



02 March 2023 – Term 1

Principal News

Hello Theodore families,

We are already at the end of week 5- where has the time gone!?

It has been an exciting time at Theodore Primary School over the past four years as we have embarked on our school improvement journey. You may be aware that since 2019 our big areas of focus have been on **providing a positive learning environment**, through the implementation of Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). We have also had a specific focus on **improving reading and writing for all students** as well as **improving maths outcomes**. I am excited to share below what the next steps in our improvement plan are for 2023.



School Priorities 2023

Strategic Priority	What did we achieve in 2022?	What will we focus on in 2023?
Provide a positive learning environment for all stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ PBL: Number of awards: 267 Bronze 248 Silver 123 Gold 11 Platinum Inquiry learning: Introducing the language of the learning assets with walkthroughs to measure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PBL: Continuing to embed PBL, particularly students receiving positive acknowledgements and use of explicit teaching in internal and external settings. Inquiry learning: embedding the language of the learning assets across the school through all learning areas.
Improve student learning outcomes in reading and writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued focus on reading and writing, resulting in individual student growth as measured through PM Benchmarks, PROBE assessments, PAT Reading and student writing samples. Professional learning focused on oral language and vocabulary. Feedback related to teacher practice provided through learning walkthroughs. School Improvement visit focused on Reader's Workshop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-visiting the Reader's Workshop model through staff professional learning, with particular focus on student independent practice time so that all students achieve growth in reading. Promoting a love of reading through the use of book boxes, 'Hot Reads' and student choice.
Improve student learning outcomes in maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School is engaging in <i>Finding the balance</i> (Directorate professional learning). Review of assessment practices used to measure student learning growth. Graduate profiles in maths developed across the school. Measure of staff confidence in teaching maths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving student outcomes in maths by building teacher capacity in using effective pedagogy and practices. Using the workshop model to provide students with the opportunity to engage in purposeful practice time.

I look forward to sharing how we are progressing against our priorities throughout 2023 and I invite you to provide any questions or feedback.

Nathan Pepper
Principal

Contact Us



theodoreps@ed.act.edu.au



(02) 614 23100



www.theops.act.edu.au



Lawrence Wackett Crescent, THEODORE ACT 2905



[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/TheodorePrimarySchool)
Theodore Primary School (Official Site)

Theodore Primary School
"A great place to grow up"

Dates to Remember

Term 1 Calendar

Upcoming Events

MARCH

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 08 | K— Yr6 | Swimming Carnival |
| 10 | Yr5/6 | Netball Gala Day |
| 11 | Yr3/4 | Assembly |
| 13 | P—Yr6 | CANBERRA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY |



Notes sent home

Notes due back

Yr5/6	Netball Gala Day	03rd March
Yr6	Year 6 T-Shirt & Hoodie Order	06th March
Yr5/6	Camp Information, Agreement & Medical	10th March
Yr5	Band	14th March
Yr1/2	National Arboretum Excursion	17th March



