Dawval

THEODORE

LEARN WITH A WILL

2016
Principals Message 2016

I could not believe the joy and pleasure that I felt when I received the phone call to let me know that I was to be the Principal at Theodore State School. That moment was one of the proudest of my life. Theodore State School and community is very special and an honour to be part of.

My association with Theodore State School started back in 1982 when my first child commenced Pre-school when Mrs Helen Anderson was the teacher. My connection with Theodore State School, as a parent, P&C member, Tuckshop helper and staff member, has been a very long one and is very dear to me.

Theodore State School has a small band of parents and community members who come together and support our school through the P&C and subcommittees such as the Trail Ride Committee and Tuckshop Committee. These groups support new projects all aimed at providing a first class facility for the community. This year the P&C has purchased a new playground for our P to 2 students. This was a very large project and I am sure our young learners will have many years of pleasure. Thank you to all who have helped and supported these committees.

This year we farewell Ms Laing and Mr Hodgson two very talented teachers and they will be missed by all. I wish them well in the next chapter in life and I am sure they will be successful in their new adventures.

Mrs Denning, our SUPER PREP TEACHER AIDE, has decided to retire at the end of this school year. Mrs Denning has been working at the school for 23 years. She has welcomed, taught and guided so many in our community. Mrs Denning loved a dress-up day or a little bit of fun and games. She brought some zing and zest to the position. For two decades plus three Mrs Denning she has given 100% of herself to providing quality education to our young learners.

This magazine was first produced in 1960. Complete copies of the magazines are housed at the Theodore Museum. Reflecting on how these magazines were produced is quite a trip down memory lane, from Gestetner machines to old printers. Then along came photocopiers, followed by coloured photocopiers. USB sticks have made the task much easier so now we can produce it all electronically. This year will be the first year that everyone will be able to access the DAWVAL straight off the school website free of charge. Please enjoy reading the ‘DAWVAL’ magazine. This magazine is a record of activities and achievements of our students throughout the year. I cherish my copies of the DAWVAL and reading old stories and looking at young faces who are now adults with families.

Always remember that our school is a great school, filled with great students, great staff and Theodore is a fantastic place to live and to be proud of.

Regards

Sue Cannon
Anzac Day
Prep
In Prep I have liked having fruit snack.

In Prep I liked Easter because the Easter bunny came.

In Prep I liked when I went to the beach in Science.

In Prep I have liked dressing up for Melbourne Cup.

In Prep I have liked Easter because I like eating chocolate.

This year has zoomed by with us learning lots. Here are some of our favourite moments of Prep.
In Prep I have liked when it was Easter. We got Easter eggs.

In Prep I liked the swimming carnival. I liked the splashing. It was funny.

In Prep I have liked making the horses.

In Prep I liked when I made the horses for Melbourne Cup.

In Prep I have liked the new playground because it has a bridge.
Prep's Post office

We practiced our letter writing with our very own post office!
In Term Three we had an afternoon at the beach. We chose what to do, wear and eat to match the sunny weather.
Today's the day the Teddy Bear's have their picnic... in Prep
When I Grow up I want to be............

Under 8'S Day
Our learning has really taken off this year in Year One!
These are some of our highlights...

I loved the Cross Country. Warick

I liked Technology because I enjoyed learning about farms.

The best thing was Drama. Isabella

I liked Music, the Swimming Carnival, Under 8’s Day and English. Ava

I liked Science because we got to test the effects of heat. Axe
My favourite things were Under 8’s Day and History. Aaron

My favourite things were Art and Music. Phoenix

My favourite thing was Art because we did painting. Annabelle

The best thing of this year was Swimming. Deegan

The best thing this year was Homework. Liam

I loved Maths because I liked learning how to add on. Addison
My favourite things were Athletics Day and Swimming Carnival. Riley

The best thing was Swimming for HPE with Mr H. Bryce

I loved Art because we did painting. Storm

My favourite thing was reading Goosebumps books. Liam

I loved Swimming Carnival because Castle won. Hayden
We had lots of fun creating self portraits while learning about collage in Art.

We love keeping our minds active and our bodies healthy with our ‘Go Noodle’ movement breaks!
It was fantastic to have our Grandparents and Parents visit to help us with our learning in History.

