

Thorndon School Newsletter

38/2007

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6 December 2007
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Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

Malcolm Forbes

Action List

Does your child have a hat at school?

Have you ordered a Christmas Tree?

Have you stopped your AP?

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you up to date with all payments? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you paid your donation? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you coming to the sausage sizzle tomorrow? | <input type="checkbox"/> |



As you know we had a very successful fair and the organising committee did a great job. No-one really understands just how big it is until they actually get into it themselves and I am sure that the committee have a much greater appreciation of the mammoth job Hela has done as virtually a one man committee over the past few years.

I am not sure what caused us to do so well this year but the gold coin donation on entry certainly added a significant amount to the final total.

The committee will have a wrap up meeting shortly and would be interested in getting any feedback or ideas you might want to contribute. These could be emailed to me or to the fair email address at thorndonfair@weebadger.com or thorndon.fair@paradise.net.nz

Automatic Payments

Don't forget to stop any automatic payments you might be making to the school over the Christmas break or to reduce the amount to something nominal so that we do not end up in the position of having lots of credit balances when we arrive back for the new term. It causes all sorts of difficulty with our accounts.

Kia ora

The fair is behind us and we can almost see the end of the year. This is a mad time of year and the school is still a very busy place.

The school interiors will be repainted during the holidays while the administration area and Room 10 will have new carpet laid. This is going to mean that we start the year fresh and clean but it involves a good deal of preparation before we finish in a fortnight. Plans are being prepared for further development of the playground, the area behind Room 4 and the old sandpit in particular and we hope to see some progress on this before too long.

Teachers have almost finished writing reports and most have been passed on to me so these will go out before the end of the term, we are wrestling with school organisation and class placements for 2008 and there are still a number of school activities to take place.

Still it won't be too long before we can catch our breath and start to enjoy what promises to be a long hot summer.

Bill Sutton

Part Time Childcare

Experience with babies a must! Non Smoker with a driving licence.

I am looking for someone to care for our six month old son for 10-12 hours per week at home while I work. Immediate start required through until 20 December and possibly into the New Year. \$15 per hour. Contact Juliet on 027 220 9704

Sausages, Sculptures and Songs

We have about 150 adults and children who have said they are coming to tomorrow's sausage sizzle which is great.

There is still time to let us know in the morning if you will be coming so we can make sure we have a sausage and something to drink available for you.

Sausages will sell for \$2:00, juice for \$2:00, pump bottles of water for \$2:00 and beer or wine for \$4:00.

Term 4 Calendar

The shrinking calendar is looking more attractive as we start the last two weeks of the term.

Dec 7	Sausage sizzle, Art display, Carols.
Dec 10	60 children to the Airforce Band - WGC
Dec 11	Room 5 to City Gallery.
Dec 11	BoT meeting.
Dec 13	Tabloid Sports.
Dec 18	Year 8 Farewell.
Dec 20	Term ends – 12:00.



Yesterday afternoon our Sports Squad had the opportunity to learn a little about sailing with the Worser Bay Boating Club and had a wonderful time in Optimist dinghies in what was a very well organised and run programme.

Enviro group

On Tuesday this week, the Envirogroup went to the Enviroschools' celebration for all Envirogroups that had done well this year and had high achievements. We were invited because we earned a Bronze Award. This was a great achievement because we did it in a year and most schools take two years.

So at 09.15am we caught the train to Porirua. We were so excited. We did not know what to expect or what we would be doing. Well soon we found out, after hopping off the train and meeting a lovely lady who told us what we would be doing. First, we got driven to a community garden, where we learned about compost, what native plants could help your blood and kidneys, and how to make a flax flower. It was lots of fun learning about all these things and now we can teach them to other people.

After the community garden, we went to the Mungavin Hall where we had a sharing and learning time. We shared about Art Week and how it was Enviroschool driven, our blog, and how we taught the junior school about composting. We also did an activity with others about 'mapping our place'.

We learned lots of things at the sharing and learning time like how other schools have worm farms and composts, and murals around their schools.

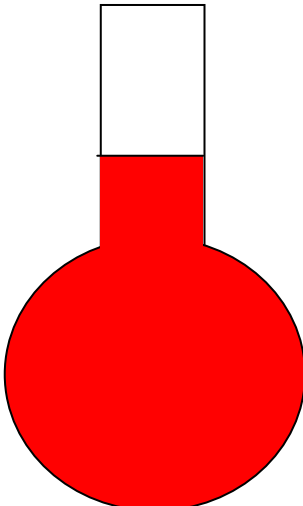
Next we had the presentation of our bronze award where we went up on stage. It was so exciting. All our hard work had paid off.

When we got on stage we had to hold hands and do a wave in a circle while the music played to show that everyone had to participate to make it happen. Then we got given our school's certificate and a kowhai tree.

