



# Tweed Heads South Public School

TERM 1 WEEK 7 2025

NEWSLETTER

## CALENDAR DATES

- Tuesday 18  
March - Busy  
Bees Playgroup  
9:15 - 10:45am
- Friday 21 March -  
Harmony Day
- Tuesday 25  
March - Busy  
Bees Playgroup  
9:15 - 10:45am
- Thursday 27  
March - P&C  
AGM 9:15am
- Tuesday 1 April -  
Busy Bees  
Playgroup 9:15 -  
10:45am
- Tuesday 8 April -  
Busy Bees  
Playgroup 9:15 -  
10:45am
- Friday 11 April -  
Easter Hat Parade
- Friday 11 April -  
Last day of Term  
1 for students and  
staff

## Principal's Message

### Response to Tropical Cyclone Alfred

I am so glad all our school community were safe and well during the significant weather event. Thank you to our community for being patient while we made Tweed Heads South Public School operational again and safe for our students to return and continue learning. The school had fallen trees that blocked the accessibility of safe drop off and pick up zone at the front entrance. We also had many areas of the school that had significant water levels which was a safety issue with potential drowning of our students therefore we had to make alternative arrangements to make sure those areas water had subsided to safe levels. The debris left by the weather conditions was evident throughout the school including large branches, fallen fruit and trees, large sticks and leaves. Thank you again it was so lovely to welcome you all back on Wednesday.

### Support for our students

Over the past week useful information was provided on our Facebook page to support our students during TC Alfred and for a successful return to school and to explain what a cyclone is to young children. Please follow the links below to access these resources.

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW3NzeJbGi4>

Flip Book:

<https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/our-work/birdies-tree-natural-disaster-recovery/birdies-tree-storybooks/birdie-and-the-cyclone>

Tips for returning to school after a significant event:

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens/school-education/school-homework-tips/returning-to-school-after-natural-disasters-traumatic-events>

### Leadership Induction Assembly

Thank you to all the parents/carers who came to the Induction Assembly for our new incoming 2025 school leaders which was held in the school hall on Monday 3 March 2025 at 2.30pm. The assembly celebrated with the incoming leaders. Congratulations again to the 2025 leaders I am looking forward to working with you all this year.

# Principal's Report continued

## NAPLAN 2025 parent and carer information

Each year the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is sat by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students will participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

Due to TC Alfred there has been an adjusted timetable for NAPLAN 2025 to commence. NAPLAN will now take place next Monday 17 March to Monday 20 March. Writing Assessment - Monday, Reading - Tuesday, Conventions of Language – Wednesday, Number – Thursday. NAPLAN is just one part of our school's learning assessment program. The tests assess literacy and numeracy skills your child is already learning at school, so the best preparation is their everyday classroom learning. Our school will also undertake activities to help students become familiar with the types of questions and tools available in the online tests.

The public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) is available for you to see the format of the online tests. Further information about NAPLAN is available on the NESA website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/nesa/naplan>) and the NAP website (<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>). If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact your child's teacher.

## P & C AGM – Week 9 - Thursday 27 March 2025

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Week 9 - Thursday 27 March 2025 at 9.15am. The P & C support the school community and most importantly the students at our school. It is a platform to make new friends, help provide support to your children, fundraise to provide further learning opportunities and resources as well as participate in the School Excellence Plan. We would love if you could attend and support our wonderful school community. Light refreshments will be provided at the meeting.

**P&C AGM**

**Thursday 27th March 2025**

**9:15am in the community room**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an important event where we reflect on the past year, elect new office bearers, and set priorities for the year ahead. It's a chance for parents and carers to get involved in decisions that impact the school community.

At the AGM, all committee positions are declared vacant, meaning anyone who is a financial member can nominate themselves for a role. Whether you're interested in taking on a leadership position or just want to listen in, attending the AGM is a great way to understand how the P&C operates.

Hope you all have a wonderful fortnight.  
Warm regards  
Felicity Henderson

# Sarah Tunsted

Jingi Walla everyone,

I am Sarah Tunsted, and I am thrilled to join the Tweed Heads South school community.

I am a proud Bundjalung woman, born and raised in Murwillumbah. I attended local schools, Murwillumbah South Infants School, Condong Public School, and Murwillumbah High school.

Being a classroom teacher for seven years, I take great delight sharing each child's learning journey and seeing those, 'light bulb moments.' I am deeply passionate about all areas of Aboriginal Education, fostering respect, understanding, and connection to culture in meaningful ways. I am excited to be working in this space on Thursdays and Fridays with our amazing team.

Outside of school, I enjoy being active, spending time with friends and family, spending time in nature, painting, and caring for Country.



## Erin Varker - Assistant Principal - Learning and Support for the Tweed Region

My name is Erin Varker, and I am the Assistant Principal - Learning and Support for the Tweed region, based here at Tweed Heads South Public School. I am very excited to return to THSPS, where I was a student in years 5 and 6. In my role, I work with schools throughout the Tweed area to support students with additional learning and support requirements. I am passionate about inclusive education and ensuring that all students can learn to their fullest potential. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, trips to the beach, going for walks and reading.