*We are Safe,
Respectful
Learners*

Term 1 | Week 6 @ Theodore



MONDAY 6/3-

Bilbies Preschool Day

TUESDAY 7/3- 3-6 Kulture Break Demo

K-2 Basketball Clinics 

Bilbies Preschool Day

WEDNESDAY 8/3-

K-6 Swimming Carnival    

THURSDAY 9/3-

Koalas Preschool Day

FRIDAY 10/3- 5/6 Band

5/6 Netball Gala Day

Assembly @ 2.15pm - 3/4 Hosting

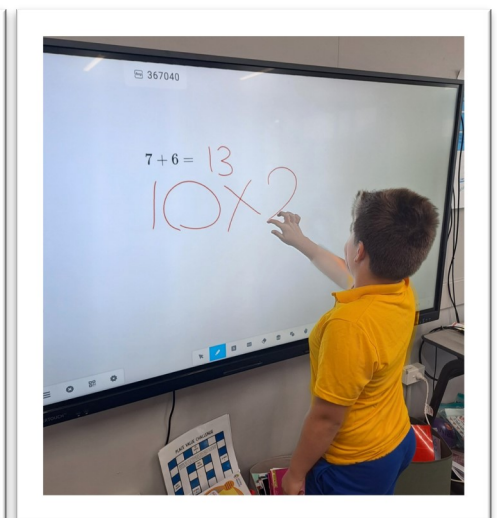
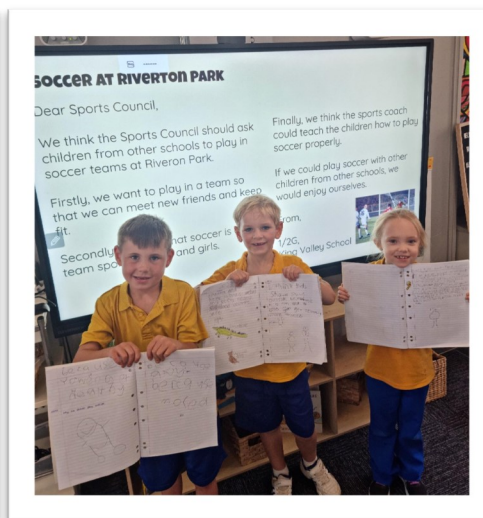
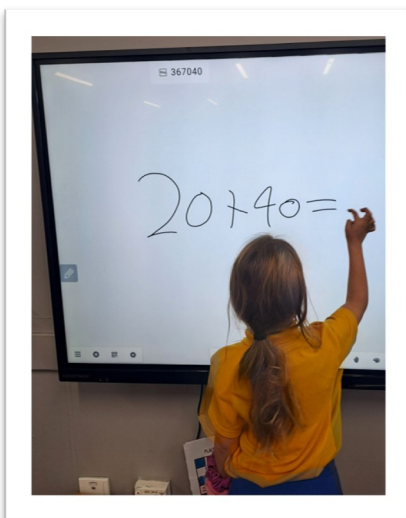
Koalas Preschool Day



School Upgrades



This year we have installed brand new Smart Screens in our kindergarten to year 6 classrooms. Students and teachers are loving being able to learn in new ways using this technology!



1/2 News

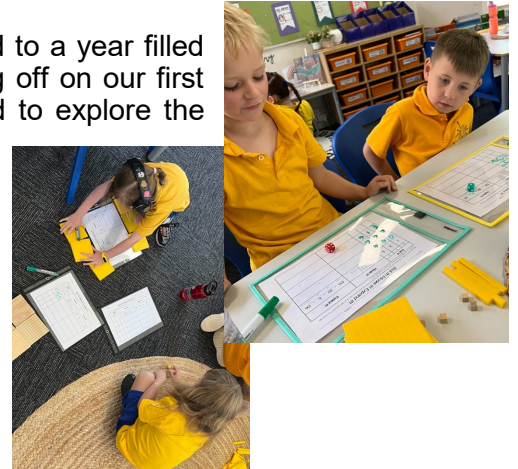
Welcome back to school for 2023! We hope that you've had a great summer and have settled into the new year.

The 1/2 Students in Yackatoot have certainly settled into their classes and have been busy getting to know one another, as well as their teachers and classrooms. We are very lucky to be starting the year with such a wonderful group of students.

The 1/2 Team has some exciting things planned, and look forward to a year filled with fun learning opportunities. In a few weeks we will be heading off on our first excursion, to the National Arboretum - students are really excited to explore the area. We also have our Swimming Carnival coming up as well.

Maths: In Number, students have been busy learning about place value. Which has led to a number of hands-on experiences of recognising, reading, modelling and ordering 3 digit numbers.

We are also exploring location and mapping in Maths. Some classes have been making maps of their classrooms or the playground, while others have been exploring Google Earth to look at locations around the world.



Reading: We have been learning about making connections in texts which has led to a lot of interesting discussions about hobbies, favourite foods or pets. We will continue to work on reading skills, with a focus on decoding strategies - such as looking at the initial sound, or using the pictures as a clue. Students are encouraged to be an active reader, engaging in reading a number of fiction and non-fiction books, thinking about the text and making connections between them.