We're pretty good at dressing up! And even better at reading!
We enjoyed learning about Food and Fibre in Technology. Especially when we made our own fruit salad!

We have even been learning how to create PowerPoint presentations on the computers!
The best thing about Year Two was...

Year Two Highlights

I have loved having Miss Gouleit as my teacher this year!
- Jacinta Duck-Andrews

I have really enjoyed working on my writing.
- Quinn Shoecraft

I loved learning all of our new words!
- Cindy Hughes

The best part of Year Two was maths!
- Jasper Janson

The best thing about Year Two was reading Geronimo Stilton books!
- Keeley Owen

The best thing about Year Two is all the fun I had!
- Endeavour Morgan
There is a 99% chance that when you open a new LEGO set, you are the first person to touch it!

The best thing about Year Two was meeting Henrik from LEGO in Denmark.
- Will Atkins

The best thing about Year Two was when Henrik came because he is my uncle.
- Cooper Shoecraft

Henrik from the LEGO factory in Denmark heard all about our LEGO challenge and came to visit us!
The best thing about Year Two was maths!
- Nicholas Van Boel

I have really enjoyed doing maths!
- Alexander Stevens

The best thing about Year Two was writing lots of big sentences!
- Noah Gill

We enjoyed dressing up for Book Week...

... And experimenting with robots!

The best thing about Year Two was making kites to display in the classroom.
- Xavier Buggy

The best thing about Year Two was working as a team.
- Jacinta Gray Petersen

The best thing about Year Two was art.
- Kathleen Jones
Our Theodore Show Display was all about where our lunch came from. We learnt about how bread is made and how meat and dairy products are processed!

The best thing about Year Two was making props for the Theodore Show!
- Tilly Anderson

The best thing about Year Two was reading the Twits.
- Riley Monaghan

The best thing about Year Two was art!
- Casey Holtz
The best thing about Year Two was finding the correct words for sentences.
- Dakota Wheeler

My favourite part of the year was school photos!
- Olivia Hawkins

The best thing about Year Two was playing Twist Bingo!
- Euan Austin

Our ‘egg’citing experiment
Ruby
The best part about Year 3 has been having all my friends with me when I'm feeling glum. I can't wait to grow grass heads in Year 4 because I love growing plants.

I'm very proud of you all! Enjoy Year 4!

Cooper
I've enjoyed Math in Year 3 because we got brain teasers to solve. I'm looking forward to learning to solve more difficult sums in Year 4.

I got to be with Miss Donna, the best teacher in the world, for two years. In Year 4 I can't wait to be able to go gardening with Toni and eat the things we grow.
Amity
I've enjoyed Art lessons because we got to make pictures to match a mood. Next year I am looking forward to a new school, a new teacher and making new friends.

Parker
This year I have learnt about different vocabulary words and how to write a poem. Next year I will learn more vocab words and write more stories. I want to know who my teacher will be.

Erin
Seeing my mates and having a good time in Math has been really great this year. Next year hopefully I will create more friendships and collect data around the school.
Felicity

The best things about Year 3 has been seeing my friends at school and writing stories with my own setting and characters. I can't wait to grow plants in Year 4 and see them transform each day.

Jordan

I love learning about Math because times tables are cool. Next year I want harder sums and to have lots of fun in class.

Emily

In Year 3 everyone has been kind and compassionate and they've looked after you when you're upset. In Year 4 I'll get to do experiments that are fun and connect to the world.
Westyn
The best part of Year 3 has been reading stamina time because we got to read our own interesting books. I want to go swimming next year and have fun in the water.

Bella
Art has been good in Year 3 because we got to paint and make artworks. I'm looking forward to doing gardening, planting plants and watering them next year in Year 4.

Leo
This year I have learnt lots in writing block and how to write poems. I want to learn more vocabulary next year and have fun in Year 4.
Thanks for a great year!

Mackenzie
This year I've enjoyed showing my working out in Maths. Next year I will get to do more Science experiments. They are fun and enjoyable.

Damon
Year 3 has been fun and enjoyable because you have your friends with your everyday. I want to have another great year next year.

