

Thorndon School Newsletter

16/2008

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19 June 2008
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We read to know we are not alone

C S Lewis

Action List

Have you checked out your child's class blog?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you sent in your school donation?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you cover some library books?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you taken a look at our film?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you find time to read to children during Book Week?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can you offer some help during Maths Week.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dear Parents

Kia ora. There are only two weeks left of what has been a very short and quick term and we are beginning to look ahead to Term 3. You will see an initial calendar later in the newsletter and one of the events listed is Book Week. This is a time when we are very keen to get parent involvement and like to see parents coming in to read to children either in the classroom during the day or in the library during the lunch hour. This was really successful last year so perhaps some of you could start looking at your diaries and letting teachers know if and when you might be available to come in and do some reading. We will also, sometime next term or next be having a maths week and we would like to get your involvement in this too. There are parents out there, I am sure, whose jobs use maths in a practical sense all the time, and others who may have a personal interest in maths and mathematical ideas and who could talk with our children about the value and practical applications of maths in the "real world".

Bill Sutton

After School Care Accounts

The end of term is approaching and, as usual, we are anxious to get all outstanding money in before it arrives.

After School Care accounts will be sent out at the end of this week and we would be grateful if these accounts could be brought up to date in the next week or two.

We are still very keen to get donations, activities, swimming, photo-copying and technology contributions up to date as well.

College 2008

In the calendar is mention of the Onslow College Open Evening on Tuesday June 24.

I have also received a small number of the Onslow College prospectus, not enough, I suspect, for the number of Year 8 children likely to be going to Onslow.

If you would like a copy please let me know and I will make arrangements to get a few more if needed.

Stop Press

The YMCA Holiday Programme brochures have arrived this minute and they are on the counter in the office for anyone who would like to get one. There is something further through the newsletter about transport to and from the programme and I suggest that if you want to use this you make contact with them reasonably quickly.

Health and PE Survey

I have the breakdown of the comments parents made about PE and EOTC in our survey but don't have room for them in this week's newsletter. They will be in next week but of particular interest is the weight everyone has put on swimming. We will go into these findings more a little later.

School Holiday Netball

Skills Clinic

Newlands Intermediate

July 7 – 9 or July 10 & 11

10:00 – 2:00 daily

Maximum of 32 students per group (boys or girls)

Cost \$25 per day

Bring:

Netball shoes, drink bottle, lunch, snacks, suitable clothing and a great attitude.

Phone 477 6066

neil.acorn@xtra.co.nz

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Calendar

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

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

Term 3

While we do not yet have a detailed plan for Term 3 there are a number of items we can already put into the calendar.

Jul 21	Term 3 begins.
Jul 21	Maori Language Week begins.
Aug 5	Maths World Activities – Junior School.
Aug 7	Maths World Activities – Senior School.
Aug 8	The Olympics begin.
Aug 13	Art Workshop whole school.
Aug 18	Artsplash this week.
Aug 22	Central Cluster Chess Competition.
Sep 8	Book Week begins.
Sep 16	Central Cluster Speech Competition.
Sep 17	Science Technology Roadshow.
Sep 18	Science Technology Roadshow.
Sep 26	Term Ends.

The Olympics will, as they always do, create a great deal of interest and the usual practice for schools is to do an “Olympic Unit”. This year though, we are going to try something a little different. The context for a major inquiry unit will be China and I would expect the Olympics to become the focus for some inquiries but they will not be central.

Holiday Programme

The director of the YMCA holiday programme dropped in to the school yesterday and said that she had already had phone calls from a number of parents about the van to take children from school to the YMCA. She has pointed out that there is limited space and that it will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so I would suggest that if you want to use this service you should ring soon. The phone number is: 568 3252 ext. 3

New Enrolments

We have one new enrolment to welcome this week. She is:

Aasta Blakesley	Y 2	Room 9 –
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Aasta and her family have just moved into the area from Upper Hutt and we hope they have a long and happy association with the school.

Three Way Conferences

These are in full swing and we are getting a good response, and the feedback I am getting from staff is that the process is working well. You will be asked to give some feedback on the experience and this is very important to us as we keep working to refine these conferences.

At the end of the conference cycle I would like to be able to report that we had 100% of parents attend the conferences. Children are putting in a great deal of work and this is a way for them to share their successes with you and to develop goals for the rest of the year. I hope too, that the knowledge you gain from the conferences will allow you to start some productive conversations with your children about school and the learning that is going on.

Extension and Enrichment

I hope that lots of you have taken some time to have a look at the first film that Jay Smith’s film group has posted on the YouTube. It looks great and Dylan, the central – in fact the only – character, is a natural. Of course we don’t see the rest of the crew but there has been a lot of work going on behind the camera.

You can view the film by going to – <http://schoolepisodes.wetpaint.com/> Once you are there click on the link to episode one on the left-hand side of the page.

It is nice to see a growing number of posts to the class blogs too. The more responses we get the more positive the experience of producing the blogs becomes for children, creating a real context for them to work within. These sorts of experiences and real contexts help make sense of some of the things we teach children about writing for an audience, about proof reading and editing and about presentation.

