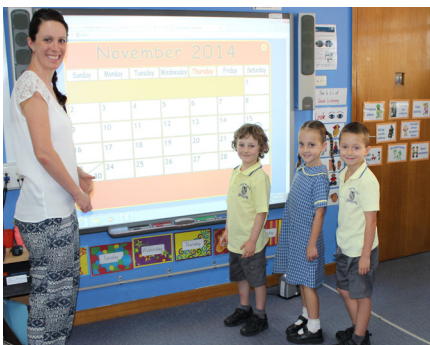


Thirrourl Public School

Strive to Excel



Education &
Communities



Welcome to Thirroul Public School

Our School Vision

Our dedicated school community provides learning opportunities that foster independent and engaged future citizens who strive to reach their full potential.



Thirroul Public School nurtures positive educational experiences in a highly engaging learning environment for every student. We have an experienced and dedicated teaching staff providing great opportunities that challenge and motivate our students to achieve excellent results.

Established in 1889, our school is positioned in view of Thirroul Beach and is surrounded by the breathtaking coastal escarpment with both the charm of our heritage buildings and modern facilities.

Our extensive playgrounds, elevated stage with lighting and sound in our unique covered outdoor learning area, all offer quality learning experiences.

We promote a healthy, active lifestyle and encourage lifelong fitness through our comprehensive sport programs allowing students to compete successfully in a wide selection of local and state wide competitions.

Our students demonstrate and build skills and values through public speaking, debating, peer support programs and strong Student Representative Council initiatives.

Our students enjoy additional benefits and support due to the fantastic fund raising and commitment of our very active Parents and Citizens' committee who play an integral role and provide input into our school's decision making process.

We encourage all students to 'Strive to Excel'. We pride ourselves on our successful and innovative programs in the arts, technology and sport. Our choir, recorder group and Southern Stars dance group perform with distinction at many community events.

As a proud member of the Seacliff Community of Schools our students have many opportunities for enrichment learning programs working with our nine partner public schools. We know that your child will enjoy their educational journey at Thirroul Public School.

Team spirit and strong community partnerships are a strength and expectation of our school students. Parents are actively involved in school programs and offer vital support within our classrooms.

We pride ourselves on our student wellbeing programs and advocate clear channels of communication across our school community.

Gary Graham

Principal

Thirroul Public School
Roxburgh Avenue Thirroul
PO Box 254 THIRROUL 2515
P: 4267 1469. F: 4268 1463
E: thirroul-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

General Information

The purpose of our school is to provide quality educational experiences in a happy, stimulating and caring environment.

We strive towards:

- personal excellence in all teaching and learning experiences.
- providing opportunities for students to realise their potential and develop talents across the curriculum.
- promoting students' self respect and self discipline.
- building sustainable communication links between the school and community.
- providing a happy and stimulating learning community.

Office Hours: 8.30am - 3.15pm

School Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Students should not arrive before 8.30am unless there is a special reason.

We ask parents to contact the office before 3pm if they are running late and require a message to be sent to their child before bell time.

11.50am - Music plays for students to go to the toilet, gather their belongings and return to designated area.

1.40pm - Bell sounds for afternoon tea.

2.00pm - Bell sounds, students return to class.

3.00pm - Bell sounds for home.

Lesson Times

Morning session: 9.00am - 11.00am
Lunch: 11.00am - 11.55am
Mid day session: 11.55am - 1.40pm
Afternoon tea: 1.40pm - 2.00pm
Afternoon session: 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Kindergarten - Year 2

9.00am - Bell rings - students gather their bags and walk to the designated class teachers/or lines.
11.00am - Bell for lunch - students move to eat under the covered areas.
11.50am - Bell rings - students go to the toilet, gather their belongings and walk to the designated class lines.
1.40pm - Bell for afternoon tea - students move to eat under the covered areas.
2.00pm - Bell rings - students go to the toilet and then walk to designated class lines.
3.00pm - Bell rings for home - students move to parents or representative to be picked up. They are to report to a class teacher if there are concerns.

