

School Newsletter

TAPS STUDENT VOICE



Student leaders and their thoughts.

LUCAS' CAPTAIN SPEECH

As a School Captain, I have enjoyed this journey through primary school. Though I have only been here since Year 2, this journey has been really fun. From Year 2 to Year 6, this once in a lifetime opportunity has been amazing. Thank you teachers for all your hard work and support you've given me throughout my four years at this school. I'd also like to give thanks to all the students for believing in me from the start and for bringing me here today. You'll all be missed!

STEVE'S CAPTAIN SPEECH

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for voting for me as School Captain back and for making 2019 one of the best years of my life! Being School Captain has been an extraordinary experience filled with fun, responsibility, helpfulness and learning! In 2019, AKA Year 6, I have built new friendships and learnt a lot! I know each and every one of us will go far and grow up to be awesome people. I truly hope everyone has loads of fun in high school and that you continue to strive with pride to achieve your goals. Thank you!

ISABELLA'S VICE CAPTAIN SPEECH

My time here at Thomas Acres Public School has been outstanding! I have made so many friends since I was here in Year 3, and I will treasure these friendships for years to come—even if we are at different high schools. I have worked hard and done my best, I am respectful with my peers and I have learnt so much from my teachers.

Being a Vice Captain has been a wonderful experience for me, and I feel like I have really grown. Year 6 are an amazing bunch of people. We have learnt so much about friendship, cooperation, courage and honesty.

It has been really special to work with the leadership team and we have had many wonderful opportunities. I'm really going to miss everybody next year, and I wish you all the best in high school and wherever your future takes you!

PRESTON'S VICE CAPTAIN SPEECH

In 2012, I entered the Thomas Acres school gates to start my seven year journey. I have witnessed many changes in this school, from the appointing of a new principal, to the sad loss of Mrs Thompson, who introduced me to my favourite subject—maths. There are many lessons I have learnt while attending this school, but I would like to highlight seven of them...

Peers—we started off as classmates and now we've become lifelong friends.

Respect—I honour you and you honour me.

Education—the key to open doors of endless opportunities.

Sports—just play, have fun and enjoy the game.

Teachers—9/10 of education is encouragement, so thank you for teaching me.

Opportunities—if opportunities don't come knocking, build a door.

Never giving up spirit—start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.

I am Preston—Vice Captain of Thomas Acres Public School, 2019.

Thank you TAPS for all of my great memories.

Jokes for kids

Why was the cookie sad?

Because his mum was a wafer so long.

Why did the student eat his homework?

Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake.



Why did the banana go to the doctor?

Because it was not peeling well.



(by Zahraa & Hannah)

The Principal's thanks and year in review

What a great year for knowing, caring and learning at TAPS 2019 has been

As I look back on 2019 I reflect on and celebrate a year of success, a year of growth, a year of fun, a year of overcoming challenges and a year of stronger relationships.

Firstly I'd like to thank and acknowledge the important adults in the lives of our students and the difference you have made.

Parents and carers ... you are the most important influence in your young child's life. You can shape – positive attitude, effort and resilience, you can promote a love of learning and school which helps your child to realise that education is a pathway to future choice and future opportunity. You help shape important values and character traits such as respect, kindness and co-operation. Parents you are your child's first and longest running educators... for the amazing 540 students in our school.. I thank you ... and I thank you for working with us and making a difference in their lives.

Volunteers ... here at TAPS we have so many parents, carers and community members who contribute to our school ... I'd like to thank those of you who come regularly to listen to students read and change readers, to those who work in classrooms and prepare resources. Thanks to our P&C and canteen volunteers who provide this service for free day in, day out and to the hardworking P&C who through their efforts have provided so much to our school, including playground equipment, shade sails, electronic signs and learning resources. Thanks to those who volunteer to provide scripture and to those who work tirelessly to assist with wellbeing initiatives, art and community support. Volunteers you make a huge difference... thank you for making our kids lives better and our jobs easier.

OFFICE staff & support crew ... here at TAPS we have the most welcoming and helpful office staff. (Amongst the best in the state I would argue). They keep the school operational, they communicate effectively and respectfully with our community, they support our students in need, they are the kind, caring champions for all of our kids. Thank you for making our school such a great place for our students and such a welcoming, well run place for our community to visit.

The teaching staff As principal I would rate our teachers as second to none ... the positive impact they have on our students as people, supporting their learning, wellbeing and developing character is exceptional. Teachers for your passion, enthusiasm and care I truly thank you.

Our school direction and school plan is about **knowing**, caring & **learning** .. and I'm pleased to say we have made great progress in these areas.

Knowing is about working with our kids and the significant adults in their lives to know them both as people and learners. Our Formative Assessment journey continues to empower our students in their learning and is acknowledged for its impact by other schools and Department personnel. Our connect, reconnect and celebrate meets with students and parents give us a clearer understanding of who they are as people... enabling us to help them better at school.

Caring is about building positive class and learning environments, equipping and building on qualities and character traits that will help our kids become more successful, happy and giving human beings. It is about being an advocate and **champion** for each of our students or kids and it is also about providing wellbeing support so that kids and families (if need be) can be assisted to get back on track with their lives and learning.