Road Patrol

Every morning and afternoon children from the middle and senior school stand at the crossing in Murphy St and make sure that our children cross only with the lights.

It can be a thankless job, particularly when the weather is foul, but they do it very conscientiously. The hardest part of what they do is dealing with adults who will not wait and with girls from Wellington Girls College. We are attempting to deal with the girls by talking with college staff but changing the behaviour of the adults who use the crossing is more problematic. Some of them are members of our school community and there have been occasions when road patrollers have been abused when they have asked parents to wait for the green light.

One of the key competencies in the revised curriculum is **'Participating and Contributing'** and is about being actively involved in communities, something we try to promote, and a strand in the Health Curriculum is called **'Healthy Communities and Environments'** and deals with societal attitudes and values. It is difficult to promote the ideal of service to a community to children when they encounter this sort of response. Could you all, if you use the crossing, support the children and back them up when they ask people to wait.

All of this is a long preamble to an item written by a couple of the road patrollers about Orange Day, a day put on by the council and the police to acknowledge the importance of the work the children do.

Orange Day

On Friday 13th June, Thorndon Road Patrol children gathered in Room 6 at nine o'clock to collect the banner we had made before walking to Parliament. Even though we were dressed in as much orange as we had, we sadly did not win because the other schools had more orange clothes than our school.

We left Parliament at about 10am and walked along Lambton Quay and Willis Street towards Civic Square. We went into the civic centre and watched some performances and celebrated orange day. The hosts called out some schools and awarded them with prizes. After the prizes were given out, we left and got given a goody bag for every child that went.

By August Gould and Jessica Just

Karori Sanctuary

**Get in for a gold coin!
Saturday 28 June. 10am-5pm**

Still not made it up the hill to Wellington's award-winning wildlife attraction? Our gold coin entry day is the perfect opportunity to see what all the fuss is about. So why not fill up the thermos, wrap up warm, and enjoy a mid-winter stroll along some of Wellington's most beautiful bushwalks?

Weather permitting, we'll have the electric boat and BBQ running all day, and our Ranger Guides will be on hand to talk to you about the Sanctuary's outstanding flora and fauna. You will also be able to sneak a peek at the plans for our new Visitor & Education Centre!

Venue: Karori Sanctuary, Waiapu Rd, Wellington (first left through the Karori Tunnel). Call 04 920 9213 or visit www.sanctuary.org.nz for more details.



Dyslexia Awareness Week.

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty that mainly affects reading and spelling. Dyslexia is not related to intelligence, race or social background and it is estimated that about 10% of the population is affected by dyslexia to some degree.

The diagnosis of dyslexia has been problematic for many educational professionals over many years but it has now been recognised by the Ministry of Education as a genuine learning disability. We are looking forward to training and resourcing being made available now that this recognition has come.

There will be a number of activities taking place across the country over the course of this week.

Holiday Activities

Q. How can you make this school holiday the best one ever?

A. Sign up for the **SportZone Holiday Football Program**

The SportZone Holiday program gives 7 -12 year olds the chance to spend their time off from school playing football, making friends and learning loads of new skills. Surely this beats hanging around at home, annoying parents and slumping in front of the television. Get active, get involved, get SportZone.

Venues: Sladden Park Petone
 Tanera Park Brooklyn

The programs are run by highly experienced and qualified coaches who are dedicated to delivering fun, safe and skill based sessions.

Cost

\$100 for the week (AM or PM)
 \$225 for the week(all day)
 \$25 for individual sessions

If you want to sign up go to www.SportZone.org.nz or phone 586 6006 and ask for Drew.

Soccer

Later this year New Zealand is hosting the inaugural FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup from 28 October until 16 November. This will be the largest women's sporting event to be held in New Zealand, being televised to over 100 countries.

Wellington will have pool play involving Brazil, England, Korea and an African team and there will be three double header match days of pool play followed by two quarter finals. The other three pools will be based in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch.

We have been invited to send children to the Brazil v England match at 12:00 on Thursday 30 October and we plan to send as many children who are interested.

There will be a cost of \$5:00 per child and we will build this in to our activity contributions for Term 4. There will be more on this later.

Art Classes

'Fantasy and Fairytales'

Kids n' Art is an after school art class run by an experienced and qualified Art Teacher who offers children a creative, supportive, educational and fun environment where they are encouraged to explore their own creative expression and use their imagination. In the class, we will examine and find inspiration through H.C Andersen's fairytales and develop and extend skills in painting, drawing and collage. Basic technical skills will be taught and guidance and feedback will be given on an individual basis.

Wednesdays

3.30-5pm at Brooklyn Community Centre
 18 Harrison Street, Brooklyn

Fridays

3.30-5pm at Toi Poneke
 61 Abel Smith Street

Duration: weeks 30-39 (Term 4) for 10 weeks

Price: \$190 incl. materials

Age: 5-8 years

Min. 6 max 12 children per class.

For more information contact: Karen Carey,
kidsnart@xtra.co.nz or mob. 0212153760/ home 380 1929