Years 3-6

9.00am - Monday and Friday: Bell rings, students go straight to assembly area and line up in class lines.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: Go to designated area.
11.00am - Bell sounds for lunch

School Administrative & Support Staff

Mrs Lang Le	School Administration Manager
Mrs Jenny Barber	School Administration Officer
Mrs Aleaha Gelder	School Administration Officer
Mrs Rebecca Donkin	Learning and Support Officer
Mrs Katie Lo Castro	Learning and Support Officer
Mrs Linda McNevin	Learning and Support Officer
Mrs Louise Miles	Learning and Support Officer
Mrs Jean Russin	Learning and Support Officer
Mr Tony Lateo	General Assistant
Mr Adrian Coombes	School Cleaner
Mrs Bossa Nestic	School Cleaner
Mrs Tracey Roskell	School Cleaner

Teaching Staff

Principal:	Mr Gary Graham
Assistant Principals:	Mrs Kailene Bostock
	Mrs Kaylene D'Arcangelo
	Ms Raquel Hallam (Relieving)
	Mrs Maria Horan-Beattie
Mrs Carinya Barkley	Mrs Alison Horneman
Mrs Megan Beattie	Mr John Ireland
Mrs Lesley Bennett	Mrs Niomie Louis
Mrs Debbie Biddulph	Mr Andrew Mathews
Mrs Carlie Brunton	Miss Laura McKinnon
Mrs Vanessa Darby	Miss Emma Nancekivell
Mr Mitchell Fagerstrom	Mrs Shay O'Day
Mrs Rhonda Gilogley	Mr Cameron Skinner
Miss Jenni Goeldner	Mr Gareth Smith
Mrs Karen Hill	Mrs Ann Wilkins
Learning & Support	Mrs Sally Southcott (LaST)
Teacher Librarian:	Mrs Sonya Engelen
	Mrs Nara Charlton
School Counsellor:	Mrs Kathy Cant

Creating positive patterns

“Programs that build confidence and self-esteem fostering leadership and social responsibility”



Recognition and Reward

K to 6 Assemblies

Whole school assemblies are held every fortnight on even weeks on Monday afternoon at 2pm, weather permitting. At assemblies various certificates and awards are given and classes have the opportunity to showcase their skills through a class item.

Presentation Day

Presentation Day is a very special event held in December at Anita's Theatre. Students have the opportunity to receive class awards from their classroom teacher. Special sporting awards, chess awards and public speaking awards are also presented. Perpetual awards include the Vic Chapman Award for Leadership, Thomas Whitton Award for Encouragement, Most Valued Person Award for the student receiving the most Star Awards, The Wiseberry Technology Award for a student displaying outstanding information technology skills and The Don Gray Arts Award for a student showing flair in creative arts.

Award System

As part of our Student Wellbeing program at Thirroul Public School, the Merit Award System rewards the positive aspects of students' performance, application and behaviour. The system is supported by staff who issue merit certificates to students for a wide range of activities both in and out of the classroom. These certificates are presented at Friday morning assemblies.

Star Awards

This is an awards program for acknowledging our students' hardwork and effort. Teachers give out star awards in class to acknowledge manners, great work, friendship and other qualities valued by the school community.

Supporting Regular Attendance

Regular attendance and being on time promotes positive participation which contributes to academic and social progress.

Children do get sick and when this happens we encourage you to keep your child at home, especially if symptoms can be shared.

If your child is away from school or late for any reason, we would appreciate and require that you notify the school in writing or by phone. We provide forms which can easily be completed and returned to the class teacher. Extra books of these forms are available at the administration office.

We are responsible for your child's safety and welfare. If your child is to travel home by a different means to their regular method or be picked up by someone different please contact the school and advise us as early as possible. If you are running late to collect your child, please contact the office and we will arrange for your child to be collected from the office.

Arriving Late or Leaving Early

If your child arrives late they must report to the front office where they will sign in and have the reason for being late and time of arrival recorded. If you wish for your child to leave early, you are asked to send a note to the class teacher and visit the office to sign the Early Leavers Book and collect a slip to take to the class teacher.

School Counsellor

Our school has regular access to the expertise of a school counsellor who gives guidance to students, parents and teachers. Our counsellor contributes information, understanding and advice on the learning and behaviour of students and attends our school on Wednesday.

Learning & Support Teacher (LaST)

We have learning support teachers who assist individual students. The program uses a team approach where the Learning Support Team, class teacher and Learning Support teacher assesses needs and jointly plan lessons for targeted students. One of our strategies

Opportunities to excel

“Opportunities
for all students to nurture
their talents and
develop their interests”



Religious Education and Ethics Classes

These classes are held every Tuesday at the following times:

12:00pm – 12:30pm Years K – 2

12:40pm – 1:10pm Years 3 – 6

The following religions are catered for: Anglican and Catholic. Ethics Classes are also conducted. A note is required if you wish to change your child's scripture class.