We're ready for Year 4!
Fred
Favourite thing about Year 4:
Maths, Music and HPE
Likes: Lego, motorbikes, farm, Instrumental music
Dislikes: zucchini, cherry tomatoes
Best classroom activity in 2016:
Fractions and decimal activities.

Kaede
Favourite thing about Year 4:
Gardening, English, History, Science
Likes: Horses, farming, running
Dislikes: Kiwifruit, cucumber
Best classroom activity in 2016:
Art

Dylan
Favourite thing about Year 4:
Planet Rhythm
Likes: dinosaurs, karate, swimming and drawing
Dislikes: getting sick
Best classroom activity in 2016:
Fossicking for rocks in the sandpit.
Favourite thing about Year 4:
Being around my friends, Geography and Science

Likes: horses, playing the clarinet, ice-cream
Dislikes: cruelty, mushrooms, yellow

Best classroom activity in 2016:
Collecting data in Maths

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Favourite thing about Year 4:
Learning and playing games

Likes: sports, riding, animals
Dislikes: Delivering a speech in front of a big crowd and getting up early in the morning

Best classroom activity in 2016:
Fossicking for rocks in the sandpit.

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Favourite thing about Year 4:
Participating in PE lessons as I got to do other sports that I didn’t get to do in Year 3.

Likes: motorbikes, dogs, cucumbers and ice-cream
Dislikes: writing on gadgets

Best classroom activity in 2016:
STEM challenges
Siah

Favourite thing about Year 4:
Learning Maths and English

Likes: food, sport, ten pin bowling
Dislikes: going to the dentist

Best classroom activity in 2016:
Chance experiments

Sienna

Favourite thing about Year 4:
The swimming carnival.

Likes: Swimming, puppies and riding horses
Dislikes: Mango, Brussel sprouts and English

Best classroom activity in 2016:
Art

Ben

Favourite thing about Year 4:
Sport Carnivals because I really like sports.

Likes: cricket, footy, skiing and welding
Dislikes: pumpkin, tomatoes and writing long sentences

Best classroom activity in 2016:
Drawing and making stuff
Max

Favourite thing about Year 4:
Being creative and playing football.

Likes: minecraft, playing with my kelpie and creating stuff
Dislikes:

Best classroom activity in 2016:
STEM Challenge

Meg

Favourite thing about Year 4:
Playing different sports in PE

Likes: footy, riding horses, four wheelers and chocolate
Dislikes: criminals, cauliflower and bullies

Best classroom activity in 2016:
STEM Challenges
We started the year with eager, smiling faces.
We’ve researched, problem solved and even run races.
Each term was full to the brim with this and with that.
Read on to find out more, Art was first off the bat.

In Art we made clay animals in Term One.
They had to represent ourselves and we had so much fun.

We made smoothies with coffee, chocolate and cream.
They tasted so good we let out a joyous scream!

We learnt that during the gold rush people left in a hurry.
At Ballarat, when they struck gold, everyone was in a flurry.

In Drama we took on lots of roles.
In a bushfire we had to save some souls.

In Term 4 Science we found out
What gases, solids and liquids were about.

At public speaking we had some fun
Making the crowd laugh at our puns

We read Gansta Granny, who loves Ben with all her heart,
But her cabbage soup and cabbage cake makes her fart.
Opti-Minds can be frustrating, but fun.
We had a blast even though our group hadn’t won.

At Brisbane Opti-Minds we may have got lost,
But getting lost really was part of the cost.

We read The BFG, who whizzpops and doesn’t speak quite right.
With the Queen’s help, they caught the evil giants who put up a fight.

In Term 1, swimming races started with a gun.
By the end of the day, Castle had won.

In ball games and touch, Castle versed Dawson in the hot sun.
After a competitive fight, Castle had won.

At Cross Country and Athletics we all tried our best.
Hot, sweaty and tired, we were ready for a rest!

Gala Day was full of Viva 7s, cricket and netball.
These sports have in common, teamwork and a ball

In the Life Ed Van we met Harold the giraffe.
We all became a fan as he made us all laugh.

Gotchas are a great way for teachers to catch us out.
In the classroom or library or out and about!

