We have had quite a busy couple of weeks here at Theodore State School with the Interhouse Swimming Carnival, Year 8 and 10 Vaccinations, Dawson Valley Gala Day and School Photos all taking place. I must express how proud I am of our Staff and Students who have shown a valiant commitment to representing our school to a very high standard in each of these activities.

Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to Castle House on taking out the prestigious Theodore Inter-House Swimming Shield at our Carnival last Wednesday. The day ran very smoothly thanks to the organisation of Mr Hodgson and the support of both Staff and Parents. We had great support from the Theodore community on the day and the highlight was the Parent, Teacher and Student Relay – we have some real swimming stars in our parent group (maybe even Olympic standard)!!!

2014 Parent Contributions
Thank you everyone who has paid their Parent Contributions for the year!! We have nearly reached our target for Term 1!! If you haven’t yet had a chance to pay your contributions please do so either by coming to the Office or phoning the School to arrange payment. If you are having trouble finding the money, please contact the school to discuss in order for a plan to be developed. These contributions assist us in supplying the resources and consumables that would otherwise not be available to our students.

Every Day Counts
Attendance at school EVERY day is an essential ingredient in being successful at school. We have an expectation that students will achieve a 95% or higher attendance rate. We have started mapping the attendance of our students and are in the process of developing a Whole School Attendance Strategy to ensure that we are supporting all of our students. We understand that there will be days when students are ill and unable to attend school, in this case please contact the school and let us know so we can record it accordingly.

Education Queensland has the ‘Every Day Counts’ campaign running which aims to support parents in ensuring that their child is attending school. For more information please go to www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts.

VALUE FOR THE WEEK
Respect: I accept differences in and others using positiveness.

PRINCIPAL’S PIECE
Warm welcome to Week 8 of the School Year!!
Our Explicit Improvement Agenda
As mentioned in previous newsletters, we have a very specific Improvement Agenda at Theodore State School in 2014 and are well on our way to achieving our goals. We have identified five main areas of focus:

1) **Junior Secondary** – all schools will move Year 7 into High School from next year, in order to successfully transition we have developed a thorough Junior Secondary Action Plan which will map our journey for the 2014 School Year in order to prepare for this historic move. We will have a team of teachers attending a session with Andrew Fuller next week in Rockhampton with a focus on ensuring we are addressing the Well Being needs of our students in their adolescent years.

2) **Improved Literacy and Numeracy Outcomes across the Whole School** – It has been no secret that our absolute focus this year is on improving our Literacy and Numeracy skills. This has meant that we have had to be selective around any interruptions that will take valuable time away from our curriculum during each and every school day. We have entered into a Great Results Guarantee with the Government which is focussed on the areas of Writing and Reading. Our students are already showing improvement in their Writing through the hard work of our Staff and the implementation of a structured Writing program across the whole school.

3) **Pedagogical Framework** – Our signature pedagogy is Explicit Instruction which has a solid research base and is proven to provide improvement in student results. We have developed a consistent method of delivery and common language across the school as teachers work through the Rapid Recall, Lesson Intent, Success Criteria, I Do, We Do, You Do and Ploughback phases of each lesson.

4) **Community Engagement** – Being a small school it is important that we work alongside the wider community. We have enjoyed the support of the community in our School events and will work to foster a number of partnerships within the community. Our Student Council is being strengthened this year and will take on a greater role within the school.

5) **School Culture** – Theodore State School is a GREAT school and it is important that this is made clear in all we do. Our focus has been on ensuring that our School Expectations of being Responsible, Respectful and a Learner become embedded in practice. We are encouraging our students to take more responsibility for themselves, their learning and their choices in order to become successful and productive members of the Theodore community.

We have come a long way already this year and still have quite a distance to travel. I am confident that together and with your support we can get there and have a bit of fun along the way.

**Steve Conner**
PRINCIPAL
Swimming Carnival 2014

On Wednesday, March 12th Theodore State School held its annual Swimming Carnival. The day combined all year levels, with races ranging from 12.5M for the younger years, 50M for the older years. Over the course of the day students displayed competitiveness, sportsmanship and a determination to succeed and achieve. There were many exemplary individual performances throughout the day which resulted in the following students being crowned age champion.

