



Term 2 Week 5
25.5.22

TAPS NEWS



*No matter what happens in life, be good to people.
Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to
leave behind.*

Taylor Swift

Farewell Mrs Bryce – A Great Legacy & A Role Model We Can Learn From.

Last week we had a retirement lunch & school assembly for Mrs Y Bryce. The celebration of her career and who she is was such a testament to her dedication to education. Her passion for her/our students and to her ability to connect with, inspire and influence others is/was second to none. The lunch was full of faces new and old from TAPS. There was also a large number of friends, staff & principals there to honour and farewell Mrs Bryce.

In her 43 years of teaching at various schools and 13 years of teaching & learning at TAPS Mrs Bryce certainly made a positive difference.

Mrs Bryce is and was a good friend to many. She is and was a committed & knowledgeable educator, a compassionate leader, kind to all, passionate and always up for a laugh or smile.



I also know her to be a loving wife, mum and grandma. Now in her retirement she can devote a lot more time to these people.

Mrs Bryce has made kids better over 43 years.

In that time she has also helped and worked with many, many parents.

Mrs Bryce has also made many teachers better teachers with her care, knowledge and support.

She has been a great role model throughout her career... people would not go too far wrong to follow her example -

- love what you do
- Love other people
- Be kind & understand that everyone & every situation is different
- Smile a lot
- Bring positivity
- Learn your craft & openly share your craft
- Show empathy & compassion
- Be brave & courageous

Do most of these things & you too will be loved back.

Do these things and you will have influence .

Do these things and you will find more joy in life.

5 Weeks into Term 2 and our efforts at returning to 'normal'. Whatever normal is?

So throughout Term 2 life is slowly returning to normal after a couple of years in the COVID pit. Unfortunately we are not out of the Covid pit or challenges yet. Term one was extremely challenging being back with so many staff and students affected by Covid and this trend has continued this term which has been highly disruptive to the running of school and keeping classes operational. It has also been highly disruptive in a time of extreme teacher shortages.

Covid and flus are quite tricky to manage and there is a real need for 'people' to ensure they keep sick kids at home. Please be aware that the health and safety of staff, students & community is our first priority.

So what's been happening ?

- **Sports – is back**
- **Band - is back**
- **Debating - is back**
- **Art Groups - are back**
- **Student leadership - is back**



- **Anxiety Programs (Cool Kids - Little dinosaurs) – has started**
- **Lego Group – has started**
- **Excursions – are back**
- **Transitions / Playgroup – has started this week**
- **Koori Kids – is starting**
- **Breakfast Club – has started**
- **Public speaking 3-6 – is starting**
- **External Services – are back once approved by the school.**

Celebrations from end of term and now

- **Easter Hat (take 2)** – thank you P&C and community.
- **Mother's Day** (despite difficulties) – thank you P&C and community and Mel's Canteen.
- **Anzac Day** – K-6 assembly (Band performance)
- **Debating Team** – Celebrating our first victory against local school (new team) but continuing the success of recent years of team being in finals
- **Sporting Stars** abound in representative sports this Term in Tennis, Hockey, Rugby league and now cross country running
- Our **Cross Country carnival** finally got held at school through mud, slush, rain and various disruptions and then last week an amazing team of 40 speedy students went to represent themselves, their family and their school at the Zone Cross Country. From that day Dean, Clint, Bradley, William and Mia were successfully in placing and will now move onto competing at the regional cross Country. Congratulations kids and well done to all for your manners and efforts.



As I've been preparing for the 2021 Annual School Report and I found this Data to celebrate & consider. Thanks Parents for appreciating us.

Data – Tell Them From Me Surveys - Parents rank us highly – consistently

- 2021 – (83 parents completed) – ranked school above state average in all areas.
- 2020 – (16 parents completed) – ranked above in safety at school and parents doing learning from home.
- 2019 – (29 parents completed) – ranked school above state average in all areas.
- 2018 – (94 parents completed) – ranked school above state average in all areas.
- 2017– (24 parents completed) – ranked school above state average in all areas.

Data – Improvement in NAPLAN reading 2022 – what we need to focus on

- Year 5 – Reading 12.2% increase in top 2 bands
- Year 5 - Numeracy 8.3% increase in top 2 bands
- Year 3 – Reading 9% decrease in top 2 bands – increase in upper mid bands
- Year 3 – Reading 8% decrease in top 2 bands – increase in upper mid bands
- Understanding Texts – e.g. inferences .. vocabulary ... phonics (younger years)
- Number concepts – Quantifying Number (number sense) / Additive Strategies – working Mathematically – (problem solving – kind of) Big ideas in Maths.

Meet our Boy Captains

Hi, my name is Ethan Starr and I am this year's School Captain. I have been at Thomas Acres Public School since 2016, when I started in Kindergarten. I have enjoyed every minute at T.A.P.S. The teachers here at this school are very welcoming and help me be a better student by encouraging me to keep pushing myself. When I was given the role of School Captain, I was very excited to work with Dakota, Zacariah and Lacey. As a School Captain, I wish to make this school a better place for not only the student's, but everyone involved at T.A.P.S. I can do this with the other leaders by listening to teachers and my peers to make this school a place where everyone feels safe, calm, and comfortable. I look forward to all the fun we will have for the rest of the year and my final year at T.A.P.S. I hope the school can change during my year as school captain.



