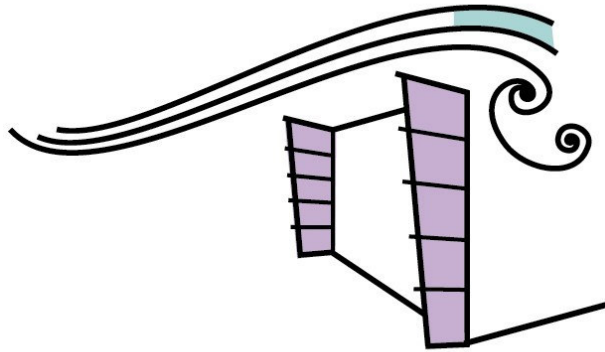


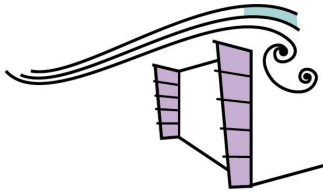
# Thorndon School 2010



## Te Kura o Pipitea



## Information Pack



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## THORNDON SCHOOL

Thorndon Primary is a relatively small inner city school with a long history, having been first established in 1852.

Since then the school and the district have been through many changes. In the early part of last century Thorndon was the largest school in the city, and for a while housed the Teachers Training College. By the early 1990s the roll was down to under 100 but steady growth since then has meant that in 2002 an enrolment scheme had to be put in place to manage the roll which is now capped at a nominal 240. During the year 2000 two new classrooms were built as well as a new administration area. During 2003 the school library was extended and refurbished and further development and refurbishment of buildings occurred during 2004. In 2005 another classroom was added and in 2006 work began on redeveloping the school playground. This work is continuing. In 2009 one more classroom was added to bring the total to eleven. With a small site and little opportunity to expand the number of rooms is unlikely to increase further.

In spite of its relatively small size the school enjoys good facilities, with its own small grassed playing field and a sealed netball/basketball court. We also have access to the much larger fields at Wellington Girls' College for organised sports activities. The college allows us some use of their netball court and has given us, on occasion, limited access to their gym. During the summer the children swim at Thorndon Pool. In 1992 the Board of Trustees had an Adventure Playground built with locally raised funds and this has further enhanced the facilities. This playground was upgraded in 2008 and further upgrading continues year by year. In 1999 a hall was donated to the school and moved onto our field. While this reduced the grassed area, the benefits of having a hall far outweighed the negatives. This hall, the Old St Paul's Schoolroom, has some historic links with the school, having been moved here from the original school site in Kate Shepherd Place. It is also, reputedly, the setting for the Katherine Mansfield short story, "Her First Ball".

The school is well resourced, having a separate, computerised library, a ratio of one computer for every 10 children, two classroom set of laptops and comprehensive equipment for Science and Technology, Sport and PE, Music and Art, as well as the texts and equipment for the core curriculum subjects. These resources are constantly being renewed and upgraded. The school was an early adopter of ICT and in 1997 the school networked its computers. We have a high-speed fibre optic link which gives all rooms fast access to the

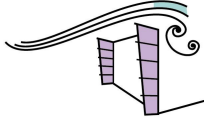
internet. In 2006 a wireless network was established to allow more effective use of the classroom laptops.

One of the major resources for the school is the city itself, and we are within walking distance of such places as Parliament, the City Library, the waterfront, theatres, the Michael Fowler Centre, the National Library and, for older children, Te Papa. Many other places of interest can be reached with a short ride by public transport. Groups of children occasionally attend lunchtime concerts at Old St Pauls and St Andrews on the Terrace as well as going to view exhibitions at the City Gallery and at Te Papa.

The school is also within easy walking distance of the Railway Station and the bus terminal.

Thorndon School is a little unusual for a State Primary School in that it draws most of its children from outside the immediate area, with some coming from as far away as Pukerua Bay, Upper Hutt, Wainuiomata and others having come from Otaki, Featherston and Levin. The reasons for this are varied.

The school has 11 classrooms, a library, a hall, and a small music room in addition to various resource rooms and offices.



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## THORNDON SCHOOL TE KURA O PIPITEA

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission at Thorndon School is to:

- **Success:** create a culture of success so that each student may achieve the best possible learning outcomes.
- **Respect:** encourage respect for others and celebrate diversity in all aspects of learning and the wider school community.
- **Equal opportunity:** ensure equal education opportunities for all our students, where everyone has fair access to relevant curriculum, resources and support.
- **Environment:** provide a safe, supportive, happy, healthy and exciting learning environment for our students.