To sum up, we all had a great day and now want to win a silver award next year.

By Annabelle Cole



<p>Fees There has been no movement at all this week so perhaps the fair has been on everyone's mind. It seems clear that it is going to be another disappointing year in terms of the percentage of our donations that we collect so we will hope for better things next year.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>TARGET</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$40,500</p> <p>\$31,100</p> </div> </div> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Received to 5 December</p>	<p>Xmas Trees The supplier of the Christmas Trees has agreed to let us have a smaller order than the 150 minimum originally stipulated so we are able to go ahead with this. We will phone in the final numbers tomorrow so if you or anyone you know still wishes to order knowing that they really are available please give us a call.</p> <p>The trees are likely to arrive on Monday but we will get a message to everyone who has ordered once they are ready to collect.</p> <p>Fundraising. On Tuesday evening a small group of parents got together to sell sausages at LV Martin's sale, and I would like to thank this group. Thanks to Carleen and Jeff Needham, Anita Harrison, Tania Janssen, Carol Shortis and one of our pupils, Matt Shortis. While we did not make a huge amount of money it does all help. We should also thank L V Martin who provided everything but the people and allowed us to keep all the money raised.</p>
<p>Contact Details An old plea frequently repeated. Please make sure that you update contact details when you change your home or work details. We have had a couple of occasions recently when we have been unable to contact parents because phone numbers had changed. While there was no particular urgency in these cases it could have been rather different if there had been a serious accident and we were unable to contact parents. We will be posting reports home soon and if we do not have the right address then obviously they are unlikely to arrive.</p>	<p>Raffles On Tuesday Carleen Needham went down to the Central Police Station with all the raffle ticket butts and had the two Christmas tree scratchy raffles drawn. It is always nice to keep things in the family and the two winning tickets both belonged to parents in the school community. Congratulations to: Carol Weston and Katherine Ivory.</p> <p>They have a busy time ahead of them scratching all those tickets and maybe getting a wonderful Christmas present!</p>
<p>Trout Fishing This Sunday, 9 December, the Wellington Fly Fishers Club is providing an introduction to trout fishing at the Capital Trout Centre in Owhiro Bay. Children must have licences (free) which they can obtain from Stirling Sports in Willis St.</p>	<p>Successes Tabitha Dombroski sat FIVE dancing exams earlier this year achieving Honours (tap), High Honours (jazz), and Distinction (ballet, character, and performance). Her dance school held their end of year concert 2 weeks ago and Tabitha won a cup for achievement in Grade One Ballet. Well done Tabitha.</p>
<p>Water As I mentioned in the note that went home at the beginning of the week we have cases of pump bottles of water available at \$20:00 for a 24 bottle carton. Great for lunches, the beach, picnics or for emergency supplies. Give us a call.</p>	<p>Further success. Among the prize winners at Wellington Girls this year are three ex pupils in Year 10. Pupils from Thorndon, which seems to box above its weight, also featured among the prize winners at Wellington High as they have done for a number of years. It is always interesting to get this information about successes at secondary school but not always easy to do with our pupils scattering far and wide.</p>

Children's Writing

One of our goals is to have children's writing in the newsletter at least once a term and I think we have well and truly exceeded that target. Below is another piece which has come out of Alistair du Chatenier's Creative Writing group.

Questions' - The ultimate essay

What, when, where, why, which, who and how? For those are the questions of the world.

She writes that down - it has a nice ring to it.

Those questions question everything, and more.

I'll keep everyone dangling on a thread, wondering what I'm writing about, while I figure it out myself, she thinks to herself. This will be the ultimate essay - if I can work out what to write next.

"Between you and I," she says to the air, "I am completely stumped." Suddenly an idea hits her.

Two words can make everyone understand - two questions can make everyone confused. Of these seven questions:

- *One will question the thing that everyone takes for granted.*
- *One may make you the richest person on earth or at the same time, the poorest.*
- *One can make everyone hate you*
- *But another one could kill you.*
- *One may fix everything or break it.*
- *One can heal you and everyone else.*
- *And the last one may make you live forever.*

For a while her head is down and she is concentrating hard. Her hand scrawls her messy handwriting across the page. Finally she looks up and stares blankly at the wall. Then as the concluding idea hits her, her head jerks down once again.

These questions are useful but deadly. It's the angle of life and death; the corner of this and that; it's everything and nothing; a speck of dust and the entire universe. A common question can turn into one everyone dreads. They'll stump you or heal you. Ask them but don't expect an answer. Before you question others, question yourself. Give a question but beware you may give yourself.

She sighs and smiles. Two more words, she thinks, two more words to finish this essay.

The end.

By Kaylie Potaka.