From the Principal

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Over the summer holidays there were some interesting articles and comments in relation to children and their learning. Graham Jaeschke (General Manager SA, The Smith Family) wrote an article about how vital a parent’s role was in a child’s education.

He said that “the evidence is clear that the strongest influence on a child’s future is a parent’s expectation and aspirations for their child – the value they place on education and what they believe their child can achieve… it’s about parents taking an active interest and getting involved in the child’s learning journey.”

This doesn’t mean that the parent has to be an expert but it can be as simple as conversations about what their child is learning and interested in. For instance, listening to or hearing a child read for 10 minutes a day can have a significant effect on their overall ability in literacy.

There has also been some interesting research about the impact of digital technology on children and families. Are children having too much screen time? As parents are you interacting enough with your child, or is your digital device taking up more of your focus? We are starting to hear new phrases like “digital detox”. This means reducing / restricting an individual’s time with digital devices. Could you go a whole weekend without your digital device? It would be hard wouldn’t it? Technology is a great asset in our lives but does it consume us? Have you got the right balance?

So at the start of a new school year, I think it is important to reflect on three things:

- Have you got the right balance in your life in relation to digital technology?
- Do you feel you are engaged enough with your child’s learning?
- Have you embraced the power of reading and the benefit to your child?

All parents want the best for their child and parenting is a constant juggle and learning how to adapt. It may be a challenge but it is worth it in the long run.

Cheers
Shaun
Welcome back to the school year! My name is Alysha Milani and I will be continuing to teach the Japanese program this year at Thiele Primary School.

During term 1 there are many cultural events which occur on the Japanese calendar. Students are going to learn about the Japanese New Year by finding out about the traditions & Year of the Monkey.

R/1 classes
Their theme this term is Greetings and Self-Introduction. Students will be completing these learning activities during the term.
- Learn how to greet their teachers and peers in Japanese.
- Learn 2 greetings songs.
- Trace their name in Japanese
- Present their self-introduction to the class including name and age.

1/2 & 2/3 classes
Their theme this term is Self-Introduction & Family. Students will be completing these learning activities during the term.
- Present a self-introduction in Japanese including name, age and their favourite animal.
- Learn family member names in Japanese.
- Learn how to say how many people are in their family.
- Trace and copy family words in Kanji.
- Describe family members using 4 different adjectives.

Year 3-7 classes
Their theme this term is hiragana. Students will be completing these learning activities during the term.
- Students will be learning and revising the Hiragana alphabet through a comprehensive writing and assessment booklet.

I hope you had wonderful holidays and are feeling like you are ready for 2016! Just an encouragement to set goals this year, make sure you are striving for bigger and better things, and no matter what the year brings, focus on the positives in life because as people and a country we have so much to be thankful for.

I look forward to seeing you in the yard or at assemblies this term and if you need to speak with me I am contactable via the front office or via a note in my mailbox in the office.

Happy 2016!
ICAS – International Competitions and Assessments for Schools

If you would like your child to participate in these assessments this year please complete the following tear off slip and return to the Front Office with your payment by **Wednesday 30th March 2016**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Student/s name</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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<td>Digital Technologies</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
<td>13-17th June</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>15th June</td>
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<td>English</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>16th August</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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**Sustainability**

To support our value of Sustainability students are encouraged to place 10c containers in the orange bins located in the corridor near their classroom. These containers are counted each week and the class who collects the most 10c containers has “Palmy” visit their room. Palmy is an orang-utan from Borneo. The money raised from the 10c recycled containers support the school’s sustainability programs. I wonder who is going to be the first class to care for Palmy?

**Litter Free Lunches**

To support sustainability and our environment students are encouraged to bring litter free lunches to school. Many healthy foods come with their own packaging – bananas, mandarins, apples, oranges and there are many creative ways of packing lunches to support this program. Let’s see how creative you can be with your child’s lunch box.

**Volunteers**

“Many hands make light work” and there are many opportunities for you to volunteer within our school - listening to reading, LAP, supporting children with areas of their school work, parent liaison, BBQ’s, excursions, camps, art and craft, gardening, Campus Fair, etc.

If you are able to volunteer on a regular basis, at certain times for special events or have some skills that you are willing to share please complete the tear off form and return to your child’s teacher.

