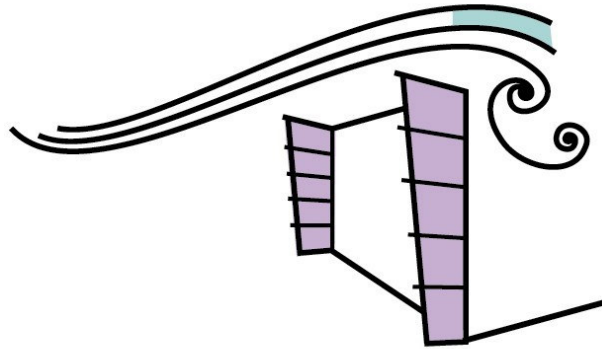




Thorndon School



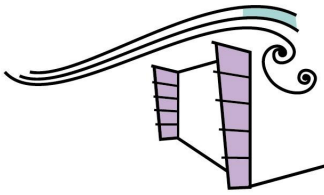
Te Kura o Pipitea

Developing independent, creative and confident thinkers and learners

Information Pack

2011





THORNDON SCHOOL TE KURA O PIPITEA

Thorndon Primary is a medium-sized inner city school with a long history, having been first established as a church school in 1852.

Since then the school and the surrounding area 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. Demand for places in the school continues to grow and in most years the roll exceeds this nominal limit. During the year 2000 two new classrooms were built as well as a new administration area. In 2003 the school library was extended and refurbished and further development and refurbishment of buildings occurred during 2004. Another classroom was added in 2005 and in 2006 work began on redeveloping the school playground. In 2009 one more classroom was added to bring the total to eleven. With a small footprint and little opportunity to expand, the number of rooms on the present site is unlikely to increase. Kimi Ora School across the road in Turnbull St is relocating in 2011 and their grounds will become part of our site though the building will be destroyed. The extra space will give us opportunities for further site development.

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 play space, the benefits of having a hall far outweighed any 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".

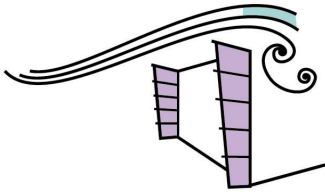
The school is well resourced, having a separate, computerised library, a ratio of one computer for every 10 children, two classroom sets of laptops and comprehensive equipment for Science and Technology, Sport and PE, Music and Art, as well as the texts and equipment for the core curriculum subjects. 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 and this was upgraded at the start of 2011. In 2010 Thorndon became a member of the Wellington Loop, an association of schools all linked by ultra fast broadband and sharing ways of enhancing

teaching and learning by using ICT. Thorndon is the only primary school in the Loop.

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, while it has an enrolment scheme and a zone it draws more of its children from outside the zone than from within, 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 and are explored later on in this document.

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



TE KURA O PIPITEA

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 to be a place where everyone can know everyone else and a family atmosphere can be developed. This is something we work hard to maintain.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We run one of the largest After School Care programmes in Wellington. 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

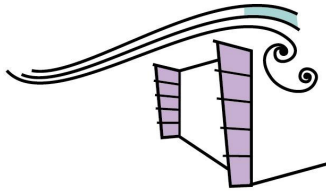
The school population is varied with about 18% Maori, 10% Pasifika, 10% Asian and about 8% from other ethnic and cultural groups.

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. We have also had for many years a very close association with our neighbour, KimiOra, a school for children with severe physical disabilities.



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. Maintaining and building on this will be an area of focus for the board in 2011.

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 and in the past few years have been most successful. Early in the year we hold an informal Meet the Teacher barbecue at which parents can meet their child's new teacher. A number of classes follow this up with their own evening.

Each year the school organises 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.

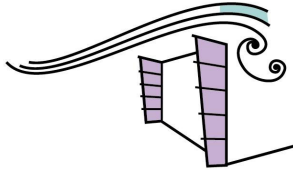
Because the school is still relatively small it is possible for staff to know most of the children and there is a great deal of interaction among the different age groups at the school. The size of the school makes it possible to maintain a relaxed, family type of atmosphere and this is encouraged. A 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 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

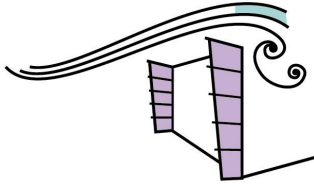
The school has an attached Literacy Centre staffed by a Resource Teacher of Literacy. This centre, which caters for children who have failed to make expected progress in reading through the normal classroom programme, can be accessed by 32 schools in the northern suburbs. The RT:Lit, Leris Everitt, takes 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. While the RT:Lit is not exclusively a Thorndon School staff member we have a close working relationship and can call on her for advice and assistance.