Choir

Students in Stage 2 are given the opportunity to join the school choir and perform in the Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival. As well as this, the choir performs at assemblies and at times are invited to attend local venues.

Southern Stars Dance Group

Students in Stage 3 are able to participate in one of the premier performing arts events in NSW, featuring the talents of 2500 plus students from public schools in the Illawarra and South East Region. Southern Stars is held in late August and is a wonderful experience for your child to be involved in.

Social Skills Program

STOP, THINK, DO is an Australian social skills program for use in schools. It is designed as a classroom curriculum for all children to improve their social skills and thus improve their peer friendships. Students will be engaged in Stop, Think, Do lessons in the classroom and will also team up with a buddy class and peer support leaders for hands-on activities.

Book Club

Throughout the year, students are invited to purchase books from Ashton Scholastic Book Club. Orders with correct money are placed in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class and placed in the Book Club Posting Box in the school administration office.

Public Speaking and Debating

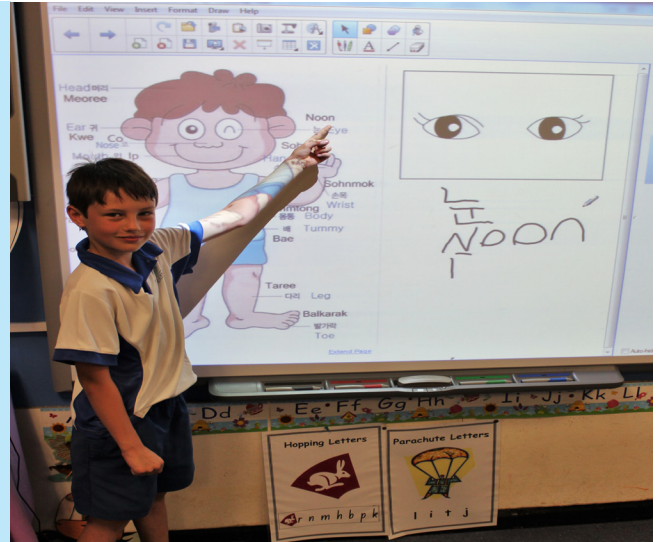
Our school participates in the Sea Cliff Community of Schools and Multi Cultural Public Speaking Competitions. All students are expected to prepare a speech and participate in class 'speak offs'. Following these speeches, each class will choose two representatives to participate in the whole school's Public Speaking Competition. Winners will then represent our school at both the Multi Cultural and Community of Schools Public Speaking Competitions. The standard of speeches and the public speaking skills of students have greatly improved by participating in these interschool competitions over the years. Stage 3 students also participate in a local debating competition with other students from the Sea Cliff Community of Schools.

Chess Competitions

A school chess group regularly meets. Each student can participate in a class chess competition. The class winners are then able to play other class winners leading to a school junior and senior chess champion award/trophy. The School also participates in local chess competitions.

Innovative programs

“Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students”



Students in Early Stage One and Stage One have access to the highly effective L3 program (Language, Literacy and Learning). This method of teaching literacy is based on research and recommended by the DEC. The student's literacy needs are met in an atmosphere of enrichment and success.

Reading Recovery

We are also strengthened through Reading Recovery. This is an individual program for targeted Year One students who require individual support with literacy. It is an intensive program based on researched theory and is recommended by the DEC.

Focus on Reading (FoR)

Focus on Reading (FoR) coordinates a set of highly complex and well-developed skills and strategies before, during and after reading so that students can understand and learn from text and remember what they have read. Parents and teachers incorporate the practice of FoR comprehension strategies in the home and at school to consistently improve students' reading outcomes.

Ngala Ngara

The students are given opportunities to protect and nurture a natural site for the purpose of outdoor learning. This garden was named by the Aboriginal community Ngala Ngara which translates in Dharawal language to 'sit and listen'. Ngala Ngara is a popular learning area that plays a unique role in supporting students' knowledge about Aboriginal culture and indigenous food sources. During Environmental Education, staff, parents and community experts contribute to delivering to our students a broad range of highly engaging environmental activities which promote sustainable lifestyles.

