

# Thorndon School Newsletter

15/2008

[www.thorndon.school.nz](http://www.thorndon.school.nz)  
[office@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:office@thorndon.school.nz)

12 June 2008  
[principal@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:principal@thorndon.school.nz)

The cinema is not a slice of life, but a piece of cake.

Alfred Hitchcock

## Action List

Have you checked out your child's class blog?

Have you sent in your school donation?

Can you cover some library books?

Have you taken a look at our film?

## Dear Parents

Kia ora. As a school we have a wonderful location and because of our proximity to the central city area our children get more opportunity than most for enriching experiences. Over the past week or two children from Thorndon have walked to the Wellington Public Library as they do regularly, performed for the Department of Internal Affairs as part of the Matariki celebrations, planted trees at Macalister Park for Arbor Day and represented New Zealand children at the opening of a World Environment Day Art Exhibition at Te Papa.

We are usually pleased with the way our children behave when they are out and about but it is always nice to have this perception reinforced by others and this week we have had a number of contacts from parents and others congratulating the school on the behaviour of the group which went to Te Papa. This included one from a member of the catering staff who said that she has clients (presumably adult) who don't behave as well around a buffet table as our kids do!

Well done to all of them. This sort of reaction to the way our children behave ensures that we will continue to be able to offer these sorts of opportunities.

Bill Sutton

## Thank You

Firstly, a thank you to the parents who have volunteered to come in and help with our Reading Support programme. We have 6 parents coming in so we are covered every day, allowing us to provide the opportunity for a number of children to practice their reading without the distractions that can exist in the classroom. We are looking forward to seeing how quickly these children progress.

We want to thank those parents who have taken 5 library books home for covering. This really helps to get new books ready and out on to the shelves in a very short time. It can be frustrating to buy books and then have to wait for several weeks for them to appear on the shelves. We would welcome any other parents who might be able to spend an hour or two in the evening covering a few books. Books can be collected from the office and returned the following day.

We would also like to thank all those parents who have visited and responded to the class blogs. We have had a really good response, especially from parents of junior school parents and I would encourage everyone to take a few minutes to take a look at the sites and post a response.

## Car Parking

On Monday and Tuesday next week the Gibson Group will be filming a documentary at the Emergency Management Office on the corner of Murphy St and Turnbull St.

The car park will be filled with cars, vans, trucks and who knows what else, so you may have difficulty in driving in there to collect children between 3:00 and 5:00.

There is not a lot we can do about this but grin and bear it as the car park does not belong to us.

## Holiday Programme

Inverloch Art School is offering a weekly mixed media workshop for 6 – 12 year olds.

9:30 – 1:30 daily

Week 1: 7 – 11 July

Week 2: 14 – 18 July

Children will work in both 2D and 3 D and activities will include pastel portraits, finger painting, charcoal drawing, pen and ink, clay sculptures and papier-mache

Phone 939 2177 for more information

**Term 2 Calendar**

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

Jun 13	Orange Day Parade for Road Patrol.
Jun 16	Brian Faulkner, author, to speak with Y7/8.
Jun 19	Junior School to the zoo for Inquiry Unit
Jun 19	Wellington East Girls Open Evening
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

**New Enrolments**

We have two new enrolments to welcome this week. They are:

Siobhan Skagen	Y 4	Room 4 – Taupata
Knute Skagen	Y 1	Room 8 – Harakeke

Siobhan and Knute join their older sister, Daphne, who started at Thorndon a couple of weeks ago.

We also welcome Collis McNaughton who is joining the new entrant room for a couple of weeks.

**Extension and Enrichment**

Sick and tired of the same old dross on TV? Then it's time to check out the wonderful first film from Thorndon Primary Productions. It's episode one in a series of one-minute films set in a fictional school. The film has been posted on YouTube but is also available for viewing at Thorndon Primary Production's very own wikisite – <http://schoolepisodes.wetpaint.com/> (don't forget to click on the link to episode one on the left-hand side of the page).

There are going to be plenty more films made over the year and many chances for everybody to be involved – whether it's being behind the camera or being one of the actors. Hopefully you'll be seeing your child up on the silver screen soon.

**Apples**

We have one last bag of apples to be collected and that will be it for this year. The feedback has all been positive so we will try it again next year – the offer is still available.



Nadya Zapara



**World Environment Day**

Last week on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June a group of children from Thorndon and two other schools went to Te Papa to represent their school for World Environment Day. At the International Environment Day the winners of the 'Kick the Carbon Habit' international art exhibition were presented with their prizes by the Prime Minister Helen Clark. We saw a one-legged Kiwi called Sparky and some awesome paintings from all around the world, and we got to meet some of the young artists. We had a huge, tasty lunch at Te Papa and then we had a quick look at the 'Kick the Carbon Habit' exhibition.

