

Thorndon School Newsletter

11/2008

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15 May 2008
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To make your children capable of honesty is the beginning of education.

John Ruskin

Action List

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Have you sent in your email address for the newsletter? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you sent in your school donation? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you paid your activity contribution? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you collected your apples? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you returned your Health Curriculum Survey? | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dear Parents

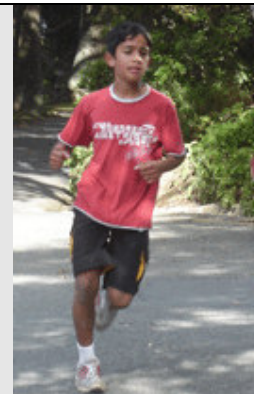
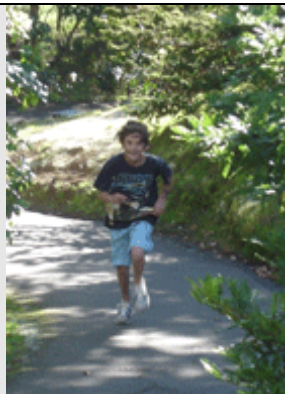
Kia ora

Trying to get the school cross country run before the Central Zone event has been an exercise in patience but the waiting paid off as yesterday was a lovely day to run the event. Everything went very smoothly and I was impressed by the degree of effort put in by most of the children. There are always some who really do not enjoy this sort of activity and co-incidentally, yesterday afternoon Theresa Bowen and I met with someone from Sport Wellington to talk about Active Schools, an initiative which could help those children.

Active Schools, which is a joint initiative between SPARC and the Ministry of Education, joined at the regional level by Sport Wellington and Victoria University, has the aim of "assisting school communities in developing a physical activity culture where children choose and enjoy physical activity".

We have signed a memorandum of agreement with Sport Wellington and the College of Education which will give us access to assistance and resources, and while I believe we are already a very active school this assistance will help us look at what we are doing from a slightly different perspective, making more explicit links between Physical Education and Physical Activity and giving greater weight to children's voices. I don't think that you will see any immediate changes in what we do though children may start to see some changes as the year progresses. You may be asked to respond to initiatives and questionnaires, and we will be looking for some parents to take an active role in helping to manage the process.

Bill Sutton



The cross country yesterday was a great success and the efforts made were commendable. The first five at each age group will go on to represent the school at the Central Zone Cross Country Competition at Macalister Park next Tuesday. A list of the children attending appears later in the newsletter.

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Term 2 Calendar

May 19	Author visit to school.
May 20	Central Zone Cross Country
May 20	Group of Y5/6 to Writers Workshop at Museum of City and Sea.
Jun 2	Queen's Birthday – school closed
Jun 3	Senior School to Te Papa for Matariki
Jun 5	Storylines performance at school
Jun 10	Wellington Girls College – School in Action – Open Day
Jun 23	Room 7 to Te Papa
Jun 25	Class Act Opera at school
Jul 4	Term Ends – 3:00pm

Please note a couple of date changes. I had the wrong date for Queen's Birthday weekend and the date of the cross country has changed.

New Pupils

We have four new children this week. They are:

Maxwell Leuga	Y2	Room 9 - Tarata
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Maxwell and his younger brother, who will be starting later in the year, have recently moved into the Thorndon area after some months overseas.

Sean Tyson-Taylor	Y1	Room 8 - Harakeke
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Poor Sean had his first day at school on Monday and by Wednesday had succumbed to illness so will have to start all over again.

Nimthara Udawatta	Y5	Room 2 - Rimu
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Nimthara has very recently arrived from Sri Lanka and started with a hiss and a roar, winning in her age group in the cross country about an hour after she had started school.

Ho Won Ham	Y5	Room 1 Kowhai
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Ho Won is an international student from Korea who has been in the country for just a week and will be busy adjusting to a new language and culture.

I would like to welcome the families of all four children to the Thorndon School Community and hope that the association is mutually enjoyable and valuable.

Blogs

All our classes have blogs which have been updated this year and which will be updated at least once a month from now on. The information on these blogs is much more specific to the class than anything that appears in the newsletter and we urge you to take a look and to post comments.

You will find all sorts of information about what classes have done, are doing, and what they plan to do as well as some very useful and interesting links to other sites.

The blogs can be accessed from the school website by using the link below:

<http://www.thorndon.school.nz/ourclasses.htm>

School Fees/Money

As I have mentioned already, reminders will be coming out shortly about the various packages of money we would like from you.

The contributions you make have a huge impact on what the school is able to offer and the activities we are able to engage in.

Lost Property

One of our senior boys has lost a red and black Billabong sweatshirt – size 12.

He hasn't been able to find it at school so we are wondering if anyone has picked it up by mistake. Maybe parents could check.

Open Morning

I have already mentioned the Wellington Girls College open day on Tuesday 10th June and the "season" has clearly started with St Mary's College holding their open morning on Tuesday 27 May between 8:00 and 10:00.

These open days are a useful way for parents to get some understanding of the ways in which various secondary schools operate. Parents of Year 8 children will have to make decisions about a school for next year in a relatively short time and these mornings will give you some idea of what the schools can offer for your children.

