Dear Parents and Community members,

Week 3 of Term 3 is over and for many the holidays are a distant memory. Our students have settled well back into the routine and a strong learning culture is evident in all classrooms. With the change to the morning bell time, we have been able to start lessons promptly at 9:00, with students settled and ready to learn.

I hope that everyone has a fantastic day at our Athletics Carnival and a great week.

Speech Sound Pics (SSP)

Literacy is a high priority in Thargomindah State School’s Strategic Plan. For the last two weeks, we have restructured our morning literacy block to include a program, SSP. Literacy is a complex process and there has been much research into how it should be taught. It has been recognised that there are six components to effective literacy education – oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary knowledge. SSP targets these areas and assists students to “decode” while they are reading. A brochure has been included with this newsletter to help explain the process. We are very excited about this as already we have seen progress in students.

There will be an information meeting on Monday, August 1 at 6:00pm to explain how SSP is implemented in the daily classroom.

Volunteers

Thargomindah is very fortunate to have an amazingly supportive council, the benefits of which flow to our students. It is with this support from council that parents are being given the opportunity to join us in our classrooms. If you would like to join our classes for an hour (from 9 until 10) and assist with literacy building, please come and see us to put your name on our roster.

Staff changes

This week we farewell Makala who is leaving us to take up a childcare position in Longreach. Tracey has also extended her leave and will be embarking on a new pathway.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to both Makala and Tracey as they pursue other avenues in life.

Welcome to Amy Little who will be joining our staff from next week. We look forward to having Amy on staff.

Athletics Carnival

Please join us for our Athletics Carnival tomorrow. Yowah State School and Distance Education students from the district will also be joining us. Starter’s gun goes off at 9:00!

Anja
Welcome to week 3! Not a lot from me this week. Students have been working well in class with most achieving the high expectations set. They have taken on more responsibility for their own learning with the adoption of SSP into the classrooms. I am very eager to see the growth in each student over the semester.

This week saw the introduction of SSP into the classrooms. SSP (Speech Sound Pics) is a new approach aimed at increasing student achievement within English. It helps students with spelling, writing and comprehension. The 3-6 students have really taken a shine to the approach and I have already seen improvements with their spelling. It is great seeing them use their ‘duck’ hands and spell words they would normally have trouble with. Please ask your children about SSP.

This week I am travelling to Brisbane for the 7 Steps of Writing coaching course. I am very excited to gain more skills in this area and to come back and implement my learning into the classroom. While I am away, the students will be competing at the athletics carnival. I wish them all luck!

Have a great week!

Amy
What a busy start to term 3. It has been a pleasure to have all the children come back and be ready and raring to pick up where we left off. The exciting news for our school is the commencement of SSP (Speech, Sound Pics). The children are loving SSP and in only a very short time, they are seeing different sounds that they have not heard clearly before. It has been enlightening! Watch this space as I am sure we will see more improvement as time goes by.

Our English unit is coming along really well. Currently we are in Japan and have checked out some of the famous sites. Next week we take off to France and then England. As a group we have shared some great experiences in the different countries. The kids are having a ball. This unit also ties in with our geography unit "A special place". The Preps are working on Thargomindah. While the Year 1 & 2’s have chosen a country that they are interested in.

In our health unit we are looking at how to control our emotions and cooperate with other people. This works really well with our PE lessons where we are teaching the children athletics and ball games. Within in these lessons they are taking turns and sharing. With the Olympic games only 10 days away it will be great to see our children shining in tomorrow's athletics day. Good luck to all.

GO BURKE!!!

Trish

Kindy Pilot News

As of Monday this week, I was excited to hear that I have been offered the position as an Educator Assistant for Longreach Regional Council’s Childcare Centre. Next week will be my last week at Thargomindah State School!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time of being the Kindy Teacher Aide over the last year and a half. I have gained more than enough experience and skills to further myself in the Education of Early Childhood and can’t thank all the parents, staff, students and community members enough for their tremendous amount of support and kindness during my time here.

I will sadly miss all the Kindy students that I have helped venture into school as Preps and my current two Kindy students Alisha and Charli. I am more than proud to have witnessed them grow and develop as young learners and wish them all best for their future years of schooling 😊

Makala Byrne
Kindy Teacher Aide
The earlier children learn to read, the earlier they can start reading to learn.
Learning early also increases self-confidence, and the potential to equate reading
with pleasure. Reading for pleasure increases the likelihood of children choosing to
read independently. This in turn, improves their vocabulary knowledge and
comprehension. So our aim is that every child is reading and writing with confidence,
even though all will reach this destination in a different way.

What is SSP?
The Speech Sound Pics (SSP) Approach to the teaching of reading and spelling is based on over a decade of research
relating to ‘the reading brain’. The biggest predictor of reading and spelling success or failure is Phonemic Awareness, the ability
to hear, identify and manipulate (change) sounds. Without good Phonemic Awareness, children will struggle to understand
Phonics, the written sounds. In SSP each student is taught in the
way that is most effective for them. SSP activities and readers
are appealing to boys and girls, and can be accessed by parents
and carers at home, for free, on tablets or computers.

Duck Hands
Students use their hands to
show speech sounds as they
say them going from their left
to right. It helps focus on
placement/segmenting so they
can see the order of
the speech sounds.
Each time our mouth
changes it is a new
speech sound.

Lines & Numbers
When we say a word students
need to hear and work out
how many sounds are in that
word.

\[
\text{sat} = \_\_\_
\]
The numbers beneath the lines
help the students with ordering
showing that the words go
from left to right.

1 2 3

SSP Spelling Strategy
Writing was created to translate speech into print. We call writing ‘talking on
paper’. The smaller parts of our spoken words can be represented by ‘pictures of
speech sounds’, and these are created using letters, or combinations of letters. In
order to find reading and spelling relatively easy, children need to learn to hear
those smaller parts, to split them, know their order and ideally to also manipulate
them. This is the biggest focus, when first learning to read and spell, as this ‘wires
the brain’ to make sense of print, even though this stage doesn’t include print, or
letters. This strategy will enable them to spell 99% of English words, without having to
memorise them.

- [SSP Spelling Strategy]
  - lay the word
  - listen for the speech sounds and work out how many there are
  - draw the lines and numbers
  - work out the sound pics

They can also read any word they have never seen
before, in the same way! They start from the left,
identifying the sound pics, and then blending them
into a word. Children learn to decode high frequency
words, to give them more choices when writing.

Sound Clouds
Spelling Clouds give children instant access to every
spelling choice. So when spelling the word ‘fish’ the only
options are shown within these three Spelling Clouds.

Speech Sound Detectives
Students choose a product and write words from that product on their
whiteboard. They read the words (can ask for help if needed) and do lines and numbers. Or, look through magazines/ newspapers for
a specific sound, cut out and glue in the detectives journal. Each
week classes will have a sound focus. Students are asked to
find things with that sound and bring them in to add them to
our Speech Sound Detectives table.