Age Champions

2006 Boys – Josh Monaghan
2005 Boys – Jason Skinner & James Perkins
2004 Boys – Rhett Austin
2003 Boys – Ryan Edwards
2002 Boys – Sterling Edwards
2001 Boys – Raff Grills
2000 Boys – N/A
1999 Boys – N/A

2004 Girls – Johanna Cox
2005 Girls – Shontai Sauer
2004 Girls – N/A
2003 Girls – Shamiya Sauer
2002 Girls – Keeley Monaghan
2001 Girls – Jai Strickland
2000 Girls – Kyla-Rae Johnston
1999 Girls – Nyssa Ball
AWD - Nadia Cluff
Touch Football and Netball Day

The Friday just gone was our first gala day of the year. We sent 21 students from 4-7 to compete in touch football and netball against Baralaba, Woorabinda, Moura, Banana and Bauhinia. It was a very successful day with our touch team finishing with, 2 wins, and 2 loses and a draw and our netball team finishing with 4 wins and 2 loses. I would to extend my thanks to Chappy Kat and Steve for their assistance in preparation and support on the day.

STUDENT LEADER AND COUNCIL SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Student Leaders and Council Members are holding another sausage sizzle in lieu of tuckshop for the remainder of Term 1, be sure to come on down and snag a sausage before they all sell out!

When: - Starting Thursday 27\textsuperscript{th} March, 2014 (Week 9)
- Thursday 3\textsuperscript{rd} April (Week 10).

Foods available are:
- Sausages in bread - $2.00
- Poppers - $1.00
- Icy cups - $1.00

Students need to order through their classroom teacher on the morning of the sausage sizzle to guarantee your yummy lunch!

Student Council will then collect the lists of students that have paid and can prepare accordingly.

Teachers of the younger grades are asked to escort their students to the tuckshop to collect their food.

Ordered food will be available for pick up only at Break 1, however, if there are any extras that have not been purchased they will be available for Break 2.

Thanks!

Student Leader and Council Team
YOU ARE INVITED BY

Theodore State School P&C Association

TO A
PARENT /TEACHER SOCIAL AFTERNOON
WINE AND CHEESE
FINGER FOOD

MEET AND GREET
THURSDAY 20TH MARCH
5.30PM – SCHOOL LIBRARY

PARENTS MUST INFORM OFFICE IF CHILDREN NOT ON BUS:
It is essential that parents inform the school office if they do not want their child to go on the bus they normally go on. It is a very difficult job to make sure the huge number of students get on their respective buses correctly and we have to be mindful of the safety issues associated with this. It is not good for the person doing this task to be trying to work out why a child is not at the bus when they should be.

If you decide you want to pick up your child at the last moment, please pick them up from the bus stop and not their classroom. You can then ensure the person on bus duty knows you are picking up your child.

MOBILE PHONES/MP3 PLAYERS
Mobile phones, MP3 players, personal digital cameras and other electronic equipment are not permitted at school. If students need to bring these types of items, they need to be handed in before school and collected at 3pm. Phones may be accessed at the office during the day. If this rule is not followed, after the second time, parents are contacted and they will need to collect the device from the office.

CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBERS OR ADDRESS
If you have changed any details to your address/phone/mobile/email etc, PLEASE notify the school office on 4990 3333 as soon as possible so that we can keep our records up to date.

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER
If you would like to have the school newsletter emailed to you please contact the school office with your email address. Alternatively, we will be uploading the newsletter to the school website
http://www.theodoress.eq.edu.au/
**Castle Creek bus meeting:** The annual meeting of the Castle Creek Conveyance Committee will be held in the school library at 2pm, next Monday, the 24th of March. We would love to have a representative from each family on this bus run at the meeting.

**TUCKSHOP REPORT**

On the 7th of March we held a crisis meeting to decide whether the tuckshop was worth starting up again or not. There seems to be enough support to keep it going. We should have 3 to 4 volunteers in each of 4 groups; enough for each of us to work only the one day per month. The group decided to re-commence on the Friday of the second week back in Term 2; the 2nd of May. We also decided that all orders will need to be via Flexischools. Apparently there is now an app for all smartphones to make ordering easier. (New parents: Tuckshop is only available on Fridays. Flexischools is an online ordering system. See Flexischools.com.au Orders can be done on a computer or a smartphone, 24 hrs a day. Pay by card each time or have an account with them.)

