Dear Parents / Caregivers,

It’s hard to believe we only have made it to the end of the 1st Term for 2016. Being a short Term, we have had to cram many activities and learning episodes into a short space of time. Our staff, deserve congratulations for their tireless efforts to ensure all students are engaged in their learning during the Term.

**EKindy Pilot Program**
Last week I attended training in Brisbane around the Term 2 implementation of the Kindy Pilot Program. 11 schools from across the state have been selected to participate in the trial that will see our Kindy kids given the opportunity to complete an accredited Kindy program at Thargomindah State School. Funding is being provided by the Department to cover course costs and teacher aide hours to assist in program delivery. To have kindy formally attached to our school is a landmark opportunity and it will be terrific to see this service embedded in our school practice for families now, and in the future, to access.

Steve Bennett
Principal

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**THURSDAY 24TH**

Jonah—Good effort in work all week

Stevie—Great effort in Science

James—Well behaved in class and working hard all week

Sonny—Crossing the road safely

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**END OF TERM EASTER BONNET PARADE**
HELLO FROM THE P–2 CLASS!

Miss Hollis and I were very fortunate to attend a professional development day in Toowoomba last Saturday. The presenter was Dr Anita Archer and the day was about explicit instruction. Explicit instruction is how we engage with our students and how the students engage in their learning. Over next term Miss Hollis and I will be implementing some of her elements within our lessons.

The term is almost over and what a busy term it has been! We have come to the end of our assessments and the children have worked very hard. As a reward for their hard work we will be watching “Inside Out” on Thursday. We have looked at this movie in detail this term and it will be a very nice way to finish the term by making the connections that we have learnt over the term. The children will also complete a video on the characters and share their experiences.

Number has been a focus for us within our maths lessons. This will continue into next term. The children need to be able to recognise, build and name the number. Last week we looked at building patterns and the children were able to not only create a basic pattern they also made growing patterns.

In history we have been looking at the history of mobile phones. The children have used technology to make a poster to share their work.

Thank you to Shonnell, Chrissy, Akasha and Amity for their help within our classroom over the last few weeks.

***Looking for magazines for the classroom. If you have some laying around please drop them into the school.***

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Easter!!! See you all in Term 2.

Trish

3–6 CLASS NEWS

Wow! Already the last week of term 1! I am sure you all, as am I, are very much looking forward to well a deserved break. There was no homework for the 3–6 class during the last week, however, it will resume first week of term 2. Students are beginning to know and follow the routine, although a little more practice is needed.

Our student councillors were chosen last week - I would like to take this opportunity again to congratulate all who went for positions, as well as those eager to still be on the team and help move Thargomindah State School forward. I know this group will do a fantastic job!

This week we are wrapping up all our assessment. Our persuasive writing is just about finished and our art and maths assessments are handed in.

Next term we are continuing looking at the First Fleet and European settlement in Australia. We will also begin our study of a narrative for English and continue on with numbers and geometry for maths.

We have a lot to look forward to next term, and a lot of work to do!

I hope you have a wonderful Easter break and look forward to seeing you again next term.

Amy
Our final week at school this term included in making lots of Easter crafts such as:

- Easter Bunny ears
- Baskets
- Eggs
- Colouring in pictures

Next term, EKindy will be run as a Kindergarten program through Thargomindah State School, although the Ekindy units will still be included.

I look forward to gain a better understanding of the program and continue to use the opportunity for making the students transition into prep easier in 2017.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Ekindy class are wanting to make a milk bottle Igloo! We would appreciate if you thoroughly clean and deliver any empty 2 Litre milk bottles that you are going to throw away to the school so we can quickly put it together and use for a reading cubby or pretend play prop :)

Makala Byrne

SECONDARY SCHOOL UPDATE………

The Easter break is here already. Although some weeks can seem long, the term seems to have flown. As term 1 comes to an end, Chrissy, Cody and Reece Doyle are leaving and will be going to school at Dalby State High School. They will be boarding at the residence associated with the school there. We wish them every success in their senior secondary years.

Being the end of the term there has been a lot of assessment for the students to complete. The year 11 girls had a two hour maths exam late last week and other assessment in English and Science. The Charleville SDE students are also completing assessments tasks in English, maths, science and geography as well as ongoing tasks in agricultural science, art, ICT and LOTE. As you can see, if everyone stays on task it is a busy program. Don’t forget to always know where your child is at by firstly asking them then keeping in regular touch with their school, Charleville SDE and their teachers.

Jacinta is showing us that she has a positive approach to LOTE (Japanese) this year. I hear her calling in during her lesson to answer many of the questions asked and she regularly practises the spoken language. Then you can see by the photograph of our whiteboard that she writes the Japanese symbols as well. Well done, Jacinta.

Every now and then Helen Cook, Charleville SDE’s Parent Liaison & Enrolment Officer emails through a thought provoking quote. I thought this week’s was worthy of sharing with our students and so it is written on the board too.

It says, 3 ways to fail at everything in life
1. Blame everything on others
2. Complain about everything
3. Not be grateful

I wrote in the last newsletter that we were to attend multi-school during week 8. However, due to all the rain around the Mt.Isa area this has been postponed until week 1 of term 2.

Although there were three very disappointed girls when this news came through, they have it to look forward to at the start of next term.

Enjoy the Easter break everyone and we’ll see you in the second week of term 2.

Carmel Beresford
Attendance

Your child’s attendance is crucial everyday to ensure academic success. Teachers are busy delivering the curriculum and completing assessment for units of work. Currently our attendance rate for the year is 90.1% for the whole school and a further breakdown can be found below. This is well below our target of 94%.

Year level attendance to date:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Attendance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>78.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>93.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>99.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>99.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>93.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>92.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>75.64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The role parent’s play in their child’s education cannot be underestimated. A study conducted as part of the Australian Government’s “Students First” reform agenda showed that parent engagement is associated with improvements across a range of indicators, including:

- better education outcomes
- enhanced engagement with schoolwork
- more regular school attendance
- better behaviour
- and increased social skills

One of the most common, and dare I say simplest ways to engage with your child’s learning is through homework.

Below are some helpful hints taken from the Kids Health website.

- **Set up a homework-friendly area**—Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework.
- **Keep supplies** — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
- **Schedule a regular study time**—Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
- **Help them make a plan**—Create a work schedule for the night if necessary and take time for a break,
- **if possible. Keep distractions to a minimum**— This means no TV, loud music, or phonecalls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)
- **Make sure kids do their own work**—They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a kid's job to do the learning.
- **Be a motivator and monitor**—Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests.
- **Give encouragement**, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
- **Set a good example**— Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents’ examples than their advice.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CASUAL POSITIONS

Teacher Aide: This position is for 25 hours per week for Term 2 2016 (i.e. 11th April – 24th June 2016). Ideally, applicants will be available to attend an interview Monday, 11th April 2016. The successful applicant will commence work on Tuesday 12th April.

Cleaner: This position is on an “as-needs” basis. The successful applicant will be available for relief cleaning when our permanent cleaner is on leave. Interviews will be held on Monday 11th April 2016.

Groundscare: This position is on an “as-needs” basis. Interviews will be held on Monday 11th April 2016.

Interested applicants are required to submit an Expression of Interest outlining any experience they may have in the position applied for. Expressions of Interest are to be received by 5:00pm on Friday, 8th April 2016 and should be addressed to:

The Principal
P.O. Box 303
THARGOMINDAH QLD 4492

Steven Bennett
PRINCIPAL

24th March 2016

The Greatest School in the Far South West