**New Beginnings Program**

It is important for everyone to have a new start especially after a long holiday break when everyone is feeling refreshed and energised. This year in the New Beginnings Program the students have attended sessions presented by the Scouts, Julian Burn’s Trust and “Raptor” the Monster Truck. The Julian Burton Burns Trust focused on the different types of burns, keeping yourself safe from burns and first aid treatment for burns. Their message was also about working together to protect yourself and your mates by being responsible for your actions and by making strong choices.

“Raptor” was big, loud and colourful, but sent a message about safety on the roads, footpaths and when travelling in the car.

Thanks Sharon

**HEALTH PLANS**

If your child requires medication at school (EpiPen, Ventolin, Ritalin, Panadol, etc) a Health Plan is required from the prescribing doctor. If you don’t have a new Health Plan for 2016, please collect one from the Thiele front office and return it as soon as possible. We are having swimming in Term 1 and it is important to have this information up to date for the swimming instructors and also camps / excursions.
2016 will be a busy, exciting year for Performing Arts on Campus. We offer many wonderful opportunities for students in the form of comprehensive classroom Performing Arts lessons, a vibrant Instrumental Music Program, groups/ensembles such as Senior and Junior Choirs, Drama Club, Troupe, and Campus Band, and a multitude of performance opportunities throughout the year that include Campus Fair performances, Instrumental Music Night, Campus Showcase, Adelaide and Southern Music Festivals, and individual school musicals and performances.

Instrumental lessons

We currently offer Recorder lessons from Year 2, and flute, keyboard/piano, ukulele, guitar, voice, saxophone, clarinet, drums, violin, viola and cello lessons from Year 3 onwards. Instrumental lessons generally start in Weeks 2-3. Our talented Instrumental music teachers demonstrated their instruments to our students at our Instrumental Assembly on Thursday of Week 1. Booklets were handed out to interested students at this assembly, and Instrumental teachers will be contacting the parents/guardians of commencing students over the next few weeks, once they have received your form. If your child missed the assembly or did not bring home a booklet and you are interested in your child learning an instrument (including voice), please drop in to the Campus Office to collect an Instrumental Music Student Information booklet. Likewise, if you have not heard from your child’s instrumental teacher by the end of Week 3, please let us know via the Campus Office.

Bands & Choirs

Senior and Junior Choirs and Campus Band start rehearsing in Week 3. Junior Choir is open to all students in Years 3-5, and Senior Choir to all students in Years 6-7 (compulsory for all Year 6 students). Campus Band is open to suitably skilled students in Years 5-7 – these students must have learnt their instrument for at least a year and be able to read basic notation/chords/tab. To participate, students need to commit to a full year’s participation, including performance attendance, and a small fee will be charged to cover resources/transport/ensemble T-shirts, etc. Students are required to attend rehearsals promptly and regularly, and to catch up any class work missed as required. Each ensemble will start with an information session for students in Week 3.

Rehearsals are held in the PAC as follows:
- Wednesdays Senior Choir 9.15-10.05am, and
- Thursdays Campus Band 12.10-12.50pm, Junior Choir 1.30pm-2.20pm.

Drama Club

Our theatrically-minded students will have the opportunity to develop their dramatic skills with the talented Ms Lauren Hood this year, participating in a range of drama activities and performance opportunities. Drama Club is open to Year 5-7 students this year. Administration fees are $11, and the club will run Thursday lunchtimes in the Performing Arts Centre. Students are required to commit to a full year’s participation to be involved.

Campus Troupe

Troupe is open to all Year 5-7 students with an interest in dance, movement and/or choreography. Auditions will be held at the PAC on Tuesday lunchtime in Week 3, and rehearsals will continue on Tuesday lunchtimes in the PAC throughout the year. Performances throughout the year will include Showcase, and school and/or Campus assemblies.

Notices with information regarding all Ensembles will be sent home at the first rehearsal – if your child is absent on the day, please collect a notice from the Campus Office.

On behalf of the Performing Arts and Instrumental teaching staff, I wish you all a fun and fantastic year of Performing Arts experience!

Ally Cunningham
Performing Arts Coordinator