

Thomas Acres PS NEWS

Term 4 Week 3

2023



The Magpies have stopped swooping, We've all COLOURED up and the Year is 'rushing' to another end.

I was away for the last 'chunk' of Term 3 but have jumped back in and just watched 4 ½ weeks of Term 4 flash by. I was overseas with family having a 'great' adventure at the end of last term. A huge thanks to Mrs Harris and my 'wonderful' hardworking staff for their amazing jobs and keeping the learning and opportunities coming at the end of Term 3.

Before jumping into this term let's look back to the end of term 3 and early this term and 'celebrate'.

- **Stage 3 camp happened and boy was it fun. What amazing brave kids who supported each other, cared for each other and displayed such great courage to do amazing challenges.**
- Southern Stars saw a bunch of our senior students perform with thousands of other students from across the state over several 'nights' at Wollongong stadium. Thanks kids, thanks parents and thanks Mrs R and Mrs M for making it all possible after months of practice and rehearsal.
- **Harmony Day – in a world of turmoil – it's so good to celebrate our differences and 'togetherness.'**
- Continued



- Swim Scheme – kids getting the opportunity to learn & stay safe in the water. What an important safety skill for the future and or passion for potential super star swimmers. Thanks Miss F & Miss B.
- **Athletics at Narellan on a "proper" track. Our students competed at 'top' of the art facilities.. running, jumping, putting and having fun. This was a great opportunity for all our students and leap frogged our talented sport stars into zone and regional competition. – we have re booked for 2024!!! Thanks Mr B and 'all'.**
- Colonial Incursion – Stage 2. See more on Page 3
- Open Day & Japanese Visitors – After lockdowns we are now getting back to normal. In Education week we once again had hundred of parents, carers, grandparents and friends visit our classes
- **Fisher's Ghost Artist participants & Winners Yay the arts.. Yay Mrs S.**



TERM 4 so far.

- Infants – Athletics – a huge thanks to the Sports in Schools Australia team, TAPS staff and community for organizing.
- **Colour Run – Thanks P&C!!!! – In week 3 students, staff and community ran .. we got chalked, squirted, hose, ran through, over and under blow up obstacles and even got slimed. Many students raised all kinds of money to support the school and add more equipment and resources to our playground. Thanks all who raised money, organized the day with a special thanks to our P&C (Nadia, Jen, Lauren & Julie), to Amanda & Glenn and all community volunteers and staff who supported the day and had laughs along the way.**
- Kindy O – kicked off this term. We had an information evening with loads of parents attending. A big thanks to my Kindy team and transition team for the evening and for supporting transition all year long and now into classrooms throughout Term 4.
- **VISION TESTING – Thanks to Amanda K and Laura (kindy mum) we managed to have 300 kids tested and supported with vision.. more to come soon.**

Dates & Events still to come

25.10.2, 1.11.23 & 8.11.233 Kindy

Orientation

6.11.23 – 17.11.23 – Dental Program -
Amanda

9.11.23 – Thomas Reddall Taster Day

4.12.23 – Sports Assembly

7.12.23 – Christmas Carols

11.12.23 – Presentation Day

13.12.23, – Year 6 Farewell –

- Mana Fair – TBA

- **Stage Fun Days – TBA**



External Validation – Our School Assessed as Excellent in Wellbeing Practices & Support as well as in Community Satisfaction

Last Term our school was assessed in a range of areas. Due to our caring approach and commitment and innovation around wellbeing practices and services from the classroom, to the playground to specific programs and counselling for anxiety and wellbeing, we were assessed as excellent. This is a credit to our whole school staff.

Community satisfaction, School services and processes were deemed excellent too. These were supported by parents ranking us for 6 out of 7 years above state average in all aspects of annual satisfaction surveys.

Attendance in 2024 continues to be a highlight as so far we remain consistently above states and at times on par or higher than local network schools.

We continue to develop and grow in learning and teaching as we proudly and steadily grow in effective classroom practices. However, our ongoing focus and commitment is to continuously improve in quality teaching and learning through engagement and professional learning in new Syllabus areas and teaching practices.



Participating in the TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEY... FORUMS for some Parents coming soon!!!

Now that External Validation has been and gone and online surveys have closed we are looking now to capture more student and parent voices – Soon we will be randomly selecting parents & their child/children to join us one afternoon to seek more information from parents about what parents and students want to see or know more about in classrooms & learning, in community involvement, in student potential, passion and gifts and what support parents and students would like in wellbeing. If you are super keen to be part of this please reach out to the school and Mr Pope.

STAGE 2 HISTORY INCURSION

Wow! What a day learning all about our history.

From being addressed by Governor Harris, pleading our case to the magistrates, travelling on the first fleet, working the land, building shelter, being treated for illness, doing the laundry and collecting and eating rations, all with Aboriginal perspectives.

Students gained insights of First Nations culture from some very special guests sharing their knowledge and culture. Students learnt about totems, land, Dreamtime, painting, artefacts, bush tucker and an online tour of Bennelong Point by the Opera House.

We also got to enjoy lemon myrtle pancakes with wattle-seed cream and damper throughout the day. Yum!

Thanks to all the amazing staff who made the day such a fun hands on learning experience for our students.

Behaviours we'd like to see as a school and in all NSW SCHOOLS

NSW Department of Education

Behaviour code for students NSW public schools

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.

Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity
- Speak and behave courteously
- Cooperate with others
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
- Take care with property

Safety

- Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
- Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
- Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
- Care for self and others
- Avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

Engagement

- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Arrive at school and class on time
- Be prepared for every lesson
- Actively participate in learning
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.



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A Word From Mr Pope

I'd like to loosely refer to the **Behaviour Code** (just to the left). They are all important and help create 'warmer', nicer classrooms and school environments. They also help children grow into successful adults who can work and live successfully with others.

I'd love to roll dignity and courteous into one word – **Kindness. Kindness and friendliness** to all is what the world needs now.

Teaching and modelling kindness for your children will help set them up for positive interactions with others throughout their lives. Kindness, friendliness and even forgiveness more often than not leads to kindness, friendliness and forgiveness in return. It can be contagious. Encourage your kids to be kind even when others aren't being kind. They can be assertive and say please don't talk to me that way but If you/they respond with calm and kindness it is a powerful teaching tool

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

– [Archbishop Desmond Tutu](#)

First Nations Students at Heartbeat