Writing: Our focus this term is on persuasive writing, and students have already enjoyed engaging with a number of text examples. We have read a number of mentor texts such as the Don't Let the Pigeon series, and students have had a variety of topics to write about independently, or in small groups.

This term students will continue focusing on the key aspects of sentence structure, by learning how to correctly include full stops, capital letters, describing words and other forms of punctuation in sentences. Students are given a variety of activities and opportunities to learn and consolidate these fundamental aspects of sentence structure that are important for successful writing.

Basketball Clinics: We have been enjoying our Basketball Clinics, organised by Ms Kennedy once a week. Students have had the opportunity to develop their skills in dribbling basketballs, as well as beginning to learn how to shoot them into the baskets.



Communication: SeeSaw and emails will continue to be the main source of communication this year. Please let your teacher know if there are any problems with logging on. There's already a number of posts up about what our learners have been up to!



Encouraging Independence: We have been encouraging students to be responsible for their belongings throughout the school day. In particular, students have enjoyed the responsibility of selecting their home readers with a teacher, please bring these back to change whenever you and your child feel they are ready for new ones.

Wellbeing: We have started off the year by learning about the Zones of Regulation, where students are encouraged to link the particular emotion that they may be feeling or experiencing with a colour. Such as red (angry, out of control, devastated), blue (sad, tired, sick), green (happy, ready to learn, calm), and yellow (nervous, frustrated, silly). Students are encouraged to check in with their teacher at multiple times throughout the day, as well as use a number of strategies to calm down when necessary.

SCHOOLS CLEAN UP DAY 🌍



A big thank you to all students who dressed in green and helped clean up our school on Wednesday. It was amazing to see students get creative with their green outfits. The winners of the lunch will be announced on Monday.

How do you ask your children about their day and get an answer

Do you often find yourself asking your children how school was just to get a one-word answer? As parents it can be exciting to find out how school was for your child, and it can be disappointing to receive these one-word answers or no answer at all. This week we will look at how to get more than a one-word answer from your child about their day at school.

Food first

As soon as parents pick up their children, they many ask how their day was, research has shown this may not always be the best approach. After a busy day at school, especially in term 1 when it is all new, children may need time to regroup and wind down before talking about their day. One of the best things that parents can do to help children regroup and wind down is to feed them before asking about their day.

Ask something specific

Sometimes asking 'how was school', isn't the best question to ask, as a common response is good, fine or I don't know. If you ask specific question, you might get a better understanding of how your child's day went.

Here are some examples of questions you might like to ask:

What game did you play at lunch?

Who did you play with?

What was the best thing that happened at school today?

Did anything happen at school today that you didn't like?

Did anything funny happen at school today?



Mid Week Lunchbox Favourite Suggestion

Crunchy Tuna Sandwich

Prep 10 mins

Ingredients

- 95g can tuna in spring water, drained
- ½ stick of celery, diced
- 2 tsp low-fat mayonnaise
- 1 cos lettuce leaf
- A squeeze of lemon
- 1 tbs sliced spring onion (optional)
- 2 slices wholegrain bread

Method

In a medium sized bowl break up tuna with a fork. Stir in the celery, spring onion (optional) and lemon, then mix in the mayonnaise. Spread tuna mixture over one slice of bread, season with pepper then top with a lettuce leaf and the remaining slice of bread.



Community Coordinator News – Aimee Shires

What is Saver Plus?

A financial literacy program funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and ANZ, aimed at supporting families on lower incomes to develop financial skills and independence. As an incentive to completing the 10-month program, a participant's savings are matched dollar for dollar, up to \$500, for an education cost such as school uniforms, stationery, tutoring, and laptops, as well as extracurricular activities like sport, music, scouts, and dancing.

Why should we promote Saver Plus?

The reality of the pandemic, widespread natural disasters, and the rising cost of living is that financial stress and hardship is becoming more prevalent. By promoting the Saver Plus program to your school families, you're supporting them to build lasting savings habits, improve their personal wellbeing, and be better prepared for unexpected expenses. An [independent study](#) found that of past participants:

- 87% continue to save the same amount or more 3 to 7 years after completing the program
- 80% had more control over their finances
- 78% were better equipped for unexpected expenses
- 88% reported increased self-esteem
- 100% experienced increases in life, financial and employment satisfaction.