## Sporting News



On Friday 28 February Scarlett competed in the Far North Coast Swimming Carnival at Ballina. Scarlett represented our school and the Far North Coast with pride and great sportsmanship.

Scarlett placed 2nd in her heat and 10th overall in the 11 year girls 50m breaststroke. Scarlett set a new personal best time by 1.2 seconds.

Congratulations Scarlett what a fantastic effort.



# Amy Matson



## STUDENT SUPPORT AT TWEED HEADS SOUTH PS



Amy Matson is the Student Support Officer (SSO) at Tweed Heads South Public School,

Amy works with the Learning and Support team and the school counselling service to deliver evidence-based programs through individual, small group, and whole-school initiatives.

With qualifications in psychology, counselling, play therapy and primary teaching, she is passionate about creating a safe and supportive environment for all students.

For more information about student wellbeing support, please discuss with your teacher.



## Storm Boy in Stage 3

Our talented Stage 3 students have been diving deep into the world of *Storm Boy*, using their creativity and newfound writing skills to craft their own sequels to this beloved Australian classic. Inspired by Colin Thiele's novel, the students are exploring themes of friendship, resilience, and the natural environment while incorporating advanced writing techniques they have recently learned.

Throughout the term, students have studied narrative structure, descriptive language, character development, and dialogue to enhance their storytelling. They have also been introduced to figurative language techniques such as metaphors and personification, which they are now skillfully weaving into their stories.

In their sequels, students are imagining what happens after *Storm Boy's* emotional conclusion. Some have chosen to follow Fingerbone Bill's journey, while others are introducing new characters who find themselves connected to the Coorong's breathtaking yet fragile landscape. Each student's unique interpretation adds a fresh perspective to the timeless story.



## Stewart House Charity Drive

### STEWART HOUSE CHARITY DRIVE



Stewart House provides essential medical care, confidence-building activities, and a supportive environment where public school children in need can reset, thrive, and embrace a brighter future.

**Envelopes must be returned to enter the draw!**

**Draw:** Friday, 23 May 2025

#### Important:

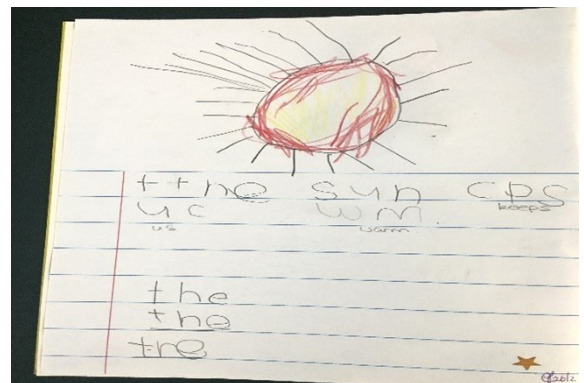
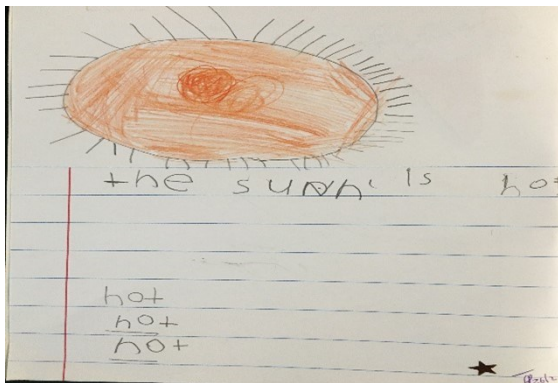
Online payments ARE NOT an automatic entry into the draw.

Please return your envelope(s) to your school with a receipt number (if paying online) for entry in the draw.



# Weather Science with Booning

Learning about the weather ignites children's natural curiosity about the world around them. In Booning, we have been learning about how the weather impacts our daily routines, from what we wear to be sun safe and the activities we can engage in when it is raining at school. Teaching students about the weather helps them understand the seasons, plan for the day, and adapt their choices based on the forecast. It encourages them to observe, ask questions, and seek answers which fosters scientific thinking and problem-solving skills.



# Caring for our Environment - Clean Up Australia Day

On Friday, our preschool registered and participated in Clean Up Australia-Schools Day, a special event that encourages Preschools and Schools to care for the environment by collecting rubbish. The official 'Clean Up Australia Day for 2025 is held Sunday, March 2nd, and this year celebrates 35 years of improving and conserving our environment, one piece of litter at a time!

Before we started, Miss Mandy prompted "I wonder why it's important to pick up rubbish?" and the children eagerly offered their ideas. "If we don't pick up rubbish, animals might eat it and get sick," Poppy shared thoughtfully. Avni stated, "The turtles and dolphins might die." While Yalarah declared, "Rubbish is horrible."

We then put on our gloves and set off to find any rubbish that didn't belong. The children excitedly searched under the trees, near the sandpit, and around the playground, carefully deciding whether each piece belonged in the rubbish bag or the recycling bag.

