CALENDAR

TERM 1 (January 28 ~ March 24)

March
- Tues 22nd March: After school sports
- Thurs 24th March: Last day of term (1.30pm finish)

TERM 2 (April 12 ~ June 24)

April
- Mon 11th Apr: Pupil Free day (no school)
- Tues 12th Apr: Students return (term 2)

PRINCIPAL’S PRATTLE

I hope everyone enjoyed their long weekend. Hopefully you were able to unwind and enjoy some time with your family. Having one less day has certainly made this week go extremely fast. The staff have been busier than usual with most of us being involved as panel members for staff interviews all day Tuesday and Wednesday. When you add our Parent-Teacher interviews on Thursday it certainly makes for a very busy and hectic week. A big thank you to my staff for all the extra work that they have put in, not only this week, but throughout the school year! They do a tremendous job and I am very proud of the efforts that the produce day in day out. I would also like to thank all our parents who made themselves available for our Parent Teacher Interviews. These interviews assist us, the staff, and you as parents and gives us a broader understanding of how your child is progressing socially and educationally in and out of school.

Last Day of Term: School will officially break up at 1:30 next Thursday the 24th of March. I stated in our newsletter a fortnight ago that we would be finishing at 2:30, but have since received a memo from our bus providers from Mirboo North that the bus will be arriving at Thorpdale approximately 1:15pm. With this in mind, our closure time has been moved forward to align ourselves with the Mirboo North Schools. Our final assembly for the term will start at 1:00pm and we would love to see as many parents there as possible!

SCHOOL COUNCIL: School Council nominations are now open. We have a few vacant seats and would love to have some new parent members join us. If you are interested in assisting your child’s school, please give me a ring at school or come in and have a chat about what is involved in becoming a school council rep. We have two scheduled meetings per term and we hope to have these on a Wednesday night this year.

AUSKICK is coming to Thorpdale Football/Netball Club!
Hour long sessions starting at the primary school
WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 3.45pm $80.00
THE REGISTRATION SITE IS NOW LIVE www.aflauskick.com.au
You can log on to register.
PLEASE NOTE: You CAN TRANSFER if you’ve already registered elsewhere.
Please contact Mandy Durkin 0409181228 or the school with any queries.
Weekly Class Awards
P/1
Jake Walters: Jake I have been impressed with the outstanding presentation of your work this week.
2/3
Jye Lister: For building up his writing stamina and being willing to have a go at his learning tasks
Olive Flanagan: For working very well in her maths lessons. Well done!
4/5/6
Georgia Murphy: Georgia your design and skills presented in the Class Dojo monster creation were amazing. You have an amazing talent.
Diesel McQualter: Diesel you have been putting in 100% in all of your class work. Keep it up!

Staffing: As stated in my original paragraph we have been very busy this week interviewing applicants for four teaching and aide positions here at Thorpdale. I would like to thank all our applicants who applied for the various positions. We had a large and strong field of applicants to choose from which can only benefit our children and the school. I would like to congratulate the winning applicants who have either retained their position or gained a position at Thorpdale Primary School. Anna Fahey will continue as our Intervention specialist and Melinda Peavey will continue in her role as our Art specialist. Donna Powell will continue in her role as an Integration Aide in the Prep/One classroom and I would like to welcome Tom Heeren who will start in Term Two as our Science specialist. Tom comes to us with a wealth of Science knowledge and will be a super asset to our teaching staff.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Karen Zipkas for her great work in Science this semester. The students really enjoyed your lessons and I received many comments from parents who spoke to me about their child wanting to do experiments at home because of your enthusiasm for Science. You have inspired our kids. Thank you!

School Council Nominations: We have had three of our parents nominate for school council. They are Brenda Murphy, Jenelle Donald and Stephen Letch. We will be having our A.G.M this coming Wednesday at 7:30pm. If you are at all interested in joining us, feel free to come along our meeting.

Future Events: The school will be having a Whole School Closure Day on Monday 11th of April. This is part of our new Moe Small Schools Cluster approach to teaching and learning. The staff will be receiving training and professional development that will assist them in their teaching capacity and pedagogical knowledge.

Principal’s Awards:
Joe Varsaci: You have received this award because of the thoughtful responses and kindness you have shown other students in our school of late. This has been noted on numerous occasions. Well done, Joe!
Macalla Phillips: You have received this award because of the wonderful thinking processes you displayed when working with Mr. Nic in the library. I was very impressed. Well done, Macalla!
William Donald: You have received this award because of the fantastic way you have been assisting other students in your classroom. You have been really supportive and helpful to all the preppies in the playground. Well done, Will!

STEM News
Our school has been lucky enough to receive funding to have myself trained as STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) specialist. Over the next two years I will be working with our school and the wider community to raise the profile of STEM at our school. Every week I will be including little notes in the newspaper about what is happening in STEM in our school or some interesting facts about STEM. Please support our school and myself on this duty by talking positively about STEM (especially math and science) to the children as the attitude students bring to school about a subject makes a huge impact. Currently I am about to start making links to Scientists in our community, so if you know anyone locally that is a scientist who would be happy to talk to the students about their work could you please encourage them to ring me. Thanks everyone.

Alice Kenneth