At Planet Rhythm, the instruments were fun.
We had learnt about drums, when we were done.

Throughout the year, our vocab has flourished and grown.
Year 7/8
Year 7 and 8 Rocks!!!!
Year 7/8 is great!!!
Year 7 and 8 is the best!!
Learning for Life
Nadia Cluff Year 8
DRAMA
Year 7/8
Year 7 and 8:
Home Economics

Exploring snacks: reading food labels;
Australian Healthy Eating guidelines;
cookery skills.
The Pharaoh was lying on his nest — his son Nugget was hiding behind the window curtain. He furiously plucked a colourful feather from his tail and loudly exhaled. "CLUCK CLUCK CLUUUUUCK!" Nugget screeched in chook language while he sprinted towards his father, feather held high. Before Pharaoh Schnitzel could say a word, Nugget had already pounced on top of him and was latched on with his large claws. Nugget tickled with all his might at the struggling Pharaoh. It was almost over. Schnitzel was about to die of laughter. Nugget had a large smirk on his face as he slowly murdered his defenceless father. After one last fatal tickle, Nugget hopped off his lifeless father and smiled about his achievement. Pharaoh Schnitzel's human slaves had witnessed the whole thing and their jaws were dropped all the way to the floor. “You bow to me now,” Nugget advised.

Jamie Westwood

He had disappeared mysteriously three nights ago. A search party was sent out to find the King but had discovered his body. The horrible news was spread across the kingdom. Schnitzel was determined to find him and give him another life.

Mia Moulton

From the perspective Schnitzel: I was born to a poor old hen by the name of ‘Drumstick’, and a sickly rooster by the name of ‘Roast’, your grandparents. Sadly, Drumstick died shortly after laying me, and the task of sitting on the nest was left to Roast. When I hatched, we had little food, but we made it through the tough times. Then, when I was a young rooster, I started work at the palace as the pharaoh’s servant. The Pharaoh I served was called ‘Stew’, a good man. He had no mother or father, no sisters or brothers, no aunts and uncles and no cousins. He was alone. Yet, in all of his loneliness, he thought of me like his son. He helped me supply my father with food and medicine for his health.

Piper Christensen
A diary entry from Schnitzel: Bell’s rung through the palace as the clock struck midnight. I remember getting dressed in special robes for my coronation, tears stinging my eyes like a thousand bees. My Dad’s (Roast) burial began meaning I would take his place as Pharaoh. My dad died when I was only a young rooster. My mother ‘Drumstick’ is frail and on her deathbed as she mourned for several years. Being a pharaoh of the 5th dynasty is quite enjoyable as I get beak fed from my many wives every day. The meal includes of grain, fresh fruit and vegetables. I have many sons but only one of them is good enough to take my place which is Nugget. My soldiers are off to war with my other sons who only the wives could drool over. I cannot lead this battle however as I am to teach my son Nugget lessons of becoming the ruler of the country. Unlike my father who was selfish and thought he would live longer. I have a feeling in my gut that my time will soon come to an end.

Nicole Kucks

It all started when Schnitzel, an unimportant chicken, overruled Tutanchicken and became the new ruler of Egypt. The first thing he did was see that all of the humans were not fed chicken; they had to eat beef and mutton. Schnitzel was a very good friend to the nobles; he gave them free slaves, free food, and even some gold. Until one day, one slave was sick of eating beef and lamb, so that night, he snuck into schnitzels room and assassinated him. Until, one day in 2016, he found a way out of the afterlife, and he wanted revenge on his killer, he just had to find a way out of Australia first...

Morgan May

“Crack, crack.” the little rooster fought his way out of the egg. As his little head poked out, the king smiled, “Prince Schnitzel,” he said to his wife. He looked down at the young rooster, “Welcome Son,” he whispered.

As the months went by quickly, Schnitzel became a curious rooster and a great prince to Egypt and soon to be king. The king looked into his son’s eyes, “Walk with me son.” Schnitzel followed his dad in silence. Until the king sat at the edge of a cliff, Schnitzel sat down beside him and watched the sun set. “Tomorrow you are to become king.” The king announced the news to his son. “Oh, I can’t wait it is going to be so fun”, Schnitzel jumped with excitement. “Remember son with great power comes great responsibility”. Schnitzel replied, “of course.”

