Here we are week eight already. The students have been working hard on finalising assessment tasks and getting prepared for the end of year and Teachers are very busy writing reports.

Happy Birthday Mrs Denning

There was a lot of secrecy and intrigue around Mrs Denning’s birthday. In a private meeting it was decided that staff and students would dress up as something beginning with H or D and surprise Mrs Denning. It was the best kept secret and Mrs Denning’s look of surprise when she came to parade and saw everyone in costume and all wishing her a very happy birthday. Thank you to parents and students for all of the effort you went to and made Helen’s birthday so special.

Awards Night

Awards Night is this Thursday, 24th November and starts at 6:30pm. Awards night is a night to celebrate student achievements and farewell our Year 10 students. Please come along and help us support our students. Parents please bring a plate for a shared supper. I look forward to seeing you there.

Dawval

The school magazine will be available straight off the school website this year. Please enjoy our school magazine and the wonderful collection of images and stories of our school community.

Wedding Bells

This will be Miss Davis last week at school for 2016 as she will be going on leave to get married. It is a very exciting time for her and I am sure she will be a beautiful bride. She will return in 2017 as Mrs Green. I wish Ashlie and Simon the very best and I am sure they will have a bright and happy future together. Heidi Dale will be taking the class for the last two weeks of the year.

Staffing and Class structure for 2017

We welcome three new teachers to our school for 2017 and they are Taylor Gierki, Tyrone Sullivan and Heidi Dale. The class teacher allocation will be:

- Prep – Lauren Williams
- Year One – Heidi Dale
- Year Two – Joanne Seward
- Year Three – Ashlie Davis (Mrs Green)
- Year Four – Carlie Atkins
- Year Five/Six—Hope Norris/ Taylor Gierki
- Primary HPE – Taylor Gierki
- 7-8 Civics/Business – Taylor Gierki
- 7-10 HPE – Hope Norris
- The Arts P-10 and attached to P-2 – Jessica Gowlett
- 7-10 Mathematics, Science, Manual Arts – Tyrone Sullivan
- 7-10 English, History, Geography, Home Economics – Ashleigh Ogg
- LOTE – Debbie Weatherly
- Learning Support – Anne Chater
- Guidance Officer – Michelle Williams
The school will offer Manual Arts, an improved Arts program and LOTE for our students in 2017. I am really pleased to be able to offer these subjects to our students.

**School Improvement Projects**

Plans have been submitted and we are awaiting quotes to have the old library building upgraded to a new administration block. Mr Ken Treasure had the plans designed way back in 2010. Ken was a man with a vision and it will be an honour to see his vision come to a reality. To have the office accessible to all will be an improvement for the school.

Our dedicated Home Economics teacher has been working hard organising quotes and investigating grants and fundraising for a major upgrade of the Home Economics classroom. This room is used regularly by students, staff and community. The cupboards are original and certainly in need of renewal. A big thank you must go to Ashleigh Ogg for all of her time and effort that she has put into this project and I am sure it will be an asset when completed.

Quotes are being sourced to replace the carpet in the Classrooms in A Block as the existing carpet is very old and worn.

It is important that we continually maintain our school and bring it to a standard that our students deserve.

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*Sue Cannon—Principal*

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**THEODORE STATE SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTRE.**

**BOOK FAIR WILL BE OPERATING UNTIL MID NEXT WEEK**

**AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO BUY BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS. PARENTS ARE MOST WELCOME TO COME AND BROWSE THROUGH A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF BOOKS DURING THE FOLLOWING TIMES:** 8.30am-9am, 11.05am-12noon and 2.30pm-3pm.

**TUCKSHOP**

As we are nearing the end of the year items on the tuckshop menu will be taken off as supplies run out. The last Friday on term will be a $5 potluck menu with a drink. It will include things like pies, sausage rolls, hot chips etc (whatever is left over). Hot chips will stay on the menu over the last few weeks.

There will be no flexischools online ordering for the last day of school – 9th December

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**NOVEMBER**

24 Awards Night (6.30pm)

25 Last Day Year 10

**DECEMBER**

8 Christmas Carols

9 School Term Ends
Theodore continues to be the best school in Queensland. Our teachers and teacher aides have handed out a total of 2672 GOTCHAs for the term! Keep up the great work everyone!

