From the Principal
Dear Parents,

The countdown is on with many events taking place in these last few weeks. Please refer to the back of the newsletter for a family calendar for you to put on your fridge to follow our events.

Our Small Schools Swimming carnival is tomorrow, with our students all prepped and ready for a great day of fun. Remember to have your child at the pool around 8:30 – 8:45am as the day gets under way at 9:00am. It will be extremely hot tomorrow, so please ensure your child has their hat, own sunscreen and at least two drinks. Students will be able to use the pool canteen if need be, but no responsibility will be taken by school staff for money. This carnival is a great way to round off our small schools events and I know the staff are all looking forward to the friendly competition – GO THORNTON!!!

Our end of year Christmas Concert / Presentation evening is fast approaching. Thank you to all those families that RSVP’d for the meals. The information flyer should be coming to our community mailboxes today or tomorrow. If you know of other members of our community who normally come along to our great night, please pass on the information and an open invitation to all.

Remember to have that last ditch effort regarding the recipe books!!! I know that Jody (Paxton’s mum) would be very excited to see some extra recipes come her way. Jody and Kerri (Tydd) will be up on Monday morning to start to print and bind the recipe books, so please, DON’T DELAY – GET THE RECIPES TO US NOW!!!

Camp countdown is fast approaching. We are very happy to say that all but three students are attending camp and everyone has fully paid. Well done to our families. Thank you for your response to this event and I am certain we will have a great time!

As 2015 is quickly drawing to a close, 2016 is fast approaching. With this in mind, we are starting to make our staffing arrangements for the upcoming school year.

As discussed at the P&C meeting on Tuesday night, a warm congratulations goes to Mrs Edwards who has received a transfer to a large school in Tooowoomba, where she will be taking on a full time role working specifically in curriculum and data – her two passions in education.

Mrs Edwards will be sorely missed by all at Thornton SS, but I am sure you join me in understanding that our loss is another schools gain and we wish her all the very best for her future. Make sure you keep in touch Mrs Edwards!
With this movement in mind, I have asked Mrs Sandy O'Sullivan to potentially take the second teacher role at TSS. Mrs O has accepted and is hoping, like the rest of us, that we get to keep our second teacher.

That leads me to the next item, our school numbers are declining and there is a possibility that we will become a one teacher school in the near future – unless you are able to help!

Do you know anyone who is thinking of a new school for their children?
Do you know of any families moving into the area who have children?
Do you have any family that would like a small school environment for their children, who are happy to travel to Thornton SS each day?
Do you know of any rental properties available in our area for families wanting to move out this way?
If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, please contact me as soon as possible.

We are currently looking at having 24 enrolments next year, where we need to have 26 to keep our second teacher. So very close, but just those two students make the world of difference with every aspect of our school – teacher allocation, teacher aide hours, administration officer hours, groundsman allowance - all reduced to reflect the decline in student numbers. Our current support format may need to change slightly, if these predicted numbers become a reality, but student ratio of staff to students will still remain lower than what your child would be getting in a large school where they have up to 28 students in one room with one teacher and one teacher aide for 1 hour a day to support.

Please consider the above information carefully, and if you have any questions, please address them with me at your earliest convenience.

Until next fortnight,
Erika

END OF YEAR CONCERT REHEARSAL

A note went home early this week regarding our end of year concert rehearsal. As we have done each year, the students will be having a full dress rehearsal for the evening during the day on Tuesday 1 December at the Mulgowie Hall. If you could please return this slip by Friday 27 November so transport arrangements can be made.

Thank you to the families who have promptly returned this note.
**P-3 CLASSROOM**

The year is almost over and we have been flat out finishing assessment and standardised testing. Our unit on healthy living has by far been our favourite learning area and we have all enjoyed watching our garden grow and being able to eat the fresh produce. Below are pictures of our latest harvest which included celery, shallots, dill, parsley, coriander, and tomatoes. The students have also enjoyed creating posters educating others on how to lead a healthy life with the students in years 2 and 3 making theirs interactive via the website Glogster. You are able to view these on the website Glogster by asking your child to log on to their account. Please take the time to look as they have worked very hard to produce such great informative posters.

As you are now aware I have been transferred to Darling Heights State School in Toowoomba next year. It is an exciting opportunity for me to work closely with the teaching staff, mentoring them with regards to their teaching practices. Whilst this is a fantastic opportunity, I am still sad at the thought of leaving the school and the students. Thank you for trusting me with the education of your beautiful children and supporting me in delivering the best learning experiences possible. I will remember every one of “my kids” and would love to get updates on their progress.
NEWS CONT.:

SECRET SANTA
Thank you to the families who have already wrapped and delivered their presents back to the school so promptly. Just a reminder that we would appreciate all presents by Friday 4 December.
Happy Shopping!!!

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club
The last edition for this year has been home. I will be ordering Monday 23rd November. Please have all orders back to the school no later than Monday morning. Thank you for helping our library with your purchases.

Library Books
Next week library borrowing will cease for the year in order to locate missing books to commence stocktake. Please check all little hiding places and return all library books as soon as possible.

Library Lessons
I applaud all the wonderful students at Thornton for showing such enthusiasm in our lessons. Each week the students answer questions about past lessons and investigate new information from all areas of the library. They are all displaying such confidence and independence to find what they need in our library.

Thank you
Mel Sutherland

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Laidley C & K Kindergarten

RECOMMENDED KINDY PROGRAM BY LOCAL SCHOOLS
- Queensland Government approved Kindy
- Child-centred education program
- Exceeding the National Quality Framework standards
- High quality equipment and facilities
- Qualified Early Childhood Teachers and Assistants
- Community based, non-profit organisation

If you want the best Kindy program for 2016
Phone 5465 1723 now
School Awards: Weeks 5 & 6

**JUNIOR:**

Student of the Week: Joanah Millard (5) Connor Tydd (6)
English: Joe Foxlee (6)
Music: Jennifer Beezley (6)
Maths: Joe Foxlee (5) Spence Marshall (5)
Art/Drama: Patrick Tydd (5) Darcy Kelly (6)
Geography: Joanah Millard (5) Jett Emmerson (5)
Science: Phoebe Millard (5)
Reading: Simone Tydd (5) Paxton Woodward (5) Connor Tydd (6)

**SENIOR:**

Student of the Week: Layla Millard (5) Jada Phillips (6)
Science: Boe Millard (5) Archer Moss (6)
Geography: Lachlan Litfin (5) Jada Phillips (6)
Art/Drama: Archer Moss (5) Damien Jones (6)
Library: Hayley Craig (5) Boe Millard (5) Jada Phillips (6)
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**Monday, 16/11**
- **Fire Ed – 10:00am**

**Tuesday, 23/11**
- **Swimming Carnival @ Laidley Swimming Pool 8:30 – 8:45am for 9:00am start.**

**Wednesday, 30/11**
- **Year 6 Graduation Dinner**
- **Christmas Concert**

**Thursday, 1/12**
- **Reports Home**
- **Newsletter**

**Friday, 8/12**
- **Last day of term/school year 9:00am – Secret Santa gifts distributed**
- **CAMP**
- **Newsletter**

**Saturday, 16/12**
- **Newsletter**

**Sunday, 23/12**
- **Year 6 Graduation Dinner**
- **Reports Home**
- **CAMP**