

Thorndon School Newsletter

9/2008

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17 April 2008
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A good holiday is one spent among people whose notions of time are vaguer than yours
J B Priestley

Action List

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Have you sent in your email address for the newsletter? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you <u>collected</u> your apples? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you paid your activity fee? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you paid your school donation? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you ordered Apples? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you ordered an Entertainment Book? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dear Parents

Kia ora,

It is hard to believe that it is the end of the first term already. This week has been frantic and we won't be sorry when 3:00 arrives on Friday! The holidays will fly past and we will be back for the new term before we know it.

We have been talking on and off here about the terrible incident at Mangatepopo. Every now and then we hear about one of these cruel events while a school party is on an EOTC trip and inevitably they lead to a questioning of EOTC as an educational approach. Thorndon has a long history of using EOTC activities to challenge and extend our pupils and thankfully we have never had a serious incident or accident. I have no doubt about the worth of these programmes and activities and would hate to see a tragedy like this lead to a reduction in EOTC, which is a feature of the education landscape in New Zealand. Graeme Dingle said last night that 'sometimes things just happen'. While we can plan to manage and mitigate risk the possibility of something 'just happening' always exist in these Outdoor Education settings. Reactions so far seem to have been quite measured and I hope they stay this way as people try to find out just what went wrong.

On a more pleasant note Seb Black, who I mentioned in last week's newsletter, has made wonderful progress and was discharged from hospital last weekend. There will still be a long recovery process but we are looking forward to seeing Seb back at school next term, at least on a part-time basis. We would not have imagined that this was possible a week ago.

Tomorrow will be the last day for Diana Evans and I am sure she is looking forward to her retirement with a mixture of emotions. After so many years there will be many things she will miss, chief among them the daily contact with the pupils in her class and the interaction with her colleagues. The ability to roll over and go back to sleep in the morning, not having to face the traffic on the way in to school from Trentham, not having to spend time on the paper work will all be very attractive but there will, inevitably, be a gap in Diana's life. I know that she has a number of things planned to fill the gap and I am sure it will not be long before she is wondering why she didn't do this before! I am sure you will join with the staff and our pupils in wishing her all the very best for the future.

I hope that the weather stays reasonably fine for the holidays and that our children get the opportunity to refresh themselves in preparation for the first of the two winter terms.

Kids Literature Quiz

On Friday of last week we had two teams of children completing in the annual Kids Lit Quiz, a competition based on a knowledge of literature for children.

While neither of our teams placed they both performed extremely well.

Young Leaders' Day

On Monday a group of children attended the National Young Leaders' Day at the Michael Fowler Centre where they heard a number of inspirational speakers. We hope to see some action from these children when we come back next term as they put some of what they learnt into practice.

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Calendar

Apr 18	Term ends – 3:00pm
Apr 22	BoT Meeting

Term 2 Calendar (a preliminary calendar)

May 5	Term Begins
May 5	ERO visit begins
May 20	Central Zone Cross Country
Jun 5	Storylines performance at school
Jun 16	Queen's Birthday – school closed
Jun 25	Class Act Opera at school
Jul 4	Term Ends – 3:00pm

School Fees

We have been fairly quiet about the school fees this year but will start the constant reminders again next term!

To date we have received just over \$15000 which is almost half of our budget target. At the same time in 2007 we had taken in \$20,000 so we are well behind last year's efforts at the moment.

This school fee - which is a voluntary donation – is an important component of the school's income, and allows us to provide some of the things that our operations grant does not cover. We are not funded for 10 classroom teachers so need to find funding for the extra position. We are not funded for three part-time teachers and need to find money for these positions as well as for teacher aides.

If you have not paid this year we would love to get your donation at the start of next term.

Maori Language

We have had a number of parents indicate an interest in after school Te Reo classes and we will pursue this for next term.

Please let me know if you are interested and have not already sent something through.



* Holiday Programme *
 * Birthday Parties * Groups *
 * Team/Display Gym *
 * Recreation * Rhythmic *
 * Pre-school * Competition *
 * Adults * Aerobics * Trampoline *



Release the Champion
 in your kids while having
 fun, fitness and friends
 We will now be remaining in our Hutt Rd
 premises for all of Term 2

ENROL NOW Ph 4711 925 150 Hutt Rd, Kaitiaki Wharua
 capitalgymnastics@xtra.co.nz
 We now have a website, so check it out at: www.capitalgym.wellington.net.nz

Apples

There are still some apples to be collected from the foyer.

There will be a gap during the holidays and deliveries will resume in the first week back next term.

Entertainment Books

We have sold 148 books so far so we are really making progress towards matching last year's efforts.

We have plenty available and can always get more so please don't think it is too late!

Open Evenings

It seems extraordinarily early in the year but I have had the first communication from a secondary school about open days which tend to begin in Term 2.


Wellington Girls' College has reviewed what they do and has decided to change the format.

This year they will be holding a **School in Action** morning on Tuesday 10th June between 9:00am and 12:30pm.

In an attempt to reduce congestion they will be running four groups – 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am, 11:30am.

Thorndon School parents interested in enrolling their daughters at Wellington Girls' are asked to come at 11:30am.

I will put a reminder in the newsletter closer to the time.



**WHAT NOW IS COMING TO WELLINGTON
 AND WE NEED YOU! COME AND JOIN IN
 THE FUN AND BE ON THE TELLY**

SUNDAY 27th April, 7.30am, The Waterfront (Outside Te Papa)

Join us for the LIVE 'What Now' show on the waterfront. We want a really big crowd to beat the record for the biggest gumboot walk - so bring your mum, dad, sister, brother, nan and granddad too!

Don't forget your gummies and you can take part in our 2km walk around the waterfront to break the record.

Come on down and join us and you might win some cool prizes! Rain or shine we'll be broadcasting LIVE from the waterfront. See you there... and **DON'T FORGET YOUR GUM BOOTS!**

For more information please call:

Kate Roberts - 03 339 7101