The king stood up, “Well your mother is waiting for you.” Schnitzel began walking back. The king grabbed his sons shoulder. “I’m sorry son.” The king whispered and jabbed a knife straight through his son’s heart. “DAAADDDD!” Schnitzels scream echoed through Egypt. Schnitzel dropped to his dad’s feet. The king closed his eyes for a moment and sighed, “Long live King Schnitzel.”

Becky Kohl
A snippet from Schnitzel's life: After about 7 to 8 months, Schnitzel had just turned into an adult, and was celebrating by throwing a party with all of his friends and some family. His parents came to the party, mainly for supervision, along with most of his friends that could. Everybody enjoyed Schnitzel's parties; since he was rich he could afford lots of cool things like food and activities. While he was dancing the chicken dance with a girl named Honey, a strange man walked in, making everything seem really dramatic and tense. Schnitzel walked up to the man and asked who he was. He had never seen this man before in his life. The man gave an evil looking grin, and ignored Schnitzel’s question, and walked straight up to roast. “Hello, brother.” Poppy said. Schnitzel looked at him confused, like he had just seen a mouse tap dance. “Brother? Dad who is this man?” he asked. Roast with the confused look still resting on his face. Roast looked embarrassed, and told Schnitzel about his uncle. “How come you never told me that I had an uncle?” Schnitzel asked his father, still slightly confused about the surprise encounter.  

Alex Carroll

Schnitzel’s end events: BANG!! A gun was fired the sound seemed to be coming to Pharaoh’s headquarters. The guard raced to the headquarters, when they got there Schnitzel’s wife Butter was on the ground next to her husband, crying. A guard reached for her hand to so he could lift her up, but Butter pushed him away. About ten minutes after the death Nugget walked in, seeing his mother on the floor he ran to her and dropped to his knees. Seeing Nugget the guards ran out to leave him and his mother to go check Nugget’s room because they thought that he might have done it.

Keeley Monaghan

Schnitzel the chicken woke up one morning and he was in this massive pen with all the other chickens. One day the humans came to check if the chickens have been laying but Schnitzel’s mother didn’t lay her eggs for the week. So the humans were going to take her until Schnitzel’s father jumped in the way and said I will go instead. So with Schnitzel’s father gone the next day Schnitzel got promoted to be the next pharaoh the next day he went to battle in one piece but the rest of the soldiers brought his head arm and his legs back so the pharaoh was a true hero to his chikeney friends.

Payden Norris
Schnitzel had a horrible childhood in the year of 4756 BC. He was constantly imprisoned in a petite cage, never to be let out. He knew his fate, so did the other chickens. Schnitzel had to take charge. He gathered troops and defeated the owners. The whole of Egypt was next. During the uprising, Schnitzel had gotten married to a beautiful hen named Drumstick. After the powerful Army of Chickens conquered Egypt and took the land, Schnitzel became Pharaoh. His father, Roast, had died in battle but his son Nugget was still by his side. Little did Schnitzel know that Nugget was not loyal and was soon about to betray him. Nugget was desperate for the throne. He was jealous of all the: food, human slaves and food his father possessed. It was Nugget’s turn. The Pharaoh was lying on his nest – Nugget was hiding behind the window curtain. He furiously plucked a colourful feather from his tail and loudly exhaled. "CLUCK CLUCK CLUUUUUCK!" Nugget screeched in chook language while he sprinted towards his father, feather held high. Before Schnitzel could say a word Nugget had already pounced on top of him and was latched on with his large claws. Nugget tickled with all his might at the struggling Pharaoh. It was almost over. Schnitzel was about to die of laughter. Nugget had a large smirk on his face as he slowly murdered his defenceless father. After one last fatal tickle, Nugget hopped off his lifeless father and smiled about his achievement. Pharaoh Schnitzel's human slaves had witnessed the whole thing and their jaws were dropped all the way to the floor. "You bow to me now," Nugget advised.

