Our New P&C Committee
Following the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday evening, the following office-bearers were elected:

President: Lea Blatch
Vice President: Lee-Anne Armstrong
Secretary: Diane Hunt
Treasurer: Narelle Shafer

Canteen Operations Manager: Lisa Williams
Canteen Stock Controller: Shannon Apps
Canteen Roster Coordinator: Joanne Mauro
Canteen Bookkeeper: Mel Moroz

Uniform Shop Coordinator: Amanda Lee
Uniform Shop Bookkeeper: Jo Tapp

Grants Coordinator: Unfilled
Auditor for 2013: Jeremy Phillips

Congratulations to these highly valued people – they make a great school even greater.

Principal’s Awards
Congratulations this week to:
Finley, Elise, Sophie, Ryan, Dustyn (2), Ella, James and Monique. Their picture will soon be on our website.

Aussies Of The Month (February)

**Early Stage 1**
Nominees: Emily, Tom
Winner: Daniel

**Stage 1**
Nominees: Brianna, Finley, Koby, Courtney
Winner: Kai

**Stage 2**
Nominees: Sarah, Laine, Rachelle
Winner: Erin

**Stage 3**
Nominees: Rose, Sam
Winner: Jazmin

Well done to these outstanding citizens. Look for the winners’ picture on our website!
Their pictures can be found soon on our website.
Assembly Awards
Congratulations to the following students, accidentally left out of last week’s newsletter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist Of The Week</th>
<th>4G</th>
<th>2B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Braden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematician Of The Week</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>Cameron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writer Of The Week</td>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Jessica</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Their pictures can be found soon on our website.

Working with Children Check
As of 15 June 2013, all people involved in child-related work (which includes those volunteering in our school) must either apply for a Working with Children Check Clearance, or complete a Working with Children Check Declaration. The implications for both are as follows:

- A WWCC Clearance, if granted, allows child-related work or volunteering across all organisations, including schools, sporting clubs, scouts/guides, etc. Applications are made online at www.kids.nsw.gov.au. There is no cost for volunteer clearance.
- A WWCC Declaration can be made by any person wishing to volunteer in the school, and includes a 100 Proof of Identity check. It is only valid for the place where it is lodged.

Either one of these is necessary for all volunteers in our school. This includes canteen, classroom assistance, sports coaching and any activity where there is contact with students.

Rugby League 7’s
All four of our teams had a successful day, with both girls teams winning their competitions, and our junior boys to contest the final in Campbelltown later this term. Thanks to Mr Berwick for coordinating, and to our parents who assisted with coaching and managing.

Emergency Drills
As part of the school’s Work Health and Safety policy, drills have been conducted in evacuation and lockdown this week. All students handled the disruption very well, and parents can be confident that in the event of a real emergency, our whole school is ready to cope with the situation calmly and efficiently.

Oaks Road Parking
Please observe the parking signs in front of the school, especially during peak morning and afternoon times. Cars should not be left unattended during these times, as it compromises the safety of other students being picked up or dropped off by their families.

Staff Professional Learning
Teachers have just begun Phase 3 of Focus on Reading. This program encourages and enables best practice in teaching literacy and achieving the objectives of the National Curriculum in English. Mrs Rofe is our in-school facilitator and is doing a great job.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
If your child is currently in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, they’ll sit NAPLAN tests this May. And despite what you may have heard, there’s no reason to panic or start an intensive study schedule for your child. Find out more:

Sushi train
Brown rice sushi rolls are a nutritious change to pack for school lunches. Unlike white rice sushi, they can be made the night before, and the filling can be adapted to suit your child’s preferences. Pack in a chiller bag with an icepack and include some little soy sauce fish.
Find out more:

School A to Z app
Do you struggle to understand your child’s homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments? This free homework helper app provides maths and English glossaries, assignment starters and more. Find out more:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z
Wild Australia app
Your child can use this terrific app as an interactive educational tool at Taronga Zoo in Sydney or at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo. Wild Australia can also be used at home to discover more about the zoos' amazing animals and interesting keepers.