Learning is about ... well learning ... As a school our teachers enthusiastically engage in professional learning to improve their practice and as a result the learning of our students in each and every class with a positive impact on most of our students. Over 80% kindergarten students are reading at or above expected benchmarks and all have made pleasing progress from when they began here almost 11 months ago. Our school has again been widely recognised locally by departmental personnel. 70% of our year 1 and 2 students are at or above expected benchmarks in reading. This year's NAPLAN results show our student growth to be above the state and similar schools for our Year 3 to 5 students in Reading, Writing and Numeracy and our academic value added from Years 5 to 7 is strong. As well as academic learning our students have had so many opportunities (thanks to our staff) in many pursuits... sporting success, art competitions, public speaking, debating, student leadership, dance, band and drumming, chess and choir, gardening, class buddies, science competitions and STEM just to mention a few.

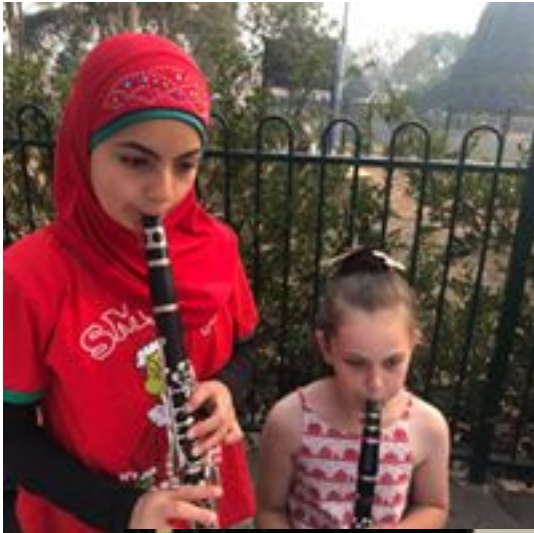
To **our students our kids** I thank you for your smiles, hard work, efforts, great attitude, manners, overcoming challenges and learning from mistakes... and your growth ... I am amazed at your growing maturity, care for others and successes. Congratulations if throughout 2019 you have worked hard, improved, become more caring, more supportive or helpful, if you have tried something new then thank you. Keep looking for opportunities to grow and improve, never giving up. Have a safe holiday, a wonderful rest and we look forward to seeing you again in 2020. If you are going to high school or moving on I wish you a successful and happy life.

Festive Fete Visits TAPS

On Friday the 15th of November our school had a vibrant vibe as the fete started. The rides fitted all ages with a free disco and stalls there too. Some stalls included; food stalls, face painting, airbrush tattoos and community selling homemade goods. The rides were a blast, many children had bright smiles that lasted all day, as they enjoyed the action. Some rides included; dodgem cars, giant slide, teacup ride, blow up jumping castles and the storm. Showbags were their too, and sweet tooth's were happy as Mr Marsh's ice cream truck sold many delicious cones. It will be remembered as a fun and enjoyable events that raised lots of money for our school. Thanks to the P&C for all their effort in organising, the Fete will be a moment that is cherished forever not just for students but for teachers and community as well.

Beth





Yr 6 Fun Fair

Hi I'm Leah-Vaughn Hakopa and in this news story you will find out what the stage 3 students fun fair is who does it, who it's for and what they do in the fun fair.

The stage 3 fun fair has been running for many years and has been enjoyed every year all the money raised from the fun fair goes towards an upcoming event or surprise. Fun fair is a special time in the year where all of stage 3 come together to pick groups of 4, 5 or maybe 6 and make their own little game/activities to share with the rest of the school. For example there has been games in the past such as what's in the box, sponge race, pie the teacher and there has also been activities such as hair spray and get your own spider.

This year our 2019 Fun Fair was a lot of fun and enjoyed by all (we just needed to find a non smokey day from the bush fires... what a challenge that was.) The fun fair helps to subsidise our year 6 farewell.



COMING UP

Last Day of School for students 18.12.19, **Students return 29.1.20**, 3-6 Swimming Carnival 26.1.20, **School Photos 12.3.20**

Free kids art workshop




Barnardos Australia will be running free, supervised art workshops for kids in your area. Come and join us to have some fun and meet our Barnardos team! You can learn about the work of Barnardos and the difference we will be making in your community this year.

Where
Campbelltown Arts Centre
1 Art Gallery Road,
Campbelltown NSW 2560

When
21 January 2020
10.30am-12pm
and 12.30-2pm

For more information please contact **Michael Jordan**:
P: (02) 4908 3200 E: mjordan@barnardos.org.au

*This program is not part of the Campbelltown Arts Centre Artistic Program.

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No Interest Loans for back-to-school costs



Borrow up to \$1500 Pay back \$1500
No Fees. No Charges. Ever.

Talk to the people you know and trust



Peter Lonergan - P. 02 4627 1188
E. peterlonergan@focusconnect.org.au
W. www.focusconnect.org.au



For people on low incomes, see eligibility criteria at nils.com.au
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