Targeted Early Numeracy Program

K to 2 staff have been trained in the TEN Program. This innovative program assists young students to develop their early numeracy skills.

University of Wollongong Science Fair

Each year Stage 2 and 3 students from Thirroul Public School are given the opportunity to enter the University of Wollongong Science Fair. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their interest in Science.

University Tests

The UNSW Education Assessment Competitions in Science, Spelling, Writing, Mathematics, English and Computer Skills are open to all students in Years 3 - 6. These competitions are designed to challenge capable students and a certificate/ written report is issued to all participating students.

Premier's Spelling Bee

Our school participates in the Premier's Spelling Bee which is a fun and educational way for primary school students to engage in spelling. The competition is open to all government primary, central and community schools in NSW and comprises two divisions - Junior for Years 3 & 4 and Senior for Years 5 & 6.

Leadership - Student Representative Council (SRC)

Our Student Representative Council consists of students from Year One to Year Six. The students are elected by class members to represent them at regular meetings. The SRC meets to discuss issues concerning students, teachers and our local community and work towards making improvements at our school.

Equipping your child to achieve

“Stimulating learning spaces incorporating the latest technology to engage and inspire”



Library

All students visit the Library weekly where they borrow from a range of quality fiction and non fiction books. Information literacy lessons are aligned to classroom areas of study and incorporate online sources in addition to those in print. The Library is equipped with an interactive whiteboard, video conferencing and its own computer lab.

An enjoyment of reading is strongly encouraged and promoted, with student participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge, KOALA awards, and Book Week. A team of Stage 3 students work during lunchtimes as Library Monitors, many of whom attend the annual CBCA Literacy Lunch or KOALA awards Presentation.

Children have the opportunity to conduct research and complete homework in their lunchtime due to some tasks being available online.

Children are able to, and encouraged to, borrow books from our school library. To protect books and for carrying to and from home, a library bag is a great idea.

Kindergarten to Year 6

Students will be supplied with books at the beginning of the year. We request students in Year 3 to Year 6 to buy and supply their own stationery including coloured pencils, rubber and glue stick. We do not allow liquid paper or white-out. If parents need to buy a ruler, for safety, we would prefer students to have a wooden ruler.

Parents are kindly requested to supply one box of tissues for class use. Teachers will notify parents if their child needs any other equipment. We thank you for your support as these items prepare students daily for learning.

Money Collection

Each morning (by 10am) all money should be placed directly into the black letter box located at the school administration office. Please send money in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class, amount and activity clearly marked on the front.

Parent On-line Payment (POP)

Parents may make online payments via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac using either Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting \$ Make a Payment.

School Equipment

Please label all personal items including clothing with your child's name and class. Students will be given a note at the beginning of term 1 listing equipment which will be needed for their learning. Many items such as glue sticks will need replacing throughout the year.

Computer Education

Computer Education is a very important component of our school's curriculum. The school has 2 computer laboratories, a mini laboratory in the Library and classroom laptops.

An interactive whiteboard, including video conferencing facilities, is installed in the computer laboratory and Library. Classrooms have access to an interactive whiteboard.

Students can experience a variety of electronic educational tools e.g. CD-ROM, Internet and E-mail. A hands-on use of computers is part of our school's approach to ensure children understand and make use of technology in our continually changing world.

Open communication channels

“Our students benefit from our school being part of a strong and sharing school community”



Expressing your concerns to the class teacher

Our teachers are happy to discuss any issues or concerns with you. If you are worried about any aspect of your child's school life or their progress you can always make an appointment with the teacher for an interview to discuss the concern.

Sickness and Injury

In the event of sickness or injury at school, your child will be sent to sick bay. You will be notified if the sickness or injury is serious. If parents are unavailable, your nominated contact person or a family relative will be notified. It is essential that all information is kept up to date.

If your child requires any form of medication to be administered during school hours the appropriate forms must be completed and signed. These forms are available from the school administration office. For safety reasons students are not permitted to have medication in their school bags, except for Ventolin.

Reporting

Term 1

Early in the term a formal information session is held and all classroom practices and expectations are explained. You will be advised of the dates early in Term 1.

Term 2

Parent/teacher interviews are organised late in Term 2 to discuss student's progress, performance and application. Written reports are sent home in the last week of term.

Term 4

A written report is issued at the end of Term 4 and interviews are held at the request of class teacher or the parent.