Have a great week,
Stephen Lord

P&C Orange Anti-Bullying Day
This Friday 21 March is World Harmony Day and the National Day of Action Against Bullying. We encourage everyone to support this message by wearing your best orange clothes to school. The canteen will show their support by selling orange jelly with all money raised going to organize a future anti-bullying parent forum/information night.
Students participating in Swim Scheme need to come to school in normal school uniform and can change into their orange clothes after swimming

Expression of Interest
2014 Year 6 - Year 7 Enrolment
I would like to remind parents of Year 6 students about the Expression of Interest that went home a couple of weeks ago for enrolment in High School for 2015.

The Expression of Interest is to be returned to Thirlmere Public School by Friday 21 March. Please be sure to make that deadline, as there is a considerable amount of preparation for students transitioning into Year 7.

Please be reminded that the SRN number at the top right hand corner of the form will be done at school. Parents do not need to complete that part.

Mr Berwick
Assistant Principal

Uniform News
Our winter uniform is now available from the Uniform Shop. Please place your orders early to avoid having to wait for stock to come in. The shop is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8.30am to 9am and 2.30pm to 3pm. If you are unable to access the Uniform Shop during these times, orders can be placed through the office. Thank you. Amanda Lee

Thirlmere Student Joggers Club
Our Joggers Club started Tuesday 11 March from 8.30am to 8.50am and will continue each Tuesday and Wednesday (NOT Thursday as stated in the note). Please come along and join Mrs McLachlan, get fit and have fun.

Swim Scheme Reminder
Swim scheme started on Monday 17th March 2014. Please remember that children need to wear their swimming costume under their school uniform and bring a change of underwear and a towel in a waterproof bag.

Students who forget to bring their swimming costume will not be able to participate in the program that day. No refunds will be provided for absences.
All clothing and towels must be labelled with child’s name. Students must wear full school uniform/shoes and socks.

NO THONGS!
We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that all permission notes must be returned to the office with payment by the due date. Our new system will not allow us to take payments after the due date. This is not negotiable. To avoid disappointment please pay upcoming excursions and events before the due date. If you need to discuss financial assistance please contact the school.

Our new Statements of Account were a success!

Change of office hours – 8.30am to 3pm

The new programs implemented recently have required the administration staff to make substantial changes to our day-to-day duties and procedures. Consequently, for the office run efficiently, we will not be receipting money from 2.30pm. If you are paying by cash, money can be placed in a clip lock bag or an envelope and placed in the Frogs Mouth, a receipt will be issued to the child the following school day for your records.

We also take this opportunity to inform you that the office will be closed from 3pm each day in order for us to complete the end of day requirements by the required timeframes. The office will be open from 8.30am each weekday. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Whole Absences

We are happy to advise that we are now in full use of using the new Finance, Student Administration and Student Wellbeing Program.

With these new programs came a change in the way rolls and whole absences are marked. The rolls and absentee notes are now entered directly into the system by the classroom teacher and not by administration staff. Absentee notes can still be placed in the Frogs Mouth and will be forward on to the class teacher.

We also take this opportunity to advise that the new program only allows 7 days for absentee notes to be presented to the school. After 7 days from the first day of absence the Department harvests this information and will consider the absence as unjustified. All absences are counted at the end of each semester and noted on the students report card.

To assist parents with explaining absences, a standard Absentee Notice is available to complete from the office or can be downloaded from the School Website under the Permission Notes tab.

Please note that the new program does not allow us to generate absentee letters for an unexplained absence as yet. Access to send these letters to parents may be available in the near future.

Partial Absences

All partial absences (late arrivals and early departures) are entered directly into the new program through the office. We thank parents for their patience as the program is quiet slow at present.