How will it benefit our school and students?

Unless the parent or guardian is studying themselves, their savings goal will be an item/s for their child's education. This means an investment and active engagement in your school community. Furthermore, we know the important role that parents play as their child's first and most influential teacher. Therefore, the financial skills, confidence, and habits developed through this program are passed along to the rest of the family.

How can we promote Saver Plus?

School Newsletter

- Adapt the below blurb to suit your needs and pair with an [image](#) if possible.
- Could \$500 help you with education costs? You might be eligible for Saver Plus, Australia's longest running and most successful financial education program. On this FREE 10-month program, parents and carers just like you are supported to develop savings habits and financial confidence. Once you reach your savings goal, ANZ matches your savings dollar for dollar (up to \$500). You can use this money towards your children's education costs such as uniforms, stationery, laptops, or even extra-curricular activities like sport, music, dancing, and scouts! You have nothing to lose and \$\$\$ to gain so head to saverplus.org.au for more information and to register your interest today.*

Facebook

Reshare posts from [Saver Plus](#) to your school's Facebook page like [this post](#). Or contact your local Saver Plus Coordinator for more personalised tiles and captions.

Posters

Print and display one of our posters in areas parents frequent such as reception area, uniform shop, or OSHC centre:

[Kindy Poster](#)

[School Poster](#)

[How it Works Poster](#)

If you'd prefer a printed copy provided to you, please contact your local Saver Plus Coordinator.

On-Hold Message

Use [this script](#) to record an on-hold message promoting the program to people who call your school.

If you don't record your own messages, please contact your local Saver Plus Coordinator for an audio file.



Could \$500 help with next year's back to school costs?

Learn tips and tricks to grow your budget and saving skills. Save for 10 months. Get up to \$500 of matched savings for school expenses. Just in time for 2024.

Must meet all eligibility criteria:

- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card AND an eligible Centrelink payment*
- ✓ Be studying yourself OR have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- ✓ Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)*
- ✓ Be 18+ years old

*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible

For more info, visit saverplus.org.au or call 1300 610 355. To fill in an online enquiry form, [CLICK HERE](#).



THEODORE PLAYGROUP

Theodore playgroup is a free play-based playgroup designed for children aged 0-5. The aim of Theodore playgroup is to provide an opportunity for parents and carers to connect with others in the community and to provide a safe and friendly environment for children to learn new skills through play.

DAY: Friday - During the school terms

TIME: 9 – 10 am

LOCATION: Theodore Preschool

Lawrence Wackett Crescent Theodore ACT

For more information, please contact Aimee.

61423100

aimee.shires@ed.act.edu.au

Parent & Carer eSafety Webinars - 2023

All parents and carers of an ACT public school student are invited to attend an eSafety information session designed to develop their knowledge and skills in supporting their child with digital technologies. This webinar will look at understanding the current eSafety issues children and young people are experiencing, how to support your child to be safe online, resources for preventing and responding to online issues, and where to go for further support.

Families are invited to attend one or more of the following sessions held online from 6.00-7.00pm:

	Primary	Secondary
Term 1	21/2 or 23/3	23/2 or 21/3
Term 2	9/5 or 8/6	11/5 or 6/6
Term 3	1/8 or 31/8	3/8 or 29/8
Term 4	17/10, 14/11 or 16/11	19/10, 14/11 or 16/11



bit.ly/3TyRaZx

Scan the QR Code or type in the address for more information and to register for one or more parent and carer eSafety webinars.



LOWES

2 DAY VIP EVENT

20% OFF
SCHOOLWEAR
& EVERYTHING ELSE*



MARCH 9TH & 10TH

ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS
USE YOUR CARD AT CHECKOUT



SHOP INSTORE & ONLINE

*T&C'S APPLY, SAVINGS OFF ORIGINAL PRICES.

