

# Thorndon School Newsletter

39/2007

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13 December 2007  
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*Cum . . . docemus, discimus.*

**While we teach, we learn.**

## Action List

Does your child have a hat at school?

Are you up to date with all payments?

Have you stopped your AP?

Have you paid your donation?

Kia ora

This is either the ultimate or penultimate newsletter of the year. It will all depend on how busy next Thursday is and with a 12:00 finish anything that goes out next week will be brief.

Thank you to everyone who came along last Friday evening. It was wonderful to see so many people here. It was a very pleasant evening and we already have plans for how to improve some aspects of the evening next year.

We have only five school days left before the end of the year but there are still a fair number of things to be done. I have 70 odd reports to finish reading, editing and writing comments in and these will be finished in the next day or two and posted on Monday.

I am still working on class placements and these too should go out on Monday along with stationery lists and other information about the start of next year.

We farewell our Year 8 pupils at the Leavers Dinner on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday we hold our final assembly at which we will present our Principal's Award and Sports Award.

Teachers will no doubt punish themselves by organising class activities or shared lunches and in between all this we have to prepare the school for cleaning, painting and carpet laying.

This has been an extremely good year. We have had a particularly happy, cooperative and willing group of children and there have been some notable successes in a number of areas. The seniors participated with distinction in Stage Challenge, we had our best Art Week yet, the fair was more successful than ever, children participated in and won a number of art competitions and enjoyed success in a whole lot of other areas. We have introduced some new initiatives such as the Sports Squad which have been more successful than we had anticipated and we have a wonderfully diverse extension and enrichment programme.

We are very much looking forward to next year, anticipating and planning for the same sort of success. Many of the children have commented that this has been their best year at Thorndon and there is universal evidence in their reports of a very positive feeling about school and at this point I would like to thank the staff whose hard work has made this possible. They have done a great job.

In case I don't get to put out a newsletter next week I will wish you a happy Christmas now and hope that you all get the opportunity to relax and enjoy the holidays basking in the sun which I am sure will come. Thank you all for the contributions you have made through the year.

Bill Sutton

**Chess Tournament**

On Tuesday we held a school wide Chess Tournament for the first time.

Sixty children from across the school took part in tournament conditions, playing not just against each other but against the clock.

Chess has had a real renaissance in the school and our teams have been consistently successful at local tournaments. This has been largely due to the efforts of Alistair du Chatenier who gives up lunch hours to take the chess club and who arranged for Mark van der Horn to come in to the school and coach children.

The tournament ran from 9:30 until a little after 3:00 and the eventual winner was Logan Jeffries from Room 2. Well done Logan. It was so successful that we are putting it into next year's calendar. We are having a trophy made and hope that this will be ready in time to present to the school chess champion at our final assembly.

**Fees and Donations**

One last plea for people to pay their school donations. While we have had a very successful fair the need for these donations has not diminished. I have already talked about the very successful year we have had but it comes at a cost, and cannot be done without staff. We are funded for 9.6 teachers and employ 10 full time classroom teachers and 3 part-timers. Your donations go towards this extra staffing.

I don't hold out much hope of reaching our target figure this year but I hope that we can come much closer to it in 2008. I would love to be able to leave this part of the newsletter out after Term 1



On a related topic but moving away from donations there are still quite a number of people with outstanding payments due for activity fees, swimming, technicraft, ASC etc. Please bring these up to date before the end of the year.

**Term 4 Calendar**

The calendar looks wonderfully empty now but there are a lot of things left for teachers to do which don't show on this!

Dec 13	Tabloid Sports.
Dec 18	Leavers Dinner.
Dec 19	Final Assembly
Dec 20	Term ends – 12:00.

**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.

**Car Parking**

Car parking is at a premium in this area and many parents pick their children up from the Thorndon Pool car park which makes absolute sense as it is off the road.

We need to bear in mind though that this car park is a Thorndon **Pool** park and not a Thorndon **School** park. There have apparently been a few altercations between pool users and school parents and a few complaints have been generated.

Pool staff have been very accommodating but they are asking you all to remember that the parking is for pool patrons, and not for parents there for more than a few minutes.

As a rider to that, the area becomes very congested at the end of the day and I would ask you all to take extreme care as there are a lot of children out there and, despite our best efforts, they do not always use the footpath, preferring to cut across the car park in and around the traffic.

**Waterpolo**

I want to congratulate the water polo team which entered the Monday night competition at Kilbirnie Pool this term. After some initial uncertainty they have made wonderful progress winning their last few games against teams that have been playing for most of the year.

Well done to the following children:  
 Charlotte Edwards, Alexandra Banks-Estall, Lydia Whiting, Phinie Malir-Crawford, Alexandra Garvie, Catherine Hobby, Natana Parata, Aeron Glasgow-Keene, Finlay Sanderson, Louis Ivory, Kahu Hill, Alexander Bremner, Annabelle Cole.



These photos show some of the action from the chess tournament with Logan Jeffries, the eventual winner in action in the bottom picture. Impressively Logan did not lose a single game and showed a great ability to withstand the pressure of time and a shaky position.



**Sports Squad**

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, the sports squad went to Worser Bay Boating Club and had the opportunity to try sailing, in most cases for the first time.

A couple of their reactions are below.

**Sailing Review**

Sailing was an awesome new sport to try. It's an awesome experience to get on a sail boat and know that you are safe on the water. Sailing has helped me to experience what it's like to try new sports and know that trying new sports is pretty difficult, especially when the wind isn't blowing. I think most people should try sailing and get a feel for the sport.

Sailing also helped me to remember that most sports are thinking activities. Sailing makes you think when to turn, how to turn and catching the wind at the right time.

So that's why I think sailing is a great sport to learn and enjoy.

Tailah Love

**Sailing**

I really enjoyed the sailing because it is something completely new to me. It was a great experience. It was pretty relaxed and not too hard to start with and at the same time it was a lot of fun. We were sailing Optimists which are small one person yachts.

I learnt, for one, how to sail. But I had to learn to tack, which is turning. For a tack you have to push a lever forward and duck as the boom comes flying across your head, which makes the yacht turn.

Because I enjoyed sailing so much I signed up to a course in January at Worser Bay.

Conor McIntosh

**Contact Details**

Please don't forget to make sure that we have the correct contact details for you.

Reports and other information will be posted out at the start of next week and if we don't have the right address you are unlikely to get these things.

**Water**

As I mentioned last week we have cases of sipper 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.