

Thorndon School Newsletter

13/2008

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One kind word can warm three winter months.

Japanese Proverb

Action List

Have you paid your activities contribution?

Have you sent in your school donation?

Have you returned your Health Curriculum Survey?

Have you collected your apples?

Dear Parents

Kia ora

Winter has bitten fairly hard this week or perhaps it only feels like that after the wonderful run of weather we have enjoyed this year. The weather for the long weekend does not look wonderful but surely over the three days we will get one which will allow us to get out in the sunshine and fresh air.

There are some successes to celebrate this week and these are detailed later in the newsletter. We are always really happy to hear about successes and achievements in activities that are outside school and we rely on children and parents to keep us informed about these. It is nice for all of us to be able to celebrate with our achievers.

Last year you may remember that we hosted a group of Korean students for a few weeks. A number of parents provided home stays for these students, the difference between home stay and billeting being that there is a financial element to a homestay. The visit was, in almost every way, a great success and we have been approached to see if we would be interested in doing the same thing again. With the experience we have had I am sure we could do it better but it is not worth pursuing unless we are reasonably confident of being able to provide the accommodation. If anyone thinks they might be interested please let me know and we can talk about it.

Enjoy the holiday weekend.

Bill Sutton

Matariki

Next week celebrations for Matariki, the traditional Maori New Year, get under way around the country and there is a huge range of activities on offer.

Below are two links to sites which list activities around New Zealand and in Wellington.

<http://www.nzlive.com/nzlivecom/matariki-2008>

<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/WhatsOn/Events/AnnualEvents/MatarikiFestival/>

Apples

This week's delivery of apples is ready for collection from the foyer.

Next week will be the last and I would be interested in hearing from people about how they have felt about the scheme as I am sure it will be offered again.

Holiday Programme

Last holidays the YMCA ran a holiday programme based at the school. This was an easy way for us to manage the provision of a holiday programme as all the administration was done by the YMCA meaning that there was no need for any school staff to be in during the holidays to deal with wages and the other administrative details that running a programme entails.

The YMCA is unable to provide that facility these holidays so there will not be a programme running from school over the next break, though I have been assured that they are keen to continue the arrangement in the future.

They are however, happy to provide a shuttle from school to their base in the morning returning children to school to be picked up by parents at the end of the day.

Information brochures and enrolment forms will be available in the next week or two.

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Term 2 Calendar

As the term develops we are adding activities to the calendar. New items are written in red.

May 29	Rooms 1 & 2 to Karori Wildlife Sanctuary
Jun 2	Queen's Birthday – school closed
Jun 3	Senior School to Te Papa for Matariki
Jun 3	Kapahaka Group to Dept of Internal Affairs
Jun 5	Envirogroup to Macalister Park for Arbor Day
Jun 5	Storylines performance at school
Jun 5	Group to Te Papa for World Environment Day
Jun 10	Wellington Girls College – School in Action – Open Day
Jun 23	Room 7 to Te Papa
Jun 24	Onslow College Open Evening– 6:30pm
Jun 24	Athena Montessori Open Morning
Jun 25	Class Act Opera at school
Jul 1	Wellington High School Open Evening
Jul 4	Term Ends – 3:00pm

Internship

We have been approached by an International Internship organisation inviting the school to host a Japanese Teaching Assistant who would introduce Japanese culture and language to the school and support classroom teachers while learning something about the NZ education system.

This would happen during Term 3 or Term 4 and could be anything from 1 week to several months. The interns are teachers, students or working professionals anxious to share their culture and learn about ours.

We would have to find a home stay for the intern and they would pay a home stay fee. If the opportunity is taken up we can specify a suitable starting date and duration.

Our senior students have already started learning Japanese and this would be a great opportunity to go a little further. If anyone is interested please let me know and we can explore things a little further.

New Pupils

We have one new enrolment this week. She is:

Emily Turner	Y1	Room 8 - Harakeke
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Emily joins her sister Amy who started in 2006.

Successes

We have four children to congratulate this week for their achievements in being selected for representative teams.

Lydia Whiting and Chris Andrews have both been selected for the reps in Netball. Congratulations to both of them. In Chris's case it is even more meritorious because this is his first season of netball meaning that he has only ever played 3 or 4 competitive games.

In the other major winter code – with apologies to everyone who plays football, hockey or some other winter sport - two of our senior boys have been selected for the Wellington Under 13 Rugby Rep team. Congratulations to Jack Gleadow and Tailah Love. This carries on the success some of our boys gained last year.