Hi, my name is Zacariah Merhi and I am this year's School Boy Vice Captain. I have been a proud student at T.A.P.S since kindergarten. I was born in Australia, but I come from an Islamic family. When I was selected for this role, I was cautious at first, but my fellow captains and peers comforted me. I have wanted this role since year 3 and now I am finally here. As a Vice School Captain I hope that I can advance as a person as well as help the school advance with me. Along with Ethan, Dakota and Lacey, I hope to make a difference in this school by putting my creative ideas and thoughts out there to make this school a great place to learn. In my final year of primary school, I am looking forward to all the responsibilities and good times that are yet to come.



National Sorry Day – An Experience for our student AECG Leaders

Hi. We are the Junior AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultation Group) leaders at Thomas Acres Public School. We are Ella W, Ethan H, Abby M and Sophie U. We were invited to AIRDS High School for their National Sorry Day Assembly. Sorry Day is about the Stolen Generations and how First Nations people were mistreated and affected. Things we found interesting in the assembly was when Mr Roberts (The Aboriginal education Officer of Airds) gave his passionate speech. It was also wonderful to hear the national anthem sung in the Dharawal language and then English. Another important part of the day was how the high school students had decorated and laminated a foot per student and stuck them in the ground making the word sorry. The feet symbolised moving forward together as Australians.

By Ella with Sophie, Abby and Ethan



Covid is still with us – Plus a few other nasty colds & bugs are lurking too. And predicted to peak early next term.

Covid continues to make both schooling and life challenging.

What can you do to help?

- Monitor for symptoms

- Get your kids tested using PCR tests (drive through) or RAHTS tests. (We are trying to source more tests at home to go home with vulnerable classes / groups)
- Keep sick kids home
- Be patient and support rules such as social distancing, making appointments, wearing masks in crowds, keeping adults in or near classrooms to a minimum.
- Consider booster vaccines and flu shots for adults or vaccination for your child (if not already done).

Important Dates - Stuff to look forward to or coming up

26.5.22 – 3.6.22 – National Sorry Day & Reconciliation Week
 2.6.22 – Band Excursion
 8.6.22 – Kindy Farm Excursion
 9.6.22 – Debating Team v Rosemeadow PS
 13.6.22 – Public Holiday – Queen’s Birthday
 15.6.22 – P&C Meet & Greet – Exciting & Yummy details to come
 16.6.22 – Regional Cross Country – Good luck guys
 21.6.22 – Stage 3 Geography Excursion
 23.6.22 – P&C School Disco – during school day
 24.6.22 – PSSA Gala Days
 27.6.22 – NAIDOC Week Celebrations
 1.7.22 – Reports Home
 Early Next Term – Parent Teacher Interviews ... Education Week.

For loads more information why not check out our website

<https://thomasacre-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>



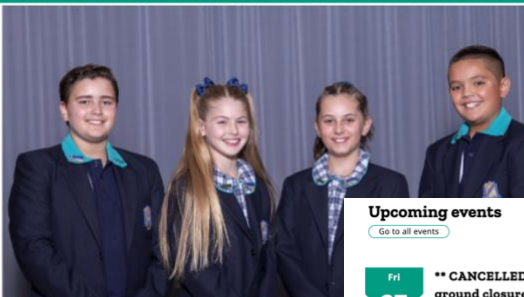
Thomas Acres Public School

Engaging Students in the 21st Century

T: 02 4626 4577

E: thomasacre-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

About our school Supporting our students Learning at our school Notes TAPS community Online learning links



Upcoming events

[Go to all events](#)

Fri 27 MAY
**** CANCELLED due ground closures** Winter PSSA gala day No.1**
 27 May All day
 Various sporting fields
 ** CANCELLED due to ground closures ** PSSA sport is for students who are successfully selected to r...

Wed 01 JUN
TAPS Transition program
 01 June 9:30-10:45 AM
 Hall and Kindergarten classrooms
 Who is the Transition program for? Children starting Kindergarten at Thomas Acres Public School in 2...

Thu 02 JUN
Band excursion - circus art show
 02 June 9:20-11:25 AM
 Campbelltown Performing Arts Hi...
 Campbelltown Performing Arts High School will be presenting a matinee of its 2022 Major Circus Arts ...

Wed 08 JUN
Kindergarten excursion - Calmsley Hill City Farm
 08 June 9:00-2:55 AM
 Calmsley Hill City Farm - 31 Darlin...
 This excursion relates to our Science unit - Lifecycles classification and survival of living things...

Wed 08 JUN
TAPS Transition program
 08 June 9:30-10:45 AM
 Hall and Kindergarten classrooms
 Who is the Transition program for? Children starting Kindergarten at Thomas Acres Public School in 2...

Wed 15 JUN
TAPS Transition program
 15 June 9:30-10:45 AM
 Hall and Kindergarten classrooms
 Who is the Transition program for? Children starting Kindergarten at Thomas Acres Public School in 2...

