Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2015!
I trust you all have had a relaxing break and are ready for the year ahead.
Today we welcomed our new prep students and a new family to the school. I am sure our existing students will make Phoebe, Simone, Ryan, Spence and Shannan feel most welcome.

Staff for this year has remained the same with Mrs Edwards teaching the Prep to 3 class, Mrs O’Sullivan teaching grades 4-6 on Thursday and Friday and myself teaching 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

We have a fantastic group of people who add support for our students which includes: Mrs Emmerson (Mon-Fri), Mrs Blackwood (Mon/Tues) and Mrs Sutherland (Wed-Fri).

We will again have Miss Edwards working with our students on the GRG funded spelling program for this year (her days are not set as yet).
Mrs Crack is again available in the office and our groundsman, Mr Millard and cleaner, Mr Jones round out our Thornton team.
The only change we have is our music will now be taught by Mrs Kylie McCormick, who will join us on a Wednesday morning along with Mr Pickwell for PE.
So welcome back everybody!

Bell times change
To ensure we are getting the most out of our time with your children, we are mindful that every minute counts. Therefore, we are endeavouring to reduce the amount of ‘lost time’ in the day.
Starting today, we will ring the school bell at 8:20am to get the students moving into line to start our day. This allows us to have all students inside, attendance taken and ready to learn at 8:30am on the dot!
Please be aware of this so that your child is not late to school. If you are late for some reason (we all have those days!!), please BRING YOUR CHILD TO THEIR CLASS-ROOM to sign the ‘sign in’ book which is now located in each classroom. Likewise if you are taking your child early, you will need to sign them out in the relevant class-rooms please.

Homework
Please see the insert regarding changes to homework this year.
Year 4—6 Classroom News

My name is Sandy O’Sullivan and I am looking forward to teaching the Years 4, 5 and 6 classes every Thursday and Friday this year at Thornton.

History will be taught in Term I and will focus on the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, European exploration and colonisation in Australia and throughout the world up to the early 1800s and the founding of British colonies and the development of inland Australia.

Civics and Citizenship will also be taught in Term 1 and I am thrilled to welcome the Year 3 students. The students will focus on what it means to be a citizen in Australian society, the meaning of democracy, the meaning and importance of the key values of Australian democracy such as freedom, equality, fairness and justice, who can be an Australian citizen and the formal rights and responsibilities, and shared values of Australian citizenship.

Geography and Economics and Business will alternate for each term. I will inform you of each subject’s contents at the beginning of each term.

In Visual Arts the emphasis will be on Australian Indigenous Art and design and the use of digital technology in art.

Dance will be taught in Term 2 in alignment with our Jump rope for Heart program. Media will be taught in Term 3 with Drama being taught in Term 4.

I hope this information is helpful and I look forward to seeing you all this week. Please call or make an appointment with the school if you wish to discuss any aspects of your child’s education.

Mrs Sandy O’Sullivan, Class teacher

P-3 Classroom News

Welcome to all returning students and a big welcome to our new preps – Phoebe, Shaniah, Simmone and Ryan. This year is going to be a different but exciting one as we test new ways of delivering the curriculum to the students which sees year 3 students moving from the junior classroom to the senior classroom as the curriculum dictates. Below is a brief indication of what we will be exploring this term but as per normal if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to come and speak to me.

English - The P/1 cohort will study narratives and learn how to retell a story using all their skills in reading, writing and spelling. Meanwhile the 2/3 cohort will put their arguing skills to the test reading and writing persuasive texts and thinking about whether or not the Australian flag should be changed.

History – The P/1 cohort will explore family celebrations and the concepts of past, present and future. While the 2/3 cohort will explore the flags of Australia and America and one significant celebration from each country (ANZAC day and Independence Day). They will then compare them and write a report on their findings.

Science - Will require students to bring their best problem solving and idea generating skills as we explore movement in order to design and make our own moving toy.

Health – The whole class will participate in the Bounce Back program. This is a wellbeing and resilience program written specifically for primary students.

Mrs Katrina Edwards, Class teacher
Office News
Welcome back to the start of the 2015 school year. I hope everyone had a lovely break. I enjoyed a great break with my family. Again, I am excited to be given the opportunity to be in the office this year.

◊ Invoices for the children’s book packs will be coming home shortly, so please look out for these.
◊ Just a reminder that if you are sending in money to the school it needs to be in a sealed and labelled envelope or bag. As we are a small school, there is no money kept on the premises and therefore no change can be given, so please ensure you enclose the correct money.
◊ Money needs to be placed in the correct ’money box’ in the office and not handed to a staff member. There are two money boxes in the office, one is for school money and the other is for P&C money.
◊ The BPAY or direct transfer to the school account is an option as well and the details can be found on the bottom of your invoice.
◊ I will be in the office on Monday’s, Tuesday’s and Thursday’s from 9:00am.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with the above details.
Lisa Crack, Admin Officer

Welcome back to all the returning families for 2015. For the new families I am Mrs Cheree Emmerson, Prep Teacher Aide. My role is to assist Mrs Edwards in the Junior Classroom from Monday through to Friday. I have two children, Noah, year 6 and Jett, year 3, who also attend Thornton State School.