Two weekends ago Alex Bremner, another of our senior pupils, competed in the St John Youth competitions. These involved 15 teams of 4 from the Lower North Island taking part in events ranging from first aid and health care to drill and inspection with team work and leadership being assessed across all 7 events. In spite of being 1 person down and having to compete as a 3 man team Alex's group took first place in First Aid and 2nd place overall and Alex himself took first place for team leader points and was awarded the Champion Team Leader Trophy. Alex has also recently completed 200 hours of voluntary Community Service through St Johns.

As everyone will know, we offer an extensive extension and enrichment programme and among the qualities we are trying to promote through the activities the children participate in are leadership and the pursuit of excellence and it is notable that all these children either are, or have been, members of the Sports Squad.

Well done to all of them.

Mouse Mats

We are on the scrounge again. Does anyone have access to mouse mats we can use with our computers?

Many businesses produce these as promotional material and we would find it very useful if any of you were able to source some for us.

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Parent Help

Thank you to everyone who responded to the request in last week's newsletter. We have enough volunteers now to be able to offer some extra one to one assistance every day of the week to a number of children who we believe would benefit from a little intensive work.

Author Visit

Babette Cole, the award winning British author and illustrator will be speaking at an evening event at the National Library Auditorium at 6:30pm on Thursday 12th June.

In a seminar chaired by Dylan Owen entitled "From Factual to Fabulous" she will be joined by Australian children's fantasy writer Carole Wilkinson.

This event is being organised by Storylines and tickets, which are \$35:00 each are available from The Children's Bookshop in Kilbirnie – ph 387 3905.

Babette Cole will also be appearing at the Storylines Festival Free Family Day on Sunday June 8th at Te Whaea National Dance and Drama Centre, 11 Hutchison St, Newtown.



This illustration is from the NZ Post Book Awards entry "Out of the Egg". Tina Matthews, the writer and illustrator, spoke to children at school just before the awards.

The children who listened to Tina expressed a hope that the book would go further and it was nice to hear that she had been awarded the prize for best first book.

Lunch

Last week I made mention of the importance of breakfast to the way children behave at school and the effect not having it can have on learning and on social interactions.

This week I am going to say the same sort of thing about lunch. A number of children don't eat lunch, not because they have not brought it but because they have already eaten it all before school or at morning tea.

This seems to indicate some mismatch between what they need and what they have, and if they have nothing after morning tea it is often very noticeable by the afternoon.

Perhaps this could be a topic of conversation?

Secondary School

I have mentioned already the open days or open evenings that we know about and that we have prospectuses from Wellington Girls College.

We now have copies of the prospectus from Wellington Boys College and these are available from our school office.

Enrolment applications for most secondary schools will be due in the next month or so and it will be important that you get these in early. You should also be aware that most secondary schools in Wellington now have enrolment schemes and are zoned. Out of zone enrolments in crowded secondary schools may not be easy and in many cases a ballot will be necessary.

Chess

Chess has become part of the landscape of the school and last week 3 teams took part in a competition at St Marks School in Mt Victoria.

We did not have quite the success we have become used to but the experience will have been good for our children.

We will look forward to more success at the Central Zone competition late in the year.

Health Curriculum Consultation

These forms keep drifting into school and we are approaching a 20% return now. We are still very happy to get these and in a couple of weeks we will summarise our findings and post them on the website or in the newsletter.

The link to get the form from the website is:

<http://www.thorndon.school.nz/documents/newsletters/2008/newsletter1008.pdf>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!



entertainment™

Thorndon School.

Thorndon School would like to thank you for supporting this year's Entertainment Book fundraiser.

We have had another successful year, with the ever popular Entertainment Books raising over **\$1300** so far!

We are always keen to offer the Books through the school, as we appreciate the savings families can make through purchasing a copy, while supporting the school at the same time!

The 2007/08 Entertainment Book expires on 1st June, so now is the time to replace your existing copy, or realize the benefits of this great money saving book for the first time.

We have a **limited supply** of the books left, so would like to offer families a final chance to secure a copy by filling in the form below and forwarding to the school office.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Address: _____

Child's Name: _____ Class #: _____

I would like to order: ____ x Wellington Entertainment Books @ \$55 each (GST incl.)= \$ _____

I would like to pay by: Cheque - Please make cheques payable to: (Thorndon School)
 Cash

Or please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____/_____/_____/_____

Expiry Date: ____/____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Signature: _____