Parents are always welcome to contact the class teacher to arrange an interview to discuss their child's progress. This can occur at any time throughout the year.

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will sit for the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy test held in May. There are four tests covering numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

You will receive a written report of your child's achievement in the tests. The results tell you how your child is progressing in these areas and can guide the learning support you give your child at home and the learning support they may receive at school. The data is also useful in tracking student performance over time and so presents a useful snapshot of learning and the learner.

Communication

The school newsletter is available fortnightly via Thirroul Public School's website - www.thirroul-p.schools.det.nsw.edu.au. The newsletter contains the latest news for parents and other information about our school. Other specific notes will be sent home as the need arises. Most notes will be available on the school website.

E-News is another method for communicating urgent reminders and important information to parents via an e-mail. Parents can download E-news or the E-news APP following the procedures below.

Download the app called "School Enews". Open the app and search for "thirroul".

iPhone and iPod Touch app: <http://iphone.schoolenews.com.au>

iPad app: <http://ipad.schoolenews.com.au>

Android app: <http://android.schoolenews.com.au>

All other phones: <http://webapp.schoolenews.com.au>

Parents as our partners

“A welcoming and friendly school where parents are valued partners in their child’s education”



Visitor's Books

All visitors and volunteers must sign in and out of the school. Sign In books are located at the school administration office. When you visit the school (eg. to assist with reading groups or in the canteen) please sign on at the school administration office.

Working With Children

The NSW Department of Education and Communities, as part of the Child Protection Strategy, requires that volunteers who perform work in schools complete a “Working with Children Check - Declaration for Volunteers Form”. These forms are available from the school administration office. Every person who works in the school must sign this form and show 100 points of Proof of Identity. This requires the office staff sighting original documents such as passport, birth certificate, driver’s licence, medicare card or council rates notice. Completed forms are kept in a secure place within the office and are destroyed at the end of the year.

Voluntary Contribution Scheme

Funds raised through this contribution will be used to supplement educational resources and programs in our school. It is anticipated that the funds will be expended on items such as: Student Welfare (K-6), resources in the Key Learning Areas (K-6) and the enhancement of various resources made available to all students. The payment of the General School Contribution is a decision made by individual parents and guardians and is entirely voluntary. Our school would welcome your contribution, as it significantly enhances the resources made available to students.

Home Reading

A most important aspect of homework for all students is reading at home. Younger students may bring readers home to enjoy. Older students may bring home a range of books and literature. We ask you to assist and monitor their Home Reading and support them in developing their reading skills.

School Banking

School Banking teaches a child to save and to plan with money. If you wish your child to start a school account, please fill out the envelope provided by our school administration office. Just \$1.00 will start an account. A Commonwealth Bank deposit book will be issued to your child with a special cover which helps keep the book clean. School banking occurs on Friday at 9.30am.

Canteen

Our school canteen committee welcomes all new and present families to our school. Our canteen operates on a voluntary basis, five days a week. Hours of operation are from 9:00am to 12:00pm. To operate successfully the canteen needs the help of parents one day per month for just three hours. All profits from the canteen go towards buying equipment, educational materials etc. for our students. It is one of our major sources of finance for our school and we welcome your support. The canteen committee can be contacted through the school administration office.

Parent's and Citizen's Association

The P and C meet on the last Wednesday of each month in the school library at 7.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend these friendly meetings. Please support our school by being actively involved in our school community. Your assistance is highly valued. The P and C President can be contacted through the school administration office. The P and C contribute to the school’s website and have a link via there.

President:	Sharon Bent
Vice President:	Matt Wall-Smith
Vice President:	Lisa-Maree Fletcher
Treasurer:	Claire Kovalik
Secretary:	Danni Pike

Proud and respected

Our uniforms instil a sense of belonging to a larger entity, make the school visible in the local community and bridges social barriers. Parents are asked to ensure that children attend school in uniform. If children are not in school uniform a note should be written and sent to the class teacher.