**Week 6 GOTCHA Statistics**
- **Best Class Average:** Year 5/6
- **Best GOTCHA Giver:** Miss Norris
- **Primary GOTCHA Winner:** Ruby Glazbrook
- **Secondary GOTCHA Winner:** Cody Clifford
- **Winning House:** Castle

**Castle or Dawson?**
Who’s in the lead? Will Dawson finally have their moment to shine? Have a look to see below!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of GOTCHAs over 5 weeks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Castle</td>
<td>1353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawson</td>
<td>1319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week 7 GOTCHA Statistics**
- **Best Class Average:** Prep
- **Best GOTCHA Giver:** Toni Grant
- **Primary GOTCHA Winner:** Georgia Hayward
- **Secondary GOTCHA Winner:** Rashun Motley
- **Winning House:** Castle
Congratulations to all of our Level 1 and Level 2 GOTCHA winners for the last two weeks! You do us proud at Theodore State School!

**LEVEL 1 GOTCHA WINNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Riley Lancaster</th>
<th>Deegan Lancaster</th>
<th>Phoenix Jansen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axle Hotz</td>
<td>Bryce Armstrong</td>
<td>Annabelle Atkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ava Hawkins</td>
<td>Tilly Anderson</td>
<td>Quinn Shoecraft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dakota Wheeler</td>
<td>Alexander Stevens</td>
<td>Leo Wheeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Van Drunen</td>
<td>Siah Saltner</td>
<td>Ben Van Bael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Killey</td>
<td>Sienna Shoecraft</td>
<td>Max West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tess Barsby</td>
<td>Grace Atkins</td>
<td>Tayla Childs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Cluff</td>
<td>Stephanie Dunk Andrews</td>
<td>Anna Kucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Monaghan</td>
<td>James Perkins</td>
<td>Bridie Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danielle Butterfield</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEVEL 2 GOTCHA WINNERS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Liam Hassall</th>
<th>Archer McClelland</th>
<th>Jacinta Grey Petersen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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As you know, Writing continues to be our focus at TSS.

Check out the awesome combined persuasive writing by our high school students.

Will they persuade you?

Mr Hodgson
Guns Shouldn’t Be Freely Available To Australians

Bang! Bang! Bang! There goes civilisation. With Australians able to access guns freely, violence, chaos and murder would consume the streets as all hell breaks loose and crime rates climb. Wouldn’t we all much rather a safe, happy community?

Imagine-Guns being supplied freely to irresponsible psychos. Living a life of witnessing death daily, hiding in fear, just waiting for your brutal death. If guns were supplied freely the streets would be chaos! Hitting the black market in a desperate battle to buy expensive weapons would be our struggling fate.

Have you ever seen dogs fight to see who is in charge? Do you want Australia to come to that, where there is a ranking order? If guns are freely available to Australians, people who aren’t powerful will be murdered and the powerful people will be feared by everyone.

Bang! Bang! Bullets fly through the air- silent assassins. You hear the noise of a bullet connecting with flesh. You look down at your stomach. Blood gushes out leaving a large pile of blood at your feet. Your eyelids flicker and your vision blurs. Legs shaking, knees weak. You fall to your knees in slow motion. You try to scream but no words escape your mouth. Fear consumes your lungs instead of air. Your psychopathic killer lowers his gun and stare you in the eyes as you slowly die in the streets of your once safe and secure home town. If everyone in Australia had free access to guns murder rates would increase and the world would forever be living in fear.

Shops being robbed on a daily bases. Crimes hitting the streets and chaos consuming all sanity. Imagine civilisation falling apart and turning into a wildfire. This is what would happen if guns were made freely available for anyone to purchase. Image crime rates hitting an all-time high. So many innocent civilians’ lives compromised and gambled for what!?

Gambling your life away to afford expensive weapons. Irresponsible fools putting your family’s life in jeopardy. Chaos afflicting harm on the innocent. A panic driven society raising your children. Slaughter and insanity gripping your community. Crimes and murder consumes your life. Could you ever possibly stand for this?

Larissa & Becky & Keeley

Australians Should Have Guns Freely Available to Them for Protection Uses

CREAK! The floorboards creaked in the middle of the night, when you thought you were alone. You hear crashing as furniture and valuables fall onto the floor. Closer and closer the footsteps draw, when suddenly, the bedroom door bursts open, and a guy in a mask is holding a knife to your throat. There’s no way you’re getting out alive. Unless of course, you had a way of protecting yourself. If you had a handgun hidden under your bed, you could grab it and protect yourself and your family when they get home. With a gun handy, you and your family can feel safe and protected in their homes. You won’t be vulnerable or defenceless to criminals anymore. This is why guns should be freely available to Australians.
To start off, everybody should have access to firearms because they are extremely fun to shoot and are a good recreational sport and skill to have as you may wish to join the army or you may have to defend yourself. Guns let all of your stress go whenever you shoot a target. Going to a gun range with friends is a fun experience as you can see who is a more accurate shooter and you can also have the experience of shooting different calibre guns and different sorts like shotguns, pistols, rifles, semi-automatics and machine guns.

