Welcome back to what is already shaping to be another SENSATIONAL year here at Theodore State School!! Our Staff spent the week prior to the start of the school year attending Professional Development Activities. This has positioned us well as it has ensured that we have a high degree of consistency across our school with all staff being ‘on the same page’.

We have had a very smooth start to the year with students settling into their new classes quickly and being fully engaged in their learning. I have really enjoyed walking around the school and visiting our classrooms.

Day 8
This Thursday will see us at the eighth day of the School Year. This day is used by Central Office to allocate staffing and resources to all State Schools. It is extremely important that all students are at school on this day (and every day!!!) as resource allocation is dependent upon the number of effectively enrolled students at the school.

Explicit Improvement Agenda
Our unrelenting focus for 2015 will continue to centre around the priorities identified last year but will explicitly include:

1) **Writing** – the introduction of a Whole School Writing Block where every student, teacher and teacher aide will be engaged in developing the skills involved in writing. These blocks will cover vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar and punctuation, Narratives, Persuasive Texts and Informative Texts. This initiative will build on the work done last year.

2) **Reading** – the development of a Whole School approach to the teaching of Reading. This will build on the Tracking, Blending and Segmenting strategies commenced last year. Building on student comprehension of texts along with structured Modelled, Guided and Shared Reading lessons occurring. Every student should be reading every day.

3) **Numeracy** – the development of a Whole School approach to the teaching of Numeracy. Adoption of a Problem Solving strategy to create common language across the whole school.

Student Leaders
Our school values the need to develop the leadership potential of our students. We have strengthened our Student Leader process this year with the addition of a Leadership Camp for all elected Student Leaders. The camp will be held in Week 4 and will involve all School Leaders, House Leaders and Student Council representatives. We will be attending the GRIP Leadership Institute Conference in Rockhampton along with having time to develop a clear plan for the 2015 School Year and schedule fundraising activities.
Our process involved students **nominating** for the position/s they were interested in and then **presenting a speech** to their peers before a **ballot** was held for each position. The process followed here at Theodore State School mirrors that of the one held to elect our Local, State and National leaders. I was **extremely impressed** with the number of students who nominated for a position and equally impressed with the **standard of their speeches presented** on Monday (it is not easy to speak in front of others!!). Congratulations to the successful candidates.

**New Smoking Laws**
From the **1 January 2015** new laws have come into place which **prohibits smoking** on or within **5 metres of School property**. This means anyone who lights up a cigarette will need to be a minimum of 5 metres away from the school fence.

**Class ‘Meet and Greets’**
You will have already (or very soon) received a **letter from your child’s teacher** outlining the exciting things happening in each classroom this year. This letter also includes information about their **Class Meet and Greet** being held next week. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to meet their child’s teacher as well as get a clear understanding of what the routines, procedures and expectations will be in each classroom. Meet and Greets will be held on the following days:

*Monday 9 February* – Prep (3:05pm), Year 1 (3:30pm), Year 2 (3:30pm), Year 5/6 (3:30pm)
*Tuesday 10 February* – Year 3 (3:05pm), Year 4 (3:30pm)
*Monday 16 February* – High School (Year 7-10) (3:05pm)

**New Principal Powers**
Unfortunately, from time to time, school staff are forced to deal with hostile people on school premises. These interactions range from relatively mild to some that are very serious, causing severe disruption to school routine and sometimes injury to staff who are just doing their duty conscientiously. While there were legal means at the department’s disposal to deal with hostile persons, it was a common complaint that such processes were time consuming.

In response to these concerns the **Education (General Provisions) Act 2006** was changed in November 2014 to give more power directly to school principals and to make taking action easier and more timely. These increased and improved powers to deal with hostile people on school premises will take effect at the start of this school year.

The main changes are that from **27 January 2015**:
- State school principals will be able to give a verbal direction to a person to leave school premises for 24 hours (this replaces power to give a written direction)
- State school principals will be able to issue a person with a 60-day prohibition (s.340) from entering school premises (previously, this could only be done by the Director-General)
- Where state school principals are unable to issue a s.340 direction, there is a new power to ask the Director-General (or delegate) to make the direction
- It will take less time to obtain a 12-month prohibition for a person from school premises, as the Director-General can now issue a prohibition notice without reference to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

**School Facebook Page**
We have reactivated the ‘Theodore State School P-10’ Facebook Page!! The school will use this as another form of communication with our School and wider community. If you click on ‘LIKE’ on this page you will receive our updates.

You will find **updates** and **sharing of other information** on our Facebook Page.

I’m looking forward to again working with the School and Wider Community this year to promote the educational interests of our students!!

**Steve Conner**

PRINCIPAL
THE BEGINNING OF A STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The votes are in and the people have chosen! No, it’s not the Queensland Election but Theodore State School’s Student Leadership positions. A big congratulations to all students that tried out this year, it was a close call for some students, only missing out by one or two points. The quality of the nominees’ speeches on Monday 02 February was phenomenal, with realistic goals and inspiring attitudes.

Our Student Leaders for 2015 are:

Senior School Leaders – Helena Long and Tegan Skinner

Junior School Leaders – Piper Christensen and Carly Clifton

Senior Castle Leader – Keeley Monaghan

Senior Dawson Leader – Jenna Atfield

Junior Castle Leader – Rhett Austin

Junior Dawson Leader – Edward Cox

STUDENT COUNCIL

The student council is now seeking two members from each class (Year 5-6, 7-8, 9-10) to represent the school and join the student leaders. To those eager nominees, please bring your consent forms back to your teachers by Friday 6 February, 2015 to be in the ballot.

Be sure to watch this space for student council announcements and events.