Thorndon School draws about 70% of its pupils from the Greater Wellington area and beyond, rather than from the local area and this is because of a number of special features.

### LOCATION

The school is situated in the heart of Wellington, within easy walking distance of the station and the bus terminal, close to many Government offices and near the motorway. Many of our parents work in the central Wellington area.

### SIZE

The school is still small enough, with about 240 pupils, to be a place where everyone can know everyone else and a family atmosphere can be developed.

### AFTER SCHOOL CARE

This is available daily within the school grounds between the hours of 3:00pm and 6:00pm at a very reasonable cost. Holiday programmes are sometimes run from the school.

### MULTI CULTURAL

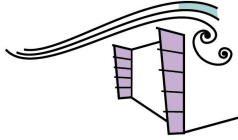
The school population is varied with about 18% Maori, 10% Pasifika, 10% Asian and about 8% from other ethnic and cultural groups.

### FULL PRIMARY

Many parents see full primary schools, which go up to Year 8, as an alternative to Intermediate schools.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

The school has a number of special needs children and has considerable experience and a positive reputation for managing special needs, whether behavioural, physical or curriculum related, very well. The school has had particular success with the management of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders.



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The scattered nature of the school's enrolment has not hindered the development of a close relationship between the school and its client group and there is a very supportive parent community.

We try to hold a number of social events during the year, involving parents, staff and children. This has become a little more difficult in recent years as numbers have increased but we intend to persevere. These events are an opportunity for parents and staff to meet socially.

Each year the school organizes and runs the Thorndon Fair. This fair, which is the largest street fair in Wellington, has become an established part of the city's calendar. It is the school's major fund raising activity and because of the size of the event we try to get all parents involved in some way.

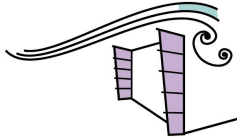
Because the school is still relatively small it is possible for staff to know most of the children and there is a great deal of interaction among the different age groups at the school. The size of the school makes it possible to develop a relaxed, family type of atmosphere and this is encouraged. A word often used to describe the school and the way it operates is 'informal'.

We welcome parents into the school and encourage parent help on trips, in classrooms, in the library and with the curriculum.

Children at Thorndon are encouraged to become risk takers, to develop independent learning skills, to take some responsibility for their own learning and to ask questions.

We have a strong commitment to the arts and children have many opportunities to participate in activities in the performing arts and the visual arts and to exhibit their work both inside and outside the school. Exhibitions of children's work have been held at cafes around town and in 2000 and 2002 the school actively participated in the Fringe Festival.

We welcome enquiries from interested parents and are happy for children and parents to visit the school.



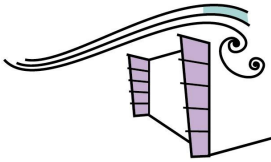
## ATTACHED UNITS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

The school has an attached Literacy Centre staffed by a Resource Teacher of Literacy. This centre, which caters for children who have failed to make expected progress in reading through the normal classroom programme, can be accessed by 32 schools in the northern suburbs. The RT:Lit takes children for 1-1 tuition at the clinic as well as working in other schools in the catchment area. She also assists classroom teachers in setting up programmes for these children.

Reading Recovery operates in the school for 6 year old children who have not progressed at the same rate as their peers in acquiring reading skills.

The school also provides, through locally raised funds, extra teaching hours for extension and remedial programmes. Programmes are offered in remedial reading, language and maths for children who have been identified as needing a boost. A comprehensive range of extension programmes is also offered in the areas of language, maths, the arts, sports, and leadership among others, and in these children are given opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities.

Since 2006 we have employed a part-time Maori Language teacher whose role is to teach Te Reo and Tikanga Maori and to take a kapahaka group. We also, depending on demand and the availability of teachers, provide some opportunities for children to work with tutors in Te Reo and other languages after school.



## **AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

After School Care runs every school day from 3:00pm until 6:00pm. On days when the school closes early the programme generally runs from the earlier time. If this is not going to happen parents are informed.

The children are given afternoon tea and have plenty of activities and equipment to become involved with.

The programme has never been seen as an extension of school and for this reason the activities are not academic. There is a lot of creative activity and outside play. Our belief has always been that children have been at school for 6 hours or more and that, while they might still be on the school grounds, they should be engaged in something different from their school programme.

The senior supervisor is Sara Dib. The programme is staffed at a ratio of 1 supervisor to 10 children.