Jamie Westwood

Today was the day that the king died making his way into the afterlife he also passed down his crown to his son Schnitzel. Schnitzel was the most beloved king of them all but one old man despised him. Schnitzel was like a god he survived anything from fire arrows to big boulders being lobed at him; his mother drumstick made a trial, any king or god king could throw anything at Schnitzel to show he was the strongest of them all, although Schnitzel was known as the king of love because he cared for everyone and everything.

Shona Beezley
Year 9 and 10—top of the school!!!!!
Year 9 / 10 HOME ECONOMICS -
“BUILDING A HERB GARDEN”

- exploring sustainable gardening practices.
- soil testing.
- plant selection and suitability.
Year 9 and 10
Girl Power!!

We think you are awesome!!
We will miss you!
EGG MONITORING

'Candling'
Building a Brooder
Chicken Run! Chicken Love Escaping Chicks Cheap! Chick Cuteness!
Term 3—Choice Curriculum—”Catering”

“THE BIRTHDAY CHALLENGE”
Choice Curriculum—
Catering Term 4 2016
The end of Term One marked our first good haul of cotton from the school's agricultural plot. Many of you would have seen the amount of cotton that had accumulated on the plant and possibly a glimpse of the students attending to the crop.

What a wonderful and insightful experience we have all had, teachers and students, into the process of cotton growing that our local farmers endure every year.

We would like to put forth a big thank you to all those members of the community that have assisted us in any way. From the ploughing and flushing the furrows at the start of our journey to the field trips to local farmers in between and at the end.

A special thank you to Mrs Bronwyn Christensen for her tireless efforts in steering the unit on cotton with teachers. Mrs Christensen has been helping and guiding us from the start with her fantastic organisation and ability to give us real-world experience.

A thank you to those that came into the school to extend their expertise to the classroom, Mr Damien Erbacher of Dawson Ag Consulting and Mr Tim Stevens from Sunwater. Thank you to those in the field: Mr Lester Anderson, Mr Peter Tweed, Mr Rohan Sipple, Mr Harrod Anderson, Mrs Fleur Anderson, Mr Peter French, Mrs Diane French, Mr Andrew French, Mr Trevor Brownlie and the crew at Moura Gin.

We have been privileged to have this experience with experts in the field. We are greatly appreciative of the opportunity we have been given and the time taken out of peoples days to work with us.

Thank you to those staff members involved; Mrs Alyce Meredith, Mrs Carlie Atkins, Miss Lydia Wullems and of course Mr Barry Phipps for driving the bus.

Here are a few snapshots of our journey.

From Mrs Ogg.
Canoeing and Kayaking

The Dawson River provides Theodore State School Students with an opportunity few other students in the state have and that is being able to learn the skills of kayaking and canoeing right at your back door. Either launching from the banks of the school oval or trailing the boats to Junction Park, the students are on the water in only minutes.

Kayaking and canoeing is harder than it looks. Paddling a straight line takes practice and correct stroke technique. Paddling with a partner means teamwork, a sense of humour, communication and patience to ensure no one ends up, up the creek without a paddle.

During the years the group paddled around the islands near the Theodore Weir, along the Ana Branch and up Castle Creek as far as was navigable.

Starting with the basics of canoeing earlier in the year, the students were ready to add kayaking to their paddling skill set. In Term 4, beginning with a few sessions in the school pool to build the confidence and technique of capsizing in a kayak, the students were soon back to the River to expand their repertoire of rafting up, forward and back paddling; pry and draw strokes, emergency stop and bracing strokes as well as sweeps and J Strokes (the hardest to master) and the stern rudder.

The favourite part of any lesson was the capsizing and either doing a self-rescue or a T rescue. Wearing PFDs (Personal Floatation Devices) became a natural part of the expectation of the activity. Unloading and loading the kayaks and canoes took strength and teamwork. Thank you to Mr Phipps and Mrs Atkins for towing the boats to and from the River. Our dream would be to have a flood proof pontoon situated on the riverbank on the Oval. Look out P and C we might investigate such a dream!
They came, they cheered, they swam! Dawson put up a massive fight but Castle were just too fast!
Castle and Dawson battled hard all day with Castle reigning supreme in a very close finish.
Cross Country 2016
In Term 3 our Annual Geoff Johnson Memorial Touch Football and Ball Games competition was held. It was a fierce competition between the two houses. Dawson came away with the Touch Football trophy and Castle took home the Ball Games trophy. Well done to all competitors on a wonderful day.
What a year for our AFL team in the Dawson Valley AFL Competition. We showed a fighting Theodore spirit of determination and sportsmanship in all matches.
Tennis Tournament
2016

