



## Welcome back

I hope you all had a joyous Christmas, New Year and break in general. I also hope that 2019 will be a great year for you and your child.

At Thomas Acres PS we really want to get to **know** your child both as a **person** and as a **learner**. We aim to care for your child's wellbeing. Like you, we want them to be happy and we want them to demonstrate and develop important values and character traits such respect, gratitude, kindness, integrity, honesty, empathy, tolerance, resilience and so on so that they can collaborate and co-operate with others as well as getting through many of life's challenges.

At Thomas Acres PS we aim to help student's grow as much as they can as **learners** each year. Not only do we want to create independent readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists and students who can be creative, express themselves and understand themselves and the world. We also want to encourage children in their individual interests and gifts. We want to help them become both independent and collaborative learners. As such we provide opportunities both in and out class to support learning, wellbeing, teamwork, creativity, responsibility, citizenship and leadership. We are working at increasing student responsibility and building future focused skills such as problem solving, creativity, communication and so on. Our **quality teaching** programs and **formative assessment** practices have continued to show positive results and they are increasing **student engagement**. We are aiming to make students more active partners in their learning with your **help**.

**You** can help your child by reinforcing skills and values that will enable them do life successfully with others such as

- Showing **respect and care** for other people. Using **manners** and being polite.

- Having a resilient don't give up **attitude** and willingness to have a go even if failure may occur. (In fact the only way to get better at something is to keep trying, keep failing and getting a bit better each time you fail until you master something. Babies don't try and walk once, fall and give up. They keep going and try thousands of times until they can do it.)
- **Staying calm**, making **good choices** and problem solving. (Life is full of problems. Successful people control themselves and make the best of situations.)
- **Building friendships** by listening, being kind, taking turns, sharing, compromising (not always wanting things their way).

**You** can help your child become a better learner by doing a few things at home

- Make **reading** a **regular** and **enjoyable** thing at home. (If you need books at home both classes and the library is a great place). Read to your child, read with them, get them to read and tell you about it.
- Encourage **deep thinking** and **quality talk**. Talk about what happened in a book or on a TV show or the news. Talk about problems and how they might solve them or things they see in nature or on documents. Talk about numbers. Do money problems at the shops.
- Instil in your child the **importance of education**, learning and hard work.
- Make sure they come to school. **Regular attendance** is vital for learning and social skills. (Parents you must notify us within 7 days of your child's absence).
- Talk to your child's teacher. **Let us know** about them (come to our next Connect Week in week 5 to tell us about your child. More information to come soon). See us if you have a problem and partner with us to give them the best chances possible. Seesaw will be available soon, as will old fashioned notes, phones or face to face appointments.

### **Classes & Staff - new faces, holding classes and roles**

As the new year begins it brings with it a few new faces and some missing ones too for our school.

Ms Phillips is our new Assistant Principal for kindergarten. She is also teaching KP. She comes to us from Fairfield PS with many years of experience. Miss Davies is new to our school being on KD. Mr Morris will be taking 3M and Miss McDonald will be teaching 5M. Please welcome our new staff to the wonderful community of TAPS.

We are starting the school year without the fabulous Mrs Flamos. She has had some health problems but will be back and fighting fit later this term. Also, I just found out the Mrs Sylwestrzak has been successful in gaining a transfer to Appin. We will miss her expertise and her hard work but wish her well in her future endeavours.

The rest of the teaching staff and classes look as such

KT, Miss Tuerlings, K/1K – Mrs Kous, 1C Miss Pollard, 1/2J Mrs Josephson and Mrs Woelner, 1m Mrs Mckay, 2P Mrs Puntiero, 2M Miss Moisy, 2W Mrs Williamson (AP) and Mrs Cunningham, 3V Miss Vamvas, 3/4L Miss Love, 4M Mr Marsh (AP), 4B Mrs Ballard, 4/5S Mrs Mullen/Mrs Warren, 6H Ms Houlton (AP), 6B Mrs Best-Roberts, 5/6J Miss Johnston, Team G (support unit) Mrs Gregory/Mrs Warren, Team L (support unit) Mrs Lawrence (AP), Team P (support unit) Mrs Ganem.

For the first 3 weeks of school classes will be considered **holding classes** and classes could **change slightly** if required. This could be due to students leaving at the end of the year and possible unexpected new enrolments coming to Thomas acres over the next few weeks. If classes need to change or students need to be moved, we will communicate as soon as possible.

Teachers providing support for students and RFF include

Mrs Sannio (Support Teacher, Wellbeing and Community Engagement Officer), Mrs Azevedo (Support, Aboriginal education and MultuiLIT), Mr Thompson (Support, MultiLIT and Numeracy support), Mrs Brown (Reading Recovery and Support. Mrs Haviland, Mrs Hunter, Mrs Aston, Mrs Boustani (RFF and library) and Mr Krahe Support and RFF.

Support Staff for our school

Mrs Carter ( School Administration Manager), Mrs Sperling and Mrs Dwyer (School administration Officers and front desk), Mrs Zifovitch (School Administration Officer, Library and Technology Support), Mrs Kelly (Community Engagement Officer and Wellbeing support), Mrs Mason (School Chaplin and Wellbeing Officer) and Mr Wenzel/Ross (General Assistant)

Deputy Principals/Instructional Leaders and Principal include

Mrs Flamos, Mrs Bryce and Mrs Kerron and myself.



## Homework

In 2017 we surveyed parents and ran workshops. A vast majority of parents wanted homework reduced or not at all. This is backed by research that homework (ie: non -differentiated worksheets have little or no benefit). The research talks of more benefit in High School years. What does make a difference is an enjoyment of learning, a good attitude and willingness to try and even fail, reading regularly. As such Stages and grades have modified and reduced homework. Homework will vary from grade to grade but in most classes it will consist of an emphasis on reading, 'Mathletics' and 'Reading Eggs' (both are online programs and teachers can provide logins shortly). Homework completion is not punished but encouraged especially reading. Children who read regularly are several years ahead of their peers by Year 12.

## P&C

Our P&C AGM (annual general meeting) will be held on Wednesday week 3 the 13.2.19 at 3.10pm in the School train or the staff room if it's too hot. Positions up for election are President, 2 Vice President positions, Treasurer and Secretary. Please note that only financial members are eligible to vote. You are considered financial if you paid your fees (gold coin) at some stage before the close of the last meeting.

## Key dates coming soon.

Be on the look- out next week for information to put on your fridge or put into your calendar outling all our major events for the term and year ahead.

## Student Newsletter

Our student focused, student lead newsletter that began last year will be up and running soon. Keep your eyes peeled.

Thanks

Mr Sean Pope. (Principal)

Have a great year. Myself and all of us look forward to making a difference for your children throughout 2019. We also look forward to working with you and hearing from you too.