PRINCIPAL'S PRATTLE

With our swimming program going full steam ahead and our After School Sports starting up it has been another pretty full week here at Thorpdale P.S. With our swimming carnival now completed we have now had 9 sessions in the pool. (Unfortunately, I had to type this up prior to the event so I am unable to tell you who won the swimming sports. You will have to wait for our next edition! As we still have one session remaining the school has decided to have this late in the year, just prior to our last day of the year. Weather permitting, we would like to have a family day at the pool. More information about this event will be sent out later.

Prank Bomb Scares: I’m pretty sure that most of our parents have heard about the prank bomb scares that have been happening in Victorian schools throughout most of this term. Like all other schools, we have taken these bomb scares very seriously and have been practicing our emergency procedures here at school. Hopefully we won’t receive a prank call or more importantly have a real emergency, but rest assured our kids have been doing a really great job with their practices and there will be further practice drills to ensure that all emergency procedures are working well.

Swimming Program: As per usual the swimming skills of our children improve so dramatically during our intensive program. I have been doing this program here at Thorpdale for eight years now and I am always amazed at how the children improve during these sessions. It really is so very pleasing to see. Thank you to all the parents who have assisted with the running of this program. We have had parents volunteering to assist the junior grade in getting ready, parents assisting with walking our classes down to the pool and parents assisting in the water. Thank you one and all!

Yinnar & District Swimming Sports: As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter our students did exceptionally well at the Y&D swimming carnival. Unfortunately we were pipped on the post and came in second place. Congratulations to Churchill’s Lumen Christi whose team won the carnival this year. That’s two years in a row that we have come in second place.

School Photos: Our school photos went off without a hitch. Thank you to all our parents for returning the forms promptly. It makes the photographer’s job so much easier.

After School Sports: Our After School Sports started during the week. We have 12 keen bowlers in the junior session on Tuesday and we have 8 bowling experts in the mid/senior group. We plan to have our last session down at the Thorpdale Bowling Club. (Tuesday 15th & Thursday 17th of March) I will send out a reminder note for this closer to the date.

Junior School Council: The JSC will be holding a fundraiser next week to support the Pink Ribbon Day and Breast Cancer. Information will be sent out by the JSC.

Icy Poles: The JSC will be selling icy poles during lunch times. The cost for an icy pole is 50 cents.
Early/Late Arrivals
We still have a few students arriving early in the mornings before 8:45am. Remember that a staff member is only on duty between 8:45 and 9:00am so please ensure you child/ren arrive during this time. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

**CSEF**
All CSEF forms should have now been returned. Please see Angie if you have any queries.

**PREPS**
The preps will be attending Wednesdays as of next week (2nd March)

**Year 4/5/6 ANZAC's Excursion: Spirit of the Anzac's Exhibition. By Chantelle Giessler**
On Friday the 19th the 4/5/6 class went with the 5/6 class of Mirboo North Primary to the Spirit of the ANZACS exhibition in Melbourne.

When we got the exhibition we went inside and they told us the rules. After that they gave everyone iPods and headphones. As you walk through the exhibition the iPod tells you information about the room you were in.

In the different rooms they had different props, pictures and telescopes that showed what it was like in the wars.

Near the end of the exhibition they had a room with pictures and iPads where you could send a message to the men and women who are or have served our country.

At the end of the exhibition they had a room filled with handheld poppies. They had a story about these poppies. The reason they use poppies is because some women laid poppies on their husband’s graves. Now this is a worldwide tradition.

I really liked the exhibition, it was very interesting. I now know a lot more about the ANZAC’s. I’m sure I lot more people know about the ANZAC’s now.

**Spirit of the Anzac’s Excursion. By Ellie Varsaci.**
On the 19th of February Thorpdale 4/5/6’s went to Melbourne with Mirboo North 5/6’s to see the Spirit of the Anzacs and it was fantastic. We got to watch videos and look at all the soldiers from then. We got a set of headphones and an iPod and when you walked into a room it played and it told you interesting facts and there was lots of cool stuff there.

At the end there were some tanks and masks and guns and the suits that they wore. We got to right a message and when we were done we went back onto the bus to go to school. It was a really fun day. I hope I go there again soon.

**Pink-Falgar**
Let’s paint Trafalgar Pink Again!
Saturday, February 27th
10am-5pm
Trafalgar Holden Museum

After such a successful day in 2015, we are asking you to help us do it all over again in 2016!

We smashed our $10k target with a total of $13,640, with every cent going to the National Breast Cancer Foundation! With such an amazing result for such a worthy cause, we know with the help and support of our amazing community we can do this again!

Please join us on Saturday, February 27th to come together once again and raise much needed funds for Breast Cancer Research.

One in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime and we need to help find a cure ASAP!

Plenty of fun, games & activities again on the day!

For more information on how you can help or if you would like to donate please email pink-falgar@gmail.com or contact us on Facebook!

10% of entry tickets to the Trafalgar Holden Museum will also be donated on the day!

**PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS**

Chantelle Giessler: You have received this award because of the super way you help and support all your fellow students both in the classroom and outside during your recesses. Well done, Chantelle.

Charlotte Wright: You have received this award because of the wonderful way you have settled into your new school. You have been working extremely well and you are a great role model in the classroom. Well done, Charlotte!

Will Donald: You have received this award because of the wonderful way you have been helping the new preppies in your class. Well done, Will!