enjoying this term's focus on the types of small animals we can find at school and at home through their participation in the Primary Connections unit of work 'Schoolyard Safari'. I'm sure that after helping to look after the Science room's snails and worms there will be quite a few children finding and looking after their own backyard animals at home.

The Year 3 classes have launched into the Primary Connections unit of work 'Spinning in Space'. We are investigating how the Sun, Earth and Moon relate to each other in both size and how they move through space. During our investigations we will explore how these relationships impact our lives on Earth.

The Year 4 classes are working through the Primary Connections unit of work 'Light Fantastic'. We are investigating aspects of light such as exploring things that give us light, how light helps us to see, how light travels, how far it travels and shadows. We will utilise our new found knowledge at the end of the term by working in small groups to create a light and shadow show.

The Year 5 students are exploring Energy through completing the Jason Science missions in Monster Storms. Jason Science is an incredible online resource that was developed by National Geographic. It uses both hands on and online exercises to immerse students in their learning. I am very excited to be using this resource with our students and look forward to learning with them.

Our Year 6 classes are also working with Jason resources to further develop their understanding of energy through their participation in 'Infinite Potential'. All of the students have their own log-ons to the Jason site so please ask them to show you what they have been working on in class at home.

This year Theodore will not be hosting the ACT Science Fair, however, I am happy to assist any students who wish to enter where I can. The ACT Science Fair is open to all school age students in the ACT and is generally held in Term 3. If you go to http://seaact.act.edu.au/events/seaact_science_fair you will find information about the fair. It would be great if we could have entries from Theodore to display. I will give students and families more information as the year progresses.

As I am each year, I am impressed with the maturity and thirst for knowledge that our students have. It makes it enjoyable to come to work when I am able to spend my time with such enquiring minds. We are all looking forward to another busy and productive year.

Sarah Fletcher



P&C News

Dear all,

As you all know by now all current P&C committee members are stepping down from their current roles, and no new P&C committee was able to be formed following the AGM meeting in February. For the P&C to keep functioning volunteers are needed. The positions needing to be filled include:

Executive Committee

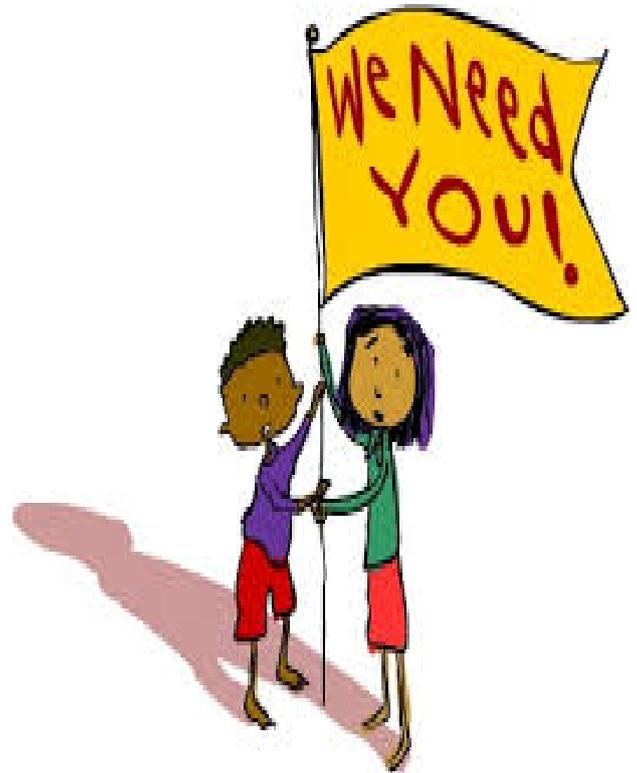
- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Secretary/Public Officer
- Executive Committee Members (4 required)

Sub-Committees

- P&C Fundraising Convenor
- P&C Fundraising Secretary
- P&C Fundraising committee members

Other roles:

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



We would like to invite you to please come along to the special general P&C meeting, held on Thursday the 22nd of March at 6:30 in the Staff Meeting room. We are looking forward to forming a new P&C committee and you, your child/ren, and TPS, will be able to enjoy the benefits of a P&C.

Thank you,

The 2017 P&C committee members