Should your child be late to school, they will need to come to the office to get signed in and obtain a late pass to give to the class teacher. The student needs to inform administration staff of the reason for being late and this information gets noted in the system.

If you need to collect your child from school early, you are required to sign the student out through the office before collecting the student from the classroom. A reason will need to be explained and again will get recorded in the system.

The Department’s Home School Liaison Officer requests partial absence and whole absence reports on a regular basis and is authorized to contact parents to discuss the child in questions attendance patterns.

All partial absences are counted at the end of the semester and noted in the student’s report card.
SCHOOL FINANCE & OFFICE NEWS

Merit Awards
Attached to the newsletter is a Merit Certificate Information sheet for your information. The information sheet explains the requirements and Merit Card process. Please see further instructions in this newsletter.

We also take this opportunity to remind parents that 4 Merit Awards are needed to receive a Principals Award. These Merit Awards need to be placed in the frogs mouth by Tuesday for the student to receive the Principals Award on the following Monday morning assembly. A note will be given to the child to remind you of the upcoming assembly that the student will receive their Principals Award. 4 Star Awards need to be given to the class teacher in exchange for 1 Merit Award.

Afternoon pick-ups
As the office will be closed from 3pm each weekday, we request that parents make alternative arrangements with the student before coming to school if you expect you may be delayed in the afternoon. Please confirm with your child/ren that they understand your pick-up instructions or alternatively advise the class teacher in the morning.

Thank you
Administration Staff

Rugby League 7 a Side
On Tuesday, 11 March, we sent four teams to participate in the Rugby League 7 a Side Gala Day at Kirkham Park. The Junior Boys and Senior Boys won their competition, as did the Senior Girls, who won very convincingly in their Grand Final. The Senior Boys missed out narrowly to qualify for their semi-final, but they showed outstanding skill in the games leading up to the semi-final.

All of our players were great ambassadors for our school, and I was proud to be the teacher associated with them. Thanks to all parents who helped, either on the day or in the days leading up to the day. I am looking forward to our next Gala Day.

Mr Berwick

Year 6 would like to invite you to a Sporty Disco

Thursday 20th March
K-2: 5:00pm—6:00pm
3-6: 6:30pm—8:00pm
Tickets are $5 per child, $10 per family. Tickets on sale from Monday 17/3/14
Excursions, Notes and Payment Due Dates

**Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)**

*Last Day to Pay:*
- Sporty Disco – Thu 20 Mar

**Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)**

*Last Day to Pay:*
- Camden Show – Fri 21 Mar
- Sporty Disco – Thu 20 Mar

**Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)**

*Last Day to Pay:*
- Botany Bay – Wed 7 May
- Sporty Disco – Thu 20 Mar

**Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6)**

*Last Day to Pay:*
- Sporty Disco – Thu 20 Mar

Notes sent home this week for all stages
- Sporty Disco Sausage Sizzle
- Camden Show Colouring Competition

NO PAYMENTS FOR EXCURSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER “LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT” DATE.

**Footsteps Dance Program**

The Footsteps Dance Program will continue on Thursdays for the remainder of this term and until Week 5 of Term 2, last day being 29 May. This activity is an important part of our Fitness and Performing Arts program. Dance is an essential movement skill that contributes positively to the growth of all students. The program is taught by qualified dance instructors on a weekly basis.

Please note that students should come dressed as they normally would for a Thursday. That is K-2 in their sports uniform and Years 3-6 in their normal school uniform.

**Bug Reading is alive!!!**

www.pearsonplaces.com.au

Staff are currently in the process of setting up student accounts and reading groups. Your child will soon bring home a username and password to access this site. Books at a level appropriate for your child to read independently will be allocated by the class teacher. Within each text there are activities directed at all areas of comprehension for students to work through. Please remember that books will be set below your child’s instructional reading level in order for them to work independently through the tasks. This is not the level reader your child is working on in the classroom.