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. Ministry of Education funding pays for some of this programme but most of the hours are funded by the school.

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 children in these groups are given opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities.

Since 2009 we have employed two part-time Maori Language teachers 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.

The school belongs to the Central Cluster for the Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour Service and is able to call on the services of specialists to help teachers meet the needs of children with moderate learning or behavioural needs.



AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The After School Care programme is one of the largest in Wellington and 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 programme is OSCAR approved and parents who qualify may receive a subsidy for After School Care from WINZ. Programme staff are able to advise on this.

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 supervisors are Sara Dib and Ange Woods. The programme is staffed at a ratio of 1 supervisor to 10 children.

Costs are \$61.25 per week or \$15.00 per day for casual users.

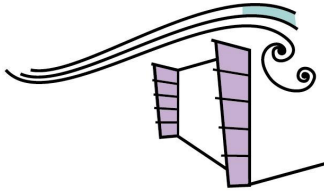
A late fee may be charged if children are picked up after 6:00pm

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.

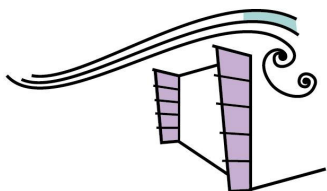
There may also, from time to time, be a number of other after school and holiday activities on offer unrelated to the school's ASC programme. These include Art classes, Music classes and Language classes and details will be given in the newsletter.

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



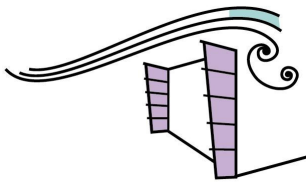
THORNDON SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2011

James Turner	Chairperson	Hm 475 9892 Wk 027 243 1609 email: james.turner@tec.govt.nz
Mandy Hancock	Treasurer	Hm 889 0101 Wk 021 479 101 email: MHancock@acumenrepublic.com
Carol Weston		Hm 499 0263 email: carol.weston@xtra.co.nz
Jo Cribb		Hm 976 3082 Wk 021 352 590 email: jo@cribbwaterman.net
Luai Leuga		Hm 499 5154 Wk 939 9257 email: luai@net-inc.org.nz
Andrew Hickey		Hm 970 4764 Wk 495 6822 email: andrewandpenny@paradise.net.nz
Rebecca Brown	Staff Rep	Wk 472 4267 email: rebecca@thorndon.school.nz
Bill Sutton	Principal	Hm 389 8537 Wk 472 4267 Mob 027 224 9789 email: principal@thorndon.school.nz

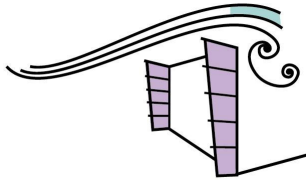


STAFF LIST 2011

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(on leave)	Teacher	
Natasha Jackson	Teacher	R10
Niamh King	Teacher	R6
Krista Huber	Teacher	R4
Jane Stocker	Teacher	R9
Sue Holman	Teacher	R1
Andrew Pennell	Part-time teacher (music)	
Lisa Stratford	Part-time Reading Recovery Release	R4
Leris Everitt	Resource Teacher: Literacy	Literacy Centre
Lisa Reweti	Part-time Tikanga Maori and Te Reo Maori teacher	
Kahu Taumata	Part-time Tikanga Maori and Te Reo Maori	
Nicky Long	Part-time ESOL Support teacher	
Hela Isaac	Office Manager	Office



Julie Prout	Accounts Manager	Office
John Dinnison	Part-time Groundsman/Caretaker	
Jenny-Kay Potaka	Part-time Library Assistant	
Nick Drake	Teacher Aide	
Jo Fellows	Teacher Aide	
Belinda Nel	Teacher Aide	
Sara Dib	After School Care Senior Supervisor	
Ange Woods	After School Care Senior Supervisor	



Term Dates 2011

Term 1

Wednesday 2 February
Friday 15 April

School opens
Last Day of term

Term 2

Monday 2 May
Monday 6 June
Friday 15 July

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

Term 3

Monday 1 August
Friday 7 October

School opens
Term ends (3:00pm)

Term 4

Tuesday 25 October
Sunday 4 December
Thursday 15 December

School opens
Thorndon Fair
Term ends (12:00pm)

School terms in 2011 will be affected by the Rugby World Cup. This means that instead of 4 terms of roughly 10 weeks each, Terms 1 and 2 will be 11 weeks each, Term 3 will be 10 weeks and the last term will be only 8 weeks long.