THEODORE STATE SCHOOL DATE CLAIMER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th-20th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Theodore State School welcomes two new staff members in 2015

Miss Louise Hunt – Year 3

Miss Hope Norris – Year 5/6

School Swimming Term 1 2015

In Term 1, Students at our school will be **SWIMMING** on the following days:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Year 5/6 Times</th>
<th>Year 2 Times</th>
<th>Year 3 Times</th>
<th>Year 1 Times</th>
<th>Year 7/8 Times</th>
<th>Year 4 Times</th>
<th>Year 9/10 Times</th>
<th>Prep Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2pm-3pm</td>
<td>10.05am-11.05am</td>
<td>12.30pm-1.30pm</td>
<td>10.05am-11.05am</td>
<td>2pm-3pm</td>
<td>10.30pm-1.30pm</td>
<td>9.05am-10.05am</td>
<td>10.05am-11.05am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your child will need to have the following equipment to be eligible to swim:

- Swimming Cap
- Rash shirt
- Sunscreen

If your child does not bring this equipment they **will not be able to swim**, if you are unable to provide this equipment for your child due to reasons out of the ordinary please don’t hesitate to contact the school to see what can be arranged.

All jewellery will be removed before entering the pool. Swimming is compulsory activity for all students as it is part of the health and Physical Education Program at Theodore State School. Students who fail to swim more than three times due to lack of equipment will be unable to obtain a passing grade in Health and Physical Education.

**SUN PROTECTION**  All students are expected to have headwear in the form of a wide brimmed hat appropriate to the activity they are engaged in. Caps are not permitted.

For **BOYS** and **GIRLS** a **BROAD BRIMMED HAT** must be worn for all outside activities. Bucket hats are acceptable. **Preferred colour is maroon.**

Students need headwear which offers adequate protection from the sun.

The basic policy of NO HAT, NO PLAY applies where play activities are in the sun.

**DAWVAL** - If you would like to purchase a copy of the 2014 Dawval please contact the School Office. The cost of the Dawval will be $20 and needs to be paid for when you place your order. Also we have put together a Dawval for 2013, which is also available to order. The cost will be $15.
SCHOOL BUS MEETINGS

GIBBER GUNYA CONVEYANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - 2.30pm Monday 9th February in the Resource Centre
TAROOM ROAD CONVEYANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - 2.30pm Tuesday 10th February in the Resource Centre

PARENTS MUST INFORM OFFICE IF CHILDREN ARE NOT ON AFTERNOON BUS - It is extremely important that parents and carers contact the school as soon as possible and prior to 2:30pm each day if there is a change in the bus arrangements for their child/ren. It is very difficult for the Staff member on Bus Duty when last minute changes are made without following the correct procedures. If your child is not going on the bus or is required to go on a different bus PLEASE let the school know as early as possible in order for these arrangements to be documented and relayed to the Staff member on duty. If your child has commenced after school swimming lessons, we can mark them on the bus roll as a permanently no bus for the term. **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, and let the person on bus duty know you are picking up your child.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop will start on Friday 6th February. To register for online ordering please visit www.flexischools.com.au. If you are a current user of Flexischools - **PLEASE UPDATE YOUR STUDENT’S YEAR LEVEL BEFORE ORDERING** for the current year. Orders need to be placed by 8.30am on the Friday morning.

Please check menu in regards to the new break times.

- Break 1: 11.05am to 11.50am
- Break 2: 1.30pm to 2.00pm

Feedback on the menu changes would be greatly appreciated. Tuckshop helpers are urgently required. If you can help out on one Friday a month please ring Monica Atfield on 49931336.

THEODORE STATE SCHOOL P&C
TRAILRIDE 2015

Welcome to 2015. One of the P & C’s major fundraisers is the Theodore Trailride. Planning is starting again. We will be holding our first meeting on Monday 16th February at 7pm in the lounge of the Theodore hotel. If you are interested and would like to be involved in this event, please come along to the meeting. You don't need to like or ride bikes to be a part of the weekend. For more information please give Kris Markey a call on 0428550704.
Our first year of learning has got off to a fun and quick start. We have begun our early morning literacy groups and this week we are looking at the letter s. We look forward to learning lots more with Mrs Denning and Miss Williams.
It has been a very busy, but successful start to the term so far! Our Year 7/8’s have successfully transitioned into the high school and are learning much with the secondary team! We have commenced our Choice Curriculum subjects for Term 1 and the students were able to choose their subject last Tuesday! This term we have Digital Composing with Mrs Atkins, Theatre Sports with Mrs O’Connor, ‘Will You Be Rich?’ with Mr Hodgson and ‘Selfie’ with Ms Ogg.

This year our high school students are also participating in two new Australian Curriculum subjects! **Civics and Citizenship** and **Business and Economics** are delivered on a rotational term basis. For Term 1, Civics and Citizenship has kicked off to a roaring start in Year 7/8 whereby they are learning about the principles of justice in Australia.

Further, across the school we have started our whole school Writing Blocks; these blocks are 40 minutes per week on Monday’s, Wednesday’s and Thursday’s giving our students the time to solely concentrate on improving their writing skills! This week, we will be introducing the Frayer Model for Vocabulary usage; this is where we will learn new vocabulary words to use in our writing and every day life!
BOWLS CLUB NEWS - At the recent Bowls Club AGM a new executive was voted in. President - Derek Shoecraft, Secretary - Cathy Phipps, Treasurer - Robyn Domin. A Barefoot Bowls Competition will commence on Monday 9th February 2015 for 10 weeks. Teams of 3 players, $6 per player. Teams can vary week to week if necessary. Pre-Game BBQ. Competition starts at 7pm sharp. See you there for some bowling fun.