Champions

Singles
Year 4-6       Jackson Cock
Year 7-10      Rashun Motley

Doubles
Year 4-6      Tayla Childs & Johanna Cox
Year 7-10      Rashun Motely & Ben Hill

Most Improved Tennis Player
Isabel Anderson
Tennis Tournament 2016
On Sunday 21st August, 16 innovative Theodore State School students travelled to Rockhampton to take part in this year’s Opti-Minds challenge.

The challenge saw students develop a creative, dramatic response to a problem. The Language Literature team had to solve a mystery which had rebuses as the main clues as well as incorporating a character that spoke in riddles. The Social Sciences teams had to develop a script that showed how a ‘group’ within Australia was forced to change or adapt in the future. The setting was 2066.

The students spend 6 weeks developing their ideas, writing scripts, practicing lines and perfecting their dramatic performance. On the day their presentations were polished and they all received fabulous feedback from the judges.

The students also had to solve a spontaneous challenge in 10 minutes. The challenge: An island is something that is surrounded and isolated. Name an island and explain how it is isolated, how it became isolated and what it is surrounded by.

The students came up with many creative responses including a human who has been hurt in the past and as a result isolates themselves.

Once all challenges were done and scoring was complete, our wonderful school had achieved a FIRST PLACE and an HONOURS. Congratulations to: Bridie Christensen, Jaxon Wilson, Dominic Mahony, Brooke McClelland, Anna Kucks and Tess Barsby for achieving honours in their division.

Congratulations also to: James Perkins, Nicole Kucks, Grace Atkins, Johanna Cox and Piper Christensen for taking out first place. Their performance of ‘The Changing Farmer’ and utilising the top of sky scrapers as cropping areas was creative and entertaining.
Our winning team then had six more weeks to prepare for the State Finals in Brisbane. During this time, the team needed to design a solution to a problem in our world that they did not want to see in the future. After hours of brainstorming and research, the team designed a model of ‘The Business Traineeship’ which will end unemployment within Australia. We also managed to fit in some fundraising through bake sales and a working bee at Cracow Station!

After weeks of preparation our team and their families travelled to Brisbane to compete. It was a busy weekend! It started with an Ideas Market, where we sold our idea about ‘The Business Traineeship’ on Day One followed with a BBQ and disco.

On Day Two the team was given a problem similar to our regional challenges but only three hours to prepare! In this time they had to decide on a solution, create a script and design their costumes and props. Their final performance was fantastic and something they should be very proud of.

That afternoon we piled back in to the main lecture room with the other 200 competing schools to hear the results. Our team was awarded the Spirit of Opti-Minds award for demonstrating outstanding creativity, teamwork, perseverance, resourcefulness and sustainability. The smiles said it all!

A huge congratulations to all Opti-Minds participants this year. You were all unashamedly excellent!

“It was really fun working as a team.” Johanna Cox

“The ideas trading session was my favourite part.” James Perkins

“We worked hard and achieved our goals.” Grace Atkins

“It was a great experience for my first time.” Jaxon Wilson
Year 4

Garden Guru's

Siah
- Round
- Yummy
- Hard skin
- White inside
- Yellow outside
- Crunchy

Ben
- Small round crunchy

Max
- Yum
- Rough
- Bumpy
- Starts as a flower
- Hard smooth stem
- Easy to break
- Delicious
- White

Dylan
- Rough Skin
- Squishy

Mason
- Orange
- Black Seeds
James
Year 5
Sienna
Meg
Brooke
Coloured
Crunchy
Orange
Green
Little
Big

Tasty
Full of nectar
Yellow, orange and red
Hot when eaten

Fred
Juicy
Bite size
Full of seeds
Squishy
Red

Alana
Really Hot
White inside
Delicious
Crunchy
Red

Kaede
<table>
<thead>
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