EARLY STAGE ONE – Kindergarten Teachers: Miss Cathy Mitchell/Mrs Jocelyn Fraser

LIBRARY – Teacher: Mrs Kerry Underwood
Kindergarten is allocated a 45 minute library session.

- Students can access the library at lunch times every day - 1:05pm to 1:25pm.
- Book loans are for one week but can be renewed.
- There are no overdue fines - please make sure books are returned on time.
- Library bags (available from the Office $5) are essential to protect valuable library resources.
- The library reading incentive program promotes reading. Mrs Underwood, our Librarian can assist parents with more information on this scheme.
- Book Club - students can buy books each month. Look out for the monthly brochure.

SUPPORT TEACHER
Mrs Sandra Jorritsma provides support to those students who are experiencing difficulties in literacy and numeracy. Students accessing this program are prioritised following a referral by the classroom teacher to the school’s Learning Support Team. Parents/carers will be informed if learning support is to be accessed.

RELEASE FROM FACE TO FACE (RFF)
During the RFF time the classroom teachers prepare and plan their teaching programs. Other members of staff, Mrs Sibyl, Mrs Kerry Underwood or Mrs Simpson (Music) provide educational programs planned with the classroom teacher.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
The School Counsellor attends the school on Mondays. Students are referred to the School Counsellor by teachers (with parental permission) or parents. The School Counsellor will work with teachers and parents to support student learning behaviour and social skills.

KEY LEARNING AREAS (KLAs)
COGS (Connected Outcomes Groups) are integrated units of work which cover Science, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts, and PD/Health/PE.

- This year the following units will be taught:
  - Term 1 – Me/School Safety
  - Term 2 – Our Place/Built Environments
  - Term 3 – Healthy Choices/Our Needs
  - Term 4 – Changes/Celebrations

English - Covers areas of reading, writing, language, spelling and handwriting. Literacy sessions are held every day.

Mathematics - The mathematics program involves a range of activities that focus on working mathematically in numeration, space and measurement. Mathematics lessons are from 11:35-12:45.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE)

- Games and Sport/Fundamental movement skills/Dance
- Safe Living, Drug Education, Child Protection, Road Safety and Personal Health choices
- Personal Development-Peer Support, Social Skills, Interpersonal Relationships
- Buddies Program (Kinder)

Creative and Performing Arts
Music, dance, drama and visual arts make up the Creative and Performing Arts program. Many lessons will be part of the integrated units of work and some lessons will relate to the literacy program.

All students participate in a range of musical and drama activities during the year and have opportunities to perform to an audience. The annual Student Art Exhibition will be held in Term 3 during Education Week.

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING
Monitoring and student progress occurs on a daily basis. Assessment forms the basis for reports to parents, Term 2 and Term 4. Children will be regularly tracked along a continuum of learning, commonly known as Best Start. Feedback to parents will be given in the form of a letter identifying individual performance of achievement in Literacy and Numeracy and how parents can support their child’s learning at home. Parent/teacher interviews are scheduled at the end of Term 1. Parents are welcome to contact the office to request an interview appointment as required.

TECHNOLOGY IN LEARNING - iPADS
Kindergarten children will have the opportunity to use iPads in their regular classroom. The iPads will be used as an additional opportunity to engage students and to improve their educational attainment. The iPads will have special applications chosen by the teachers to support the learning focus for an individual or group of students. iPads in Kindergarten will allow THPS children to lead the way in technological advancement.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE OVERVIEW
The school "Hands Off" policy means no student is to harm another either physically or verbally. Students who breach the School Code of Conduct are required to participate in the Responsible Thinking Program and are withdrawn from the playground for a period of time. At the end of each term students with positive behaviour records participate in a “reward activity”. This incentive activity acknowledges and commends the exemplary behaviour of the majority of students.
HOME WORK AND HOME READING
Homework is given out on Monday for return on Friday. Home reading is done every day. Take time to listen to your child read, read to them and encourage good reading habits. Mathematics homework will focus on the use of number games. Students will play and enjoy number focused activities to support their learning in numeracy. Homework for kindergarten will begin in Term 2.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT
The classroom environment revolves around Rights, Responsibility and Respect that all students and teachers are entitled to. Every student has the right to learn without interference from others and to work in a classroom environment that is supportive, encouraging and where everyone is valued.

STUDENT EQUIPMENT
Each child is asked to supply a box of tissues. Art/craft items are needed from time to time, such as magazines, toilet rolls etc. Most school items are supplied for students in Early Stage 1.

EXCURSIONS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
Excursions are provided to support educational and social outcomes which will be the focus of classroom curriculum learning activities. Some possibilities for this year include: Education Week, Senior Citizens Concert, local walking excursions, K-2 sports activities, visiting performances, NAIDOC Week celebrations, SRC Fun Days and playground games, K-2 Social, Stage "COGs Unit" excursion each semester.

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

CANTEEN
is available Wednesday & Friday for lunch and/or recess. Orders to be taken to the canteen before school.

K-6 ASSEMBLY – Every 2nd Tuesday afternoon commencing at 1.30pm.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION –
Thursday afternoon - Catholic and Combined groups.

VISITORS
must report to the office to sign the visitor’s book when entering and exiting the school site. A visitor’s badge must be worn. This is a departmental requirement in the interests of the safety of all students and staff.

MUFTI DAYS
are held from time to time to raise funds for certain causes e.g. Flood Relief. Students wear casual clothes for the day and make a gold coin donation. Covered shoes and school hat must still be worn.

TOYS /GAMES/CARDS/ MOBILE PHONES/ IPODS /SKATEBOARDS are not to be brought to school. Special items are only permissible on designated “news days” and are not to be taken to the playground.

BELONGINGS - Please label everything clearly with your child’s name and class. Lost Property is located in the KM classroom or outside the library.

ATTENDANCE
Roll call is at 9:00am. All absences must be explained within 2 days of absence. Our Home School Liaison Officer closely monitors student attendance patterns. This includes absences and times for arriving at and departing from school.

BELL TIMES
Morning 8.55am
Recess 11.00-11.35am
Lunch 12.45-1.25pm
End of Day 3.00pm

TERM DATES FOR STUDENTS THIS YEAR
Term 1 29 Jan to 12 April
Term 2 30 April to 28 June
Term 3 16 July to 20 September
Term 4 8 October to 18 December

TWEED HEADS PUBLIC SCHOOL

WELCOME TO EARLY STAGE 1 – Kindergarten 2013

Welcome to Parents and Students of Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten). We hope that you are looking forward to the year as much as we are. The purpose of this brochure is to inform you of some of the anticipated activities, organisation and requirements for the year. If at any time you should have further questions or require further information please make an appointment through the School Office for an interview. We are unable to speak to parents during teaching time.

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Principal-Jacquie McAllum

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