Zerah proudly held up a small wrapper: "Rubbish!" she declared, before placing it in the correct bin. Nathan found a plastic bottle and asked, "Is this recycling?" showing great curiosity about how waste is sorted.

By the end of our clean-up, the children were amazed at how much rubbish we had collected. We reflected on our efforts and talked about how we could keep our preschool clean every day.



# Caring for our Environment - Clean Up Australia Day





# Hello from Breakfast Club!

Welcome to all our new families in the school and preschool and welcome back to all our students and families from last year.

Breakfast club is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday's offering breakfast cereal and toast. On Wednesday's we offer a breakfast alternative like an UP n GO milk drink. We are open to all our school community including preschool. Some students come to breakfast club to enjoy a chat with friends and staff or just as a quiet place to start their day, play games and draw. Come and say hi and enjoy a yummy breakfast at school!

## Busy Bees Playgroup

Busy Bees playgroup is a free playgroup for children 0-5 years. We welcome all community members and families of our students who have younger siblings. Playgroup is held every Tuesday morning 9:15 – 10:45am in our school hall. Come and spend a morning of playing and fun with us. Playgroup is run by an early childhood educator, age-appropriate activities each week are theme based for lots of fun and enjoyment. Free tea and coffee are available. We look forward to having you join us for a morning of fun soon!

## Eat, Move, Learn - Live Life Well

### Make water their choice

#### Tips to help children drink more water:

- Pack a bottle of water with your child's lunch
- Take a refillable bottle of water when you go out
- Keep water in the fridge so it's easy to grab a cold drink
- Give children a water bottle when they play sport
- Serve water for everyone at mealtimes
- Show children that you enjoy drinking water



# School Travel - Bus Passes

## Rural and regional school travel

Apply online for free school travel in rural and regional NSW. You only need to complete one form, even for journeys using more than one operator.

### Who can apply?

To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

#### Years K-2 (Infants)

There is no minimum distance.

#### Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.3km walking.

#### Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 2.9km walking.

### Who needs to apply

You only need to apply if the student has never been approved for free school travel before. Students in a shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody) should submit a separate application for both addresses.

### How to update your details

You need to update student details online if the student is changing their name, address, school or campus, or their Transport operator. You can update them at [transportnsw.info/ssts-update](https://transportnsw.info/ssts-update)

### Frequently asked questions

#### Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?

**Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. So for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to buy a ticket.**

#### What if there's no public transport in my area?

In areas where there is no public transport, you may be able to get a subsidy for driving the student to school. For details, visit [transportnsw.info/school-students](https://transportnsw.info/school-students)

#### How do I apply if the student needs to travel from two addresses because the parents live separately?

**Each parent (or the student if aged 18 or over) needs to apply separately for each address.** The same minimum distances apply.

### How to apply for free travel for the first time

You can apply for free school travel for next year from the start of Term 4 this year.

#### Step 1

Once you have enrolled your child at the new school, apply online by giving your home address and telling us which bus company the student needs to travel with between home and school. You can apply online at [transportnsw.info/school-students](https://transportnsw.info/school-students)

#### Step 2

The school then confirms to us that your details are correct.

#### Step 3

We will then work on your application. You will get an email confirming if the student is approved for free travel. If so, we will tell your local bus company who may send a school travel pass (if needed) to your school or, in some cases, the bus company will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students aged 15 years and under. Students who are 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

### What my card will look like



### Want to know more?

For more information, visit [transportnsw.info/school-students](https://transportnsw.info/school-students)

For help in your language, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

#### Privacy

For information on how we handle personal information please refer to the Opal Privacy Policy at [transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/opal-privacy-policy](https://transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/opal-privacy-policy) and the School Pass Terms [transportnsw.info/school-pass-terms](https://transportnsw.info/school-pass-terms)



# TRHS Year 6 to Year 7



Innovative Learning Pathways

## Year 6 into Year 7 2026 Information Evening



Thursday 20th March 2025



5:15 pm NSW - School Tour, BBQ & Refreshments

5:45 pm NSW - Information Session



Sports Entertainment Centre



Parking Available On Site

Parent and Carers of Year 6 students,

**We are pleased to invite you to our  
"Transition to High School Information Evening"  
organised for parents and students of Year 7, 2026**

This is your opportunity to find out more about:

- Meet the Principal, Deputy Principals and staff
- Opportunities at Tweed River High School
- Transition activities
- High Potential Programs - ATP, SDP, CAPA
- Pathway opportunities
- Have your questions answered and view our amazing learning spaces.

*We look forward to seeing you all there!*

# Community News

We understand that many families are still facing cost of living challenges and rising education expenses. That is why we're excited to share that Saver Plus can help ease the financial burden of school costs.

With Saver Plus, families can receive \$500 in matched funds to assist with expenses like devices, laptops, school uniforms, school camps and school supplies. Here is how it works:

Save up to \$50 a month for 10 months, and your savings will be matched up to \$500.



## Do you have a health care card? You could be eligible for Saver Plus.

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

To join, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops

  
**saverplus**

1300 610 355 [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)