Wild animals are the main reason farmers have guns because of pest such as pigs that destroy crops and farming produce. But there are different types of wild animals such as lions, tigers and the bigger dangerous predators. Most wild animals are a threat to humans and can easily slaughter you. Wild animals are the main reason why farmers have gun. They use them to protect their produce and protect from dingos attacking their cattle.

In small towns like Theodore, there may not be as many criminals, but in big places like Brisbane or Sydney, there is still a major risk that your house could get broken into. Just this year, there have been 4400 break in’s alone, and no even a quarter have been solved! That’s 10 times the amount of people in Theodore! Imagine that you and your family are all asleep, when suddenly you’re awoken by a loud bang. Next thing you know, there’s a person in a mask in your house. What would you do? If you called the police, they could easily get away by the time they arrive. Weapons like knives and baseball bats may work, but you don’t know if they know self-defence or not, so that idea might not work in your favour. If you had a gun ready, you could quickly get it and protect yourself and your family. It may not even be at your house where you need it. You could just be walking down the street or in the park, when someone comes ad tries to rob you. If they start running, a knife won’t work, and even if you can catch up to them, they could be stronger and more agile, so they have an advantage. If you used a gun, then you would have an advantage on them. You don’t even need to shoot it. If you threaten them and if they’re logical, they won’t try to run.

You’ll be safe, and won’t have to cause much harm in the process, and all because of the safety of a gun.

Funeral bells ring loudly throughout the crowded church. You sit on the cool, wooden piers and look around the tall, sacred building. You look to your right to see you mother sobbing quietly into her hands. To your right, a row of people that all knew and cared for them. Would you like to be sitting in those seats, watching someone you know lying in the small, enclosed open coffin? They wouldn’t be in that situation, if only they had had a way to protect themselves and to keep them safe. If guns were allowed in Australia, they would have had a way to be protected. Wild animals could attack out of nowhere, and if you liked you could have fun with them, practicing and competing to see who is the most accurate. If those aren’t good enough reasons, I don’t know what is.

Alex, Morgan & Sterling
Australians Shouldn’t Have Guns Freely Available For Public Use

Bang!! There goes society! Imagine not being able to go shopping without being held hostage. Imagine suicide and crime rates doubling! Do the right thing; say ‘no’ to guns being freely available for Australians.

“We’re trying to find your son, believe me, but we can’t do it in two hours!” explained the policeman. The police are doing everything to find him but it was just too easy for the captor to take him. All he had to do was buy a gun, follow the boy and threaten his life if he didn’t get in the car. Just the other day, three banks were robbed at gunpoint and the day before a man died trying to save a little girl from being taken… or at least that’s what would happen if guns were freely available. Is this how we want our country to be seen as, somewhere that kids can be taken away from families or businesses going into debt because all their money has been stolen?

Around 20000 Australians commit suicide each year. Imagine how many more are attempted and failed. How can this be stopped? Certainly not by allowing guns to be freely available to all Australians, in fact if this does happen those rates will be over tripled. No more attempts. Just higher fatality rates. Stop this madness; do the right thing – SAY NO TO GUNS!!

Imagine, you’re walking home from a night shift and you see a mysterious figure in the distance standing with an object in its hand. Suddenly, it’s raised and aimed at you… BANG!! What if you’re faced with this every night because guns were allowed to everyone in Australia, even the old man with schizophrenia down the street?

Do you see all that stuff on TV about how Isis is ruining America? Well that’s what’s going to happen in Australia if Australians are allowed to have guns freely available in our country. Imagine how many suicides would occur, how many psychos you would be afraid of everyday! Our country has always been safe and peaceful, harmless and gentle, but as soon as the ban is lifted, all that is going to disappear! Come on guys, stop the guns and encourage the ban, Australia won’t be the same without it.