As a member of the P & C, I currently fill the role of uniform convenor as well. If you are wanting to purchase uniforms, the prices are as follows:

Shirts—$30
Skirts—$25
Hats—$12
2nd hand shirts $5

Please send along correct money (as we don’t carry any change) in an envelope marked with your name and the required items for purchase.

Thank you.
Mrs Cheree Emmerson, Teacher Aide

Hello, my name is Kimberley Blackwood. I am a Teacher Aide here at Thornton School. I work on Monday and Tuesday’s and get the pleasure of working in both the junior and senior classrooms, but will be spending most of my time in the junior room. I am looking forward to working with all of your children and help make a difference in there schooling lives.

Thank you.
Mrs Kimberley Blackwood, Teacher Aide
**Library News:**

Welcome back to everyone. Hopefully we all got to have a safe and relaxing break. For new families who may not know who I am or what my role is I would like to let you know now.

My name is Mel Sutherland. I have been a staff member of Thornton for just over 5 years now. I am a teacher's Aide who works with all students and staff as well as look after the Library.

At the moment I work Wednesday through to Friday as I also work at another school. I am fortunate to assist with Reader's Cup, Book club, Book Fair, ordering of books and cataloguing. We have a fantastic bunch of readers at our school so I am kept busy keeping up with new books!

**Book Club**

Book club is sent home at least once a term sometimes twice. The school cannot accept cash for orders but there are a couple of payment options. The first is to provide a cheque made out to Scholastic Austral-ia. Place your cheque and order in an envelope and return to the school office. The other option is using your credit card on the internet or phone. All details are on the back of the order forms sent home. If you are unsure please call me at the school.

**School Reader’s Cup**

Each year the school hosts a Reader’s Cup for all the students to participate in. A variety of books are selected for the students to read and study to answer a mixture of questions. Students are arranged in teams and can win prizes as well as a place on the winning team trophy in the office. This event is a fun time and promotes reading and teamwork.

**Book Fair**

Book Fair is held at the school once a year. Scholastic lends us a variety of books to display in our library for members of the school and community to purchase. This is a well supported scheme that helps with purchases for our school library. The students love it. This year the students will be able to view the books and write a wish list from the 9th of March. Further details will be made available as this event nears.

**Library Borrowing**

To help our books last longer we ask that your child/ren have a library bag. Waterproof is ideal but anything to protect the books is appreciated. Library borrowing is once a week.

*The junior school borrows on Thursday and the senior class on Monday.*

We encourage students to let us know what books they are interested in to help with purchases throughout the year.
Helpful Hints: Lunch Box Ideas

A healthy lunch keeps active kids alert and focused and gives them the nutrition they need every day. Here are some helpful ideas:

**A good helping of fruit and vegetables**—Fresh fruit is easy to pack. You can also try a tub of canned fruit or chopped fresh strawberries, pineapple or melon. Raw vegies such as carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes, cucumber or capsicum strips are popular as a snack or in a sandwich.

**Starchy food**—like bread, rice, potatoes and pasta. Have a variety to choose from such as wholegrain, wholemeal or high fibre breads such as seeded rolls, lebanese bread, pita, lavash, bagels; brown and white rice; or tricolour pasta.

**Lean protein**—like tuna or salmon (fresh or canned in spring water or oils such as canola, sunflower or olive oil); boiled eggs; beans; or lean meat such as beef or chicken.

**Reduced fat dairy food**—like reduced fat yoghurt, reduced fat cheese or reduced fat milk (remember to pack with a bottle of ice).

**A bottle of water**—to keep your child hydrated all day. Freeze on hot days to keep the lunch box (and your child) nice and cool.

**Healthy choices**—look at food labels to help you choose the products that are lowest in saturated fat, total fat, sugar and salt. Avoid high fat spreads and try a little avocado, low fat mayonnaise, mustard or ricotta cheese instead.

**Nutritious snacks**—such as a small box or bag of dried fruit, rice cakes or unsalted and unsweetened popcorn.

And remember: Treats like chocolate or chips should only be included occasionally, not every day.

**P&C Meetings:**

Next Meeting is Tuesday 10th February, 2015 at 6:30pm
ALL WELCOME
AGM at 6:30pm followed by General Meeting.
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