Summer Uniform

GIRLS

Royal blue, yellow and white check dress with lemon trim around collar and cuffs

OR

Royal blue, yellow and white check culottes

Short sleeve lemon polo shirt with royal blue stripes on collar and embroidered school logo

White socks and black shoes

Royal blue zipped jacket or sweatshirt with embroidered school logo

Royal blue school sun hat

BOYS

Short sleeve lemon polo shirt with royal blue stripes on collar and embroidered school logo

Grey cargo shorts

Grey socks and black shoes

Royal blue zipped jacket or sweatshirt with embroidered school logo

Royal blue school sun hat

Winter Uniform

GIRLS

Grey and yellow check tunic or culottes

Long sleeve lemon polo shirt with royal blue stripes on collar and cuffs and embroidered school logo

White socks/grey tights and black shoes

Royal blue zipped jacket or sweatshirt with embroidered school logo

Royal blue school sun hat or royal blue beanie

OPTIONAL: Dark grey bootleg pants

BOYS

Long grey cargo pants or grey fleecy track pants

Long sleeve lemon polo shirt with royal blue stripes on collar and cuffs and embroidered school logo

Grey socks and black shoes

Royal blue zipped jacket or sweatshirt with embroidered school logo

Royal blue school sun hat or royal blue beanie

Sports Uniform

Girls and Boys

White and royal blue panelled shirt with embroidered school logo.

Royal blue microfibre shorts

Also available for girls royal blue wrap skirt or royal blue skorts (shorts that look like a skirt).

In cooler weather, both girls and boys wear a royal blue track suit displaying the school emblem.

Tracksuits are available in fleecy or microfibre.

Please put your child's name on each article of clothing (including shoes) so we can return if lost.

Our school supports a NO HAT, PLAY IN THE SHADE Policy and all our children are required to wear a hat which protects them.

Uniform shop hours are:

Volunteers from our Parents and Citizens Association kindly operate a uniform shop and opening times are:

Tuesday mornings (8.30am-9.30am)

Thursday afternoons (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Lost Property

Lost property containers are located in both K - 2 and 3 - 6 sections. Unclaimed items remaining at the end of each term are donated to appropriate charities.



Promoting active healthy lifestyles

“Focus on fun
physical activity
and healthy lifestyle”



Playground areas

We have designated playground areas for children to play. These areas are supervised by teachers before school from 8:30, lunch and afternoon tea. The Kindergarten students play with Years One and Two at lunchtime and afternoon tea.

Sport Houses

Gannet - Yellow

Penguin - Blue

Shearwater - Green

Albatross - Red

Sporting Activities

We are very proud of our school's outstanding tradition of sporting success and we pride ourselves on the interest, participation and performance of our students. A comprehensive range of sports are offered with students competing at school, district, regional and state carnivals.

P.S.S.A. Representative Teams

After selection at school, talented students can participate in a wide range of sports leading to possible selection in a Regional team to compete at a state carnival.

N.W.P.S.S.A. Competitions

Our district offers Friday afternoon sporting competition in Terms 2, 3 and 4. It's a great chance to meet with, and compete against, other schools in our district.

Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals

Our students have the opportunity to participate at school, district, region, state and national level.

School Swimming Program

Swimming lessons are held once per year and usually involve Year 2 students and some Year 3 and older students who are experiencing difficulties with swimming.

Bikes

At Thirroul Public School we promote a safe, healthy lifestyle and encourage our students to walk to school.

Students ten years or older may ride their bikes independently to school. Bikes are to be parked and secured by the owner until home time. Bikes must not be ridden within the school grounds. Students must wear bike helmets. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that students who ride bikes know and obey road rules. We remind parents that the decision to bring a bike to school is at the risk of the students and parents.

Out of Hours School Care - Skoolzout @ Thirroul

We are fortunate to be able to provide before and after school care to our students.

Before School Care runs from 6.30am to 8.30am and breakfast is provided.

After School Care runs from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and afternoon tea and fruit are provided.

This is run by Big Fat Smile and all staff are qualified and experienced. If you require permanent or casual care please call 0403 718 072 or email skoolzoutthirroul@ics.org.au

SCHOOL SONG

We love our golden beaches, our mountains, our coal
As we're happy to be learning and reaching our goal

As we come to Thirroul School

We will always strive to excel, while we're here at Thirroul
Truthfulness and honour as well, why we're proud of our school
Uniform grey and gold, our motto to uphold

We love our golden beaches, our mountains, our coal
As we're happy to be learning and reaching our goal

As we come to Thirroul School

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Thirroul Public School

Roxburgh Avenue Thirroul

P.O Box 254 THIRROUL 2515

T: 4267 1469. F. 4268 1463

E: thirroul-p.school@nsw.edu.au

www.thirroul-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



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