Costs are \$12 per day or \$55 per week for the full week.

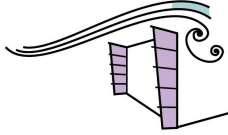
A \$10:00 late fee may be charged if children are picked up after 6:00pm

Payment for After School Care is made following invoice from the school.

A school holiday programme is occasionally run from the school during the four main holiday breaks. This programme runs from 8:30am until 6:00pm and details are given in the school newsletter.

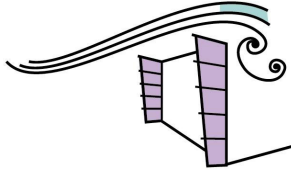
There may also, from time to time, be a number of other after school and holiday activities on offer. These include Art classes, Music classes and Language classes and details will be given in the newsletter.

The phone number for both the After School Programme and the Holiday Programme is 472 8183.



## THORNDON SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2010

|                      |                    |   |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>Mandy Hancock</b> | <b>Chairperson</b> | Hm 972 6448<br>Wk 494 5141<br>email: <a href="mailto:john_mandy@paradise.net.nz">john_mandy@paradise.net.nz</a>                         |
| <b>Carol Weston</b>  | <b>Treasurer</b>   | Hm 499 0263<br>email: <a href="mailto:carol.weston@xtra.co.nz">carol.weston@xtra.co.nz</a>  |
| <b>James Turner</b>  |                    | Hm 475 9892<br>Wk 027 243 1609<br>email: <a href="mailto:james.turner@tec.govt.nz">james.turner@tec.govt.nz</a>                         |
| <b>Jo Cribb</b>      |                    | Hm 976 3082<br>Wk 021 352 590<br>email: <a href="mailto:jo@cribbwaterman.net">jo@cribbwaterman.net</a>                                  |
| <b>Rebecca Brown</b> | <b>Staff Rep</b>   | Wk 472 4267<br>email: <a href="mailto:rebecca@thorndon.school.nz">rebecca@thorndon.school.nz</a>  |
| <b>Bill Sutton</b>   | <b>Principal</b>   | Hm 389 8537<br>Wk 472 4267<br>Mob 027 224 9789<br>email: <a href="mailto:principal@thorndon.school.nz">principal@thorndon.school.nz</a> |



## STAFF LIST 2010

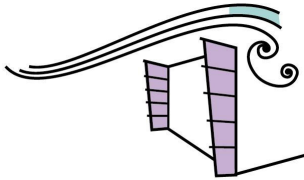
|                       |  |                 |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Bill Sutton           | Principal                                    |                 |
| Alistair du Chatenier | Deputy Principal                             | R7              |
| Rebecca Brown         | Assistant Principal                          | R11             |
| Beth Huntington       | Teacher                                      | R2              |
| Rebecca Nicholls      | Teacher                                      | R5              |
| Zeeta Andrew          | Teacher                                      | R3              |
| Meta Beyers           | Teacher                                      | R8              |
| Jay Smith             | Teacher                                      | R9              |
| Niamh King            | Teacher                                      | R6              |
| Krista Huber          | Teacher                                      | R4              |
| Jane Stocker          | Teacher                                      | R10             |
| Sue Holman            | Teacher                                      | R1              |
| Andrew Pennell        | Part-time teacher (music)                    |                 |
| Natasha Jackson       | Part-time teacher (extension and enrichment) |                 |
| Leris Everitt         | Resource Teacher: Literacy                   | Literacy Centre |
| Lisa Reweti           | Maori Coordinator                            |                 |
| Hela Isaac            | Office Manager                               | Office          |
| Julie Prout           | Accounts Manager                             | Office          |
| John Dinnison         | Part-time Groundsman/Caretaker               |                 |

Denise McCarthy  
Jimmy Metherall

Teacher Aide  
Teacher Aide

Sara Dib

After School Care Senior Supervisor



## Term Dates 2010

### Term 1

Wednesday 3 February  
Thursday 1 April

School opens  
Last Day of term

### Term 2

Monday 19 April  
Monday 7 June  
Friday 2 July

School opens  
School closed - Queen's Birthday  
Term ends (3:00pm)

### Term 3

Monday 19 July  
Friday 24 September

School opens  
Term ends (3:00pm)

### Term 4

Monday 11 October  
Monday 25 October  
Sunday 5 December  
Friday 17 December

School opens  
School closed - Labour Weekend  
Thorndon Fair  
Term ends (12:00pm)