Katie, Mia & Shona

Females Should Have Equal Pay

Imagine being a woman, stressful motherhoods, overruling bosses, complaining husbands, strict dress codes and major migraines. These are just some of the things on a never ending list that females have to put up with. All the heavy burdens such as doing the same workload, the same task yet when pay day arrives, you get half the amount, even though you work the same hours, in the same jobs even though you work harder with your job and house work. Does this seem fair to you? This is why females should be praised and acknowledged with equal pay.
Male or female, it’s not a choice you can make. Being female is hard in the workplace. Being a different gender shouldn’t determine how much money you earn or how much respect you are treated with. You’re either going to be male or female, it’s a 50-50 chance. You can’t change your gender. It’s just not possible. Even with all the plastic surgery in the world. You were born either a male or female, and you can’t change that.

Discrimination. Go on, play it through your head. **Discrimination.** If you don’t already know, it means the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people especially the grounds of racism, age or gender. What comes to mind? Does the ongoing struggle that women have to be recognised, pop up? Do you think about how unfair the working world is to women? Well, do you?! Discrimination against women is unfair and untrue. It is cruel to them, having to work twice as hard to even be noticed.

Sigh. Imagine lights all around you from electronic devices. You’re sitting in a cramped office room with makeshift walls while thousands of people tap on their keyboards. Your vision turns blurry with lots of coffee cups scattered on the floor. Does this sound familiar to you? Women have to rush from work to home every single day just to do the washing, feed the hungry mouths, make beds, sweep the floor all for free while the husband get square eyes and complains. Have you ever noticed walking into an office and seeing that 80% of the workers are female? Then how come they get half the amount of pay. Women have to put pen to paper hour after hour just to get a cent. Why then should women have to carry this burden? To help females, show them some gratitude by helping them get equal pay.

When you think about women what comes to mind? Usually its make-up and dresses, right? Well, do you think about how women are not treated equally to men? Women have no say in what they are. So why then are they treated like servants? Women face discrimination on a daily basis yet males never care. Women also work harder than males so why are they paid less? Women deserve to be treated with the same pay and respect as men.

Nicole, Piper & Stacey
GOTCHA AWARDS

PRINCIPAL’S COMMENDATIONS
Theodore State School
P&C

Request the pleasure of your company
At the annual Volunteer
Appreciation BBQ
Wednesday 7th December 5pm
At Theodore State School
Learning Centre

RSVP: 30TH November
admin@theodoress.eq.edu.au
ICPA (DAWSON VALLEY BRANCH) AGM & GENERAL MEETING

Dawson Valley Branch ICPA (Isolated Children’s Parents Association) AGM and general meeting will be held at Theodore Hotel Lounge at 12 noon on Thursday 9th December. A good chance to have lunch and a catch-up in the air conditioning after Carols at the school if nothing else. 😊

Memberships for 2017 will be due at this meeting ($50 or $55 if paid after 30 December 2015) ICPA is a lobby group seeking equality of access to education for rural and remote Australian families.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
Join the ICPA Dawson Valley Branch – it’s easy!   $55 per year per family
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT  $50 - Join & pay before 30th December 2016
(you can also join at AGM held straight after school Christmas Carols at Theodore Hotel)

ICPA stands for Isolated Children’s 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.

It encompasses the education of children from early childhood through to tertiary. ICPA lobbies strongly for equal
access to all these services. If you want your concerns to be heard or discuss how others overcome similar
challenges, the best step forward is to join your local branch.

Did you know…….

➢ Several private boarding schools now offer scholarships for children whose parents are ICPA members? Proof
of membership needs to be shown and applications usually need to be submitted by February the year before attending – you will need to check with individual schools.

➢ At least two delegates from Dawson Valley attend State Conference each year to raise & debate regional
education issues. If you have concerns to raise, please talk to our committee.

What will I be entitled to if I join?
Membership entitles you to free copies of the State newsletter “News & View” and the national magazine “Pedals”. Details of scholarships, allowances and information that is relevant to your child’s education can be found in these publications and in the members portal on the website. When you join you will be kept informed about the activities of ICPA as well as government decisions pertaining to education. State and Federal councilors may be able to assist you with advice on educational issues. They receive no remuneration for their time but give of it freely when they can.

How do I join or renew my membership?
- Fill out the form below and direct to Nikki Mahony at “Gyranda” M.S. 324 Theodore Qld 4719
- or email Nikki with your details and confirmation of payment to nikki@gyranda.com.au
- Pay by cheque with form or by direct credit into our bank account (last name & initial as the reference)

ICPA Dawson Valley Branch
BSB: 655-000
Acc: 10039-8529

☐ I wish to become a new member of ICPA Dawson Valley Branch (2017)
☐ I wish to renew my membership of the ICPA Dawson Valley Branch (2017)

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
Ph: ___________________________  Fax: ___________________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________________________

COMMUNITY NEWS ADVERTISING

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