By Daniel D and Tymesha C



**Health Surveys Summary**

Natasha Jackson, even though she is on maternity leave, offered to look at the returns from the Health survey and the results and comments are summarised below.

There were many comments received about how difficult it is to rank these areas in order of importance and I sympathise with this. It is however, very useful for us to learn what the school community's priorities are, and the information will help us as we start to look at putting together a local curriculum and rewrite our own schemes of work.

**Rankings**

Yr 7/8            Sexuality Education  
                      Food and Nutrition  
                      Body Care and Physical Safety  
                      Mental Health

Yr 5/6            Body Care and Physical Safety  
                      Food and Nutrition  
                      Mental Health  
                      Sexuality Education

Yr 1-4            Body Care and Physical Safety  
                      Food and Nutrition  
                      Mental Health  
                      Sexuality Education

**Body Care and Physical Safety**

- Hygiene and Personal/Body Care
- Keeping Safe in a variety of situations, including skills and strategies to assess and manage risks and make sensible decisions for personal safety. Being responsible for your own safety and being able to help others. This includes the concept of 'Stranger Danger' and students having the self-confidence to be assertive when necessary and say No.
- Communication – Saying No, asking for help, assertiveness, who to talk to when there are problems eg. Bullying
- The importance of exercise and fitness
- The dangers of smoking, alcohol and using illicit drugs.

The major focus in all levels of surveys returned was personal hygiene/care and keeping safe. Keeping safe was especially important in the junior school and things such as fire, water, crossing roads, and 'stranger danger' were mentioned.

**Food and Nutrition**

- Healthy Eating, balanced diets, nutrition and how these choices are related to overall health and well-being for life. (The food pyramid)
- The impact of poor eating habits and how these can develop into health issues such as anorexia and obesity.
- Knowledge of gardening, food preparation and cooking, starting from a young age.

There were a handful of comments in relation to making sure that we teach 'everything in moderation' and that we steer away from 'sanctimonious judgements' about good foods and bad foods.

**Mental Health**

- Build self-esteem, self-confidence and self-worth in students and awareness of these.
- How to manage moods and emotions, strategies to cope with things such as stress, anger, grief, success and failure.
- A knowledge and awareness of mental health issues and illnesses. Eliminate prejudice and build understanding, empathy, and tolerance of mental health issues by having open discourse and opportunity to communicate about these.
- Knowledge of the Mental Health System – who can you ask to help, how do you ask, it's ok to ask for help.
- Relationship management – strategies to cope with relationships within various groups, supporting each other, accepting differences.
- Addictions and drug use and how these are linked to a number of mental health problems.

**Sexuality Education**

- Biological/physiological changes at puberty, and the emotions that occur with these.
- Basic anatomy and reproduction.
- Discourse in an open forum from a young age.
- Personal responsibility in situations of peer pressure, experimentation etc.
- Healthy sexual relationships versus unhealthy ones (inappropriate behaviours).

It's worth noting that there were just as many comments saying that some parts of sexuality education should be left until the students were older (Year 7/8/9/10), as there were that it should start younger (from Year 1) with basic anatomy and reproduction.

The survey/questionnaire asked for comment on two areas. The Health section has been summarised here and we will summarise the PE and EOTC section next week. You will also hear over the last few weeks of term, more about Active Schools.

***Holiday Cricket***

**School Holiday Programme**  
7 – 11 July and 14 -18 July

Mana (Ngatittoa Domain) 7 – 11 July  
Hutt Recreation Centre 14 -18 July.  
Westpac Stadium 7 - 11 and 14 – 18 July

**Junior - 6 – 9 years of age.**

9.00am – 12 noon  
\$110.00 per week.

**Intermediate**

Time: 1.00pm - 3.00pm  
\$125.00 per week.

Enrolment forms available from:

[www.cricketwellington.co.nz](http://www.cricketwellington.co.nz).

For more information contact

Asoka (Westpac) on 471 2157/021 409 867,  
Ivan (Hutt) on 566 2075 or 021 894 338  
Glenn (Mana) on 233 9627/021 409 864  
or email: [holidayprogramme@firebirds.co.nz](mailto:holidayprogramme@firebirds.co.nz) .

***World Environment Day – Thursday 5 June***

Last Thursday the Envirogroup went to Macalister Park to help plant five thousand New Zealand native plants.

We went to the park on the bus at 11:15 and listened to a speech. There were a lot of people there including TV3 News. Once the speech was over we had lunch. They had prepared things like sandwiches, fruit, brownies and drinks. It was really tasty.

After lunch we started to plant the native plants. They already had holes dug in the ground and the plants were waiting in the holes to be planted.

Someone taught us how to get the plastic covers of and how to plant the plants. Once the last planting was done (which took a very short time as there were so many hands to help) we relaxed. Then it was time to leave and we were tired as we got off the bus and started to head back to school. It had been a big day! It good that we could help plant trees to reduce New Zealand's carbon footprint!

By Noah and Datu