Art Club

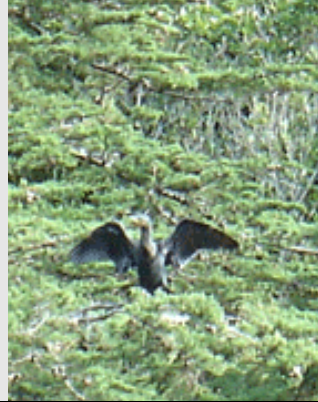
Neal Palmer's art club will get under way today. We are extremely fortunate in being able to have someone like Neal come along and offer his experience and expertise and the group reflects the value the school places on the arts.

Health Curriculum Consultation

I know that responding to surveys can be an unwanted chore so I am never surprised at a low rate of return for questionnaires sent home in the newsletter. We have had 15 returns so far, a response rate of about 6.3% which is a bit small to give us any particularly valid information so I am hoping to get a few more in over the next week or two. A 20% return would be nice. Just let us know if you would like another copy of the form.

Perhaps everyone should be thankful that we are not ringing with a series of questions just as you are starting your evening meal!

Inquiry Learning – Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trip



This term the whole school is involved in an inquiry learning process based on “Birds”. The first stage of an inquiry learning unit is to immerse the children in the theme, exposing them to as much information as possible. At the end of this immersion the inquiry proper can begin with children deciding on what their inquiry might be. At the senior level of the school it is possible that each child will be pursuing different avenues while further down the school the inquiry will have a greater degree of teacher direction. The process is cross curricular so that, while this particular inquiry might have a science base, other strands of the curriculum will feed into it.

Our trips to Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, apart from providing the opportunity to visit a beautiful, peaceful piece of wilderness in the heart of Wellington, was part of the immersion process and children saw and learned something about a number of different birds and other wildlife.

Dance Lessons

L.O.D. Dance Studio

Teaching love of dance to ages 4 and up.
Ballet, Jazz and Open

Level 1, 6-9 Broomhedge St (off Adelaide Rd)
Newtown

Phone 386 2145
lodpenderdance@gmail.com

Marching

Stewart Royales Marching Club

Open Day
Sunday 18th May
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Grenada Village Community Hall
Guadeloupe Cres
Grenada Village

976 522 or 027 365 000 for more information

Cell Phones

As everyone is aware, we have a rule that cell phones, ipods and the like are to be handed in to the office in the morning. This is a system that has been working well but it does rely to some extent, on the honesty of children when they come to collect their phones.

Late last term we had a phone taken after school by someone it did not belong to. This has happened before when someone has mistakenly identified a phone as their own. That may have happened on this occasion to as the phone was returned the next day but only after phone calls had been made on it, texts sent and photos deleted.

We do talk to children from time to time about cell phones but usually in the context of bullying and appropriate use rather than what they should or should not do if they take someone else’s phone by mistake. We have assumed, mistakenly perhaps, that all our children have the good sense and integrity to bring things back without using them. We will bring this up with classes, but I think it is also something that parents could discuss with their children.

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The list below shows all the children going to the inter-zone cross country next week as well as the names of sixth place-getters who will be the reserves in the event of someone being away. I should point out that the interzone competition starts at Year 4 but that our Year 3 children also compete at this level.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, particularly to these children going on the next stage.
Good luck.

		Girls		Boys
Year 4	1 st	Tabitha Dombroski	1 st	Arvalan Sathiyandra
	2 nd	Erin Monckton	2 nd	Joshua Wight
	3 rd	Brianna Anglesey	3 rd	Carl Jeffries
	4 th	Taylor Holliman	4 th	Harrison Clark
	5 th	Amy Turner	5 th	Oliver Stanish
	Res	Emma Waho	Res	Harry Lomax-Sawyers
Year 5	1 st	Nimthara Udawatta	1 st	Connall Deacon
	2 nd	Olivia Yeo	2 nd	Ken Ken Cameron
	3 rd	Ana Kovalenko	3 rd	Datu Beech
	4 th	Rashmi Pratap	4 th	Waylon Shadlock
	5 th	Melanie Rayasi	5 th	Liam Vaughan
	Res	Julia McGrath	Res	Thomas Langdale-Hunt
Year 6	1 st	Aliyah De la Mare	1 st	Olly Chiaroni
	2 nd	Brittany Antipas	2 nd	Daniel Davis
	3 rd	Olive Brown	3 rd	Matt Robilliard
	4 th	Victoria Hunter	4 th	Nathan Stirling
	5 th	Ashleigh Edwards	5 th	Ben Rampton
	Res	Kayleigh Burchett-Cotterall	Res	Taine MacKenzie
Year 7	1 st	Anna Caudwell	1 st	Jackson Clark
	2 nd	Amira El Orfi	2 nd	Dominik Baguioro
	3 rd	Patricia Posadas	3 rd	Christopher Andrews
	4 th	Raiha Blane	4 th	Aidan Hallett
	5 th	August Gould	5 th	Ngawhera Rangitaawa
	Res	Jessica Just	Res	Kahurangi Mill
Year 8	1 st	Lydia Whiting	1 st	Natana Wallace-Parata
	2 nd	Zoe Poppelwell	2 nd	Mithunan Sathiyandra
	3 rd	Rebekah Curtis-Gunn	3 rd	Tailah Love
	4 th	Charlotte Edwards	4 th	Jack Gleadow
	5 th	Alex Garvie	5 th	Zach Boyle
	Res	Yan Liu	Res	Alex Bremner