**Premier’s Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition**

This year students at Thirlmere Public School will be given the opportunity to participate in the Premier’s Multicultural Public Speaking Competition. This will be optional for all students in Years 3 – 6. The school competition will be held in Term 2 (Week 2).

Students will present both a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. For their prepared speech, contestants must choose a topic from the list of multicultural topics provided. The prepared speech must have multicultural content. The impromptu speech is chosen by the adjudicator on the day, and will be on a general, non-multicultural theme.

Students are to prepare their speech at home. Mrs Byrne will meet with interested students to provide them with assistance on how to plan their speech. Further information is on the information sheet that will be sent home with students.

Co-ordinator – Mrs Byrne

Band News

**All Band Fees for Term 1 2014 are now overdue**

If overdue payments are not received by the end of Term 1, then students will not be able to attend lessons till account is up to date as the Tutor requires payment.

All Band Contracts are now due. Please return your contract to the office as soon as possible if you have not done so as yet.

Thank you.
Thirlmere Public School Student Award System

| 4 AWARDS           | = 1 PRINCIPAL’S AWARD     |
| 4 PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS | = 1 BANNER             |
| 2 BANNERS          | = 1 GOLD MEDAL           |

Once a student has received 4 awards, they may be handed in to the Office in order to receive a Principal’s Award. Parents are notified, via a note, when these awards are to be given to students. This is usually Monday morning assembly.

When a student has 4 Principal’s Awards, they must take these and the attached merit awards to the office. Their name will then be entered in the register to receive a banner, or if their second banner, a Gold Medal. We hold the Medal assemblies twice a year and parents will be notified of the date and time for these assemblies.

The following is a list of eligible awards:

- Merit Awards - given fortnightly at K-2 and 3-6 Assemblies
- Writer of the Week Award
- Mathematics Award
- Oracy Competition Awards
- Artist of the Week Award – recognizing students in dance, drama, music or art
- Aussie of the Month Winner and Nominations
- Merit Award for 100 nights reading K-6 (Home Reading and Ribit)
- Sportsmanship Awards – 4 for a Merit Award
- Star Awards – 4 for a Merit Award (playground/assembly awards/project award)
Dear Parent,

**Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online**

Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, our school is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, teachers and students, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge.

Thirlmere Public School is committed to helping students develop appropriate behaviours when using digital technologies, both at school and home. Our program of internet safety initiatives includes:

- following Department of Education & Communities protocols when using technology
- issuing explicit instructions on safe internet surfing, and what to do if anything inappropriate appears on screen
- clear guidelines for communicating by e-mail.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on:
Monday 7 April, 2014 (2pm for students; 3pm for staff and 5:30pm for parents/carers)

To register your attendance, please contact the school as soon as possible. Enrolments will also be accepted on the night.

Regards,

Stephen Lord  
Principal  
19 March 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>SIZES</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>QTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wide brim hat</td>
<td>XS/S, S/M, M/L, L/XL</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Summer dress</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Winter tunic</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14</td>
<td>$44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polo shirt short sleeve</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20,22</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polo shirt long sleeve</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microfibre jacket</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip cardigan</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emblem jumper</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey cargo shorts</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls skirts</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport shorts</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports shirt short sleeve</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microfibre track pants</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleecy track pants (with cuff)</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleecy trackpants (straight leg)</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey trousers</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls bootleg pants</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls dress pant</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skivvy</td>
<td>4,6,8,10,12</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball skirts</td>
<td>6,8,10,12,14,16</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tights</td>
<td>4-6yrs, 7-10yrs, 11-14yrs</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polar fleece scarf</td>
<td>One size</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankle socks (pack 5)</td>
<td>9-12, 13-3, 2-8 grey or white</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art smock</td>
<td>One size</td>
<td>$13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football socks</td>
<td>9-2, 2-7, 7-10</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School badge</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursion Bag &amp; Drink Bottle</td>
<td>Sold as a set ONLY</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**  $  