The school assures us that the current lunch breaks will continue; 10.15 – 11am, and 12.45 – 1.15pm. With the first break being the biggest we felt we should offer more substantial fare than in the past. There was a lot of discussion on what types of food to offer when, using the following considerations; time for us to prepare, time for kids to eat, food delivery times, ‘sugar rushes’, etc. Following is a very rough proposed menu:

**First Break:** Pies, Sausage rolls, Pizzas, hot dogs/gravy and chicken rolls, subs, all bakery (iced bun, choc muffin, lamington, cheese and bacon roll), fruit (apples, oranges), drinks (water, poppers), milkshakes.

**Second Break:** Everything from First Break (except milkshakes) plus assorted sandwiches, salads, ice blocks, etc.

We are asking that you all take a critical look at the menu and let us know if you have any issues with it. We will be holding another meeting to discuss any changes you might like to make. This will be held at the pool, after school next Monday, the 24th of March. Please come along and have your say. Monica Atfield 49 931 336
ICPA stands for Isolated Children’s and Parents’ Association and is a voluntary, non-profit, apolitical parent body dedicated to ensuring that all rural and remote students have equity of access to a continuing and appropriate education.

ICPA Dawson Valley branch is actively lobbying on issues affecting our school & community. This covers childcare, primary, secondary & further training; includes issues such as by-pass school status, Living Away from Home Allowance, Assistance for Isolated Children & conveyance allowance). This year we hope to send a strong team of delegates to State Conference in Townsville, to speak & vote on education and travel motions affecting families in our community.

Gyranda Santa Gertrudis stud, is holding a female sale on Wed, March 26th. ICPA has been offered the opportunity to cater with a “Ladies Day” theme.

There will be several other “ladies day” stalls on site and this, is one of our two fundraising opportunities for this year. We would love any donations of cakes and slices (fruit cakes, patty cakes, chocolate slice, lamingtons and Anzac biscuits are always popular, and any other specialty you may have a flair for e.g. gluten free)

We also appreciate any extra help we can get:
- the day before – picking up bread order and fresh supplies, and prepping a few things (e.g. cook & shred corned meat, cook & mash eggs with mayo)
- on the day – from 8am: help making sandwiches, cutting onions, tomatoes etc.
- during the day – from 9am: serving tea/coffee, drinks, cakes, lunch, and cooking sausages/steak/onions on wood BBQ, and serving at the bar.

Please contact Sarah Cox, Katy Kucks or Monica Atfield.

Thanks for your help
~ Sarah Cox (4993 7135 / cracowstn@bigpond.com ) ~
In celebration of all the outstanding females in our industry, Gyranda Santa Gertrudis Stud are holding a “Ladies Day” in and out of the ring, with their female production sale Wednesday March 26\textsuperscript{th}.

Several "ladies" stalls (including Custom Leatherwork, Rhubarb Boutique, Holmes Enterprises, Whichworx Herbal creams with essential oils, Inspirational Wheatbags, Enjo, Framed By Em, Bronwyn Burnham photography, plus Drovers I.D. and DCCA) will be operating at the Gyranda sale grounds from 9am. The lovely ladies from ICPA Dawson Valley will be catering and operating a bar, with a few lavish touches.

Riverina Stockfeeds have generously donated 400kg of dry lick as a “Lucky Lot” prize and there will be a “Ladies Day” pack for the lucky bidcard prize.

All females presented on the day are PTIC (pregtested in calf and aged with vet tailtag) to elite polled sires and fully EU accredited – Sale starts 11am. Contact Peter Mahony 4993 7144 or visit www.gyranda.com.au
FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

THEODORE ROOSTERS
VS
MONTO ROOS

28TH OF MARCH
GATES OPEN AT 6.00PM
$5 ENTRY

LIVE BAND AFTER THE GAME
BAR AND CANTEEN OPERATING

COME DOWN AND SUPPORT
THE ROOSTERS IN 2014
THEODORE SHOW - 12 & 13 MAY

SCHEDULE IS AVAILABLE AT –

• ELDERS
• THEODORE NEWS
• HOLMES ENT
• IGA
• THEODORE HOME & GARDEN

Some Updates –

COLOURING COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

• Years 1 – 4 and Years 5 – 7
• Collect from Mrs Chater or Mrs Brauer from 21 March
• On completion, hand in to Theodore Newsagency by 30 April
• Work will be displayed at the Show
• Winners will receive a FAMILY PASS TO THE SHOW

MORNING TEA FOR LADIES

• Parade with BRIDAL THEME
• If you have a bridal gown that could be used in the parade please contact Meredith Barrett or Sharyn Holmes