**Childs Name_______________________________** Year/Class__________

**Contact Name_____________________________** Phone No:____________

Please tick option for collection: *Payment options are cash/cheque*

I will collect from school  
Please deliver to my child’s class  
I will collect from the uniform shop
### 125<sup>th</sup> MEMORABILIA ORDER FORM

**LIMITED QUANTITIES**  
ORDER WILL BE SENT HOME WITH STUDENT WITHIN FEW DAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student: __________________</th>
<th>Class: __________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Qty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Book</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Qty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Cotton or Calico Bag</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>Qty Black — <strong>Now In Stock</strong> Qty Calico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>Qty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea Towel</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Qty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbottle</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>Qty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursion bag &amp; Waterbottle Set</td>
<td>To be purchased through Uniform Shop</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>Qty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Book</td>
<td>Includes pictures of all current students and our schools history — focusing on last 25 years</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Qty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total | $ | Total |

You can view all above items in the school office.

Payment by cash only until further notice to the school office.
School Newsletter

To embrace the technological nature of society, our newsletter is now being delivered by email. In the space provided below, please indicate the email address/es you wish to use to receive the newsletter.

1st Parent/Guardian Email : ........................................................................................................

2nd Parent/Guardian Email : ........................................................................................................

3rd Parent/Guardian Email : ........................................................................................................

Extra School Reports

In some households there is a need for a second report to be sent to another parent not permanently residing with the student.

Reports go home at the end of Semester One and Semester Two.

If you require a second report, please provide us with the following details.

Name:........................................................................................................................................

Address:....................................................................................................................................

Relationship:..............................................................................................................................

Email address:............................................................................................................................

If you have any updated Court Orders/AVO’s that you have not provided to the school yet, could you please arrange a copy as soon as possible.

We also require you to advise the ladies in the office if the structure at home has changed so that we can update our records accordingly.
Are you interested in joining our Book Club?

We are looking for family and friends of Thirlmere Public School who enjoy reading and may be interested in joining an over-18’s book club.

The plan is to meet informally one evening a month to discuss a book that has been voted on by the group. Book Club works best if we have around 10-13 members. Days/dates/times/books will be put to a vote once we know who is keen to join us!

Joining a book club is a great way to show our children that reading is an enjoyable, social event. We read for fun. It is not something that just happens at school!

If you would like to be part of Thirlmere’s Book Club or have any questions please email Gaby on gabrielle.gutjahr@det.nsw.edu.au.

Keep calm and join Thirlmere’s Book Club

Come to Playgroup and meet others in a relaxed and friendly environment.

A Playgroup is a place for you and your children aged 0-6 to have fun, make new friends and develop skills through play.

Thirlmere Playgroup
Thirlmere Public School Hall
Cnr Goodlet & Mason Streets
Thirlmere
Mondays 10am

PATRICIA YVONNE ACADEMY OF DANCE, DRAMA & THEATRE ARTS

THIRLMERE
THIRLMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL HALL
MONDAY & THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

BALLET - DRAMA – TAP – JAZZ
MODERN - LYRICAL
HIP HOP - MUSICAL THEATRE

Students trained for E.D.T.A.
Examinations & Stagecraft
Beginners from 3yrs to Advanced

ENQUIRIES & REGISTRATION: contact Miss Patricia
(02) 4647 7728 or 0418 273115 (Mornings best)
Email: pyaddta@bigpond.com

@ Mowbray Park Farm
Picton NSW
$230 (incl MEALS, accommodation & activities)

hors eriding archery obstacle course ART canoeing
CAMPFIRE bushwalking photography tennis ANIMAL NURSERY
outdoor games

Monkey Mind Coaching
Empowering Minds
Transforming Lives
Clare-Ann Taylor (BEd)
0401199635
www.monkeymind.com.au

STADS + AGENCY
Sarah Scholts – Managing Director
0415 995 225
p 4683 0193 e s.t.a.d.s@bigpond.com www.s-t-a-d-s.com