

Thorndon School Newsletter

17/2008

www.thorndon.school.nz
office@thorndon.school.nz

26 June 2008
principal@thorndon.school.nz

No good opera plot can be sensible, for people do not sing when they are feeling sensible.

W H Auden

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. This will be my last newsletter for the term as I will be away in Christchurch next week for the national Principals' Conference, an opportunity to catch up with principals from around the country and to hear from a range of speakers on a range of educational topics.

This will be relatively short as the morning has got away from me and I am rushing a little to get it ready to send out. This has been a busy term with a great deal crammed into a relatively short time and next term is already, as you will see, filling up fast.

Enjoy the two weeks of the holidays and we hope to see everyone back at school on July 21, refreshed and eager to start work on a major investigation centred around China.

Bill Sutton

Health and PE Survey

I said last week that I would put the results of the second part of the survey in this newsletter but time and space are not going to allow that. It will appear next week.

What has come through very strongly at all levels is the weight parents attach to swimming, and this is perhaps a reflection of national concerns about the safety of New Zealanders in the water. We struggle to be able to get all classes through the pool more than once a week and maybe we will have to be more creative in our approach.

Also evident was the support for EOTC in its broadest sense and this is comforting at a time when there has been a recent tragedy involving school children in outdoor pursuits.

Staff Change

We have one staff change for the start of next term.

Tomorrow is the last day for Susie Harcourt, one of our teacher aides. Susie is heading off to the United States for 2 months, on to the UK and Europe for another two and a half months before returning via a three week sojourn in Thailand before heading off to University!

Susie is a past pupil of ours and makes us feel very pleased with the result Thorndon and Wellington High have achieved – not forgetting the part her parents played!

We hope she has a wonderful time and look forward to hearing all about her travels.



Does your child want to learn a new language?

Fun Languages offers children from **3 - 12 years old** the opportunity to learn:

***French *German *Spanish**

- Experience a new language the FUN way!
- Games, songs, drama and stories are taught in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.
- Convenient locations – Check out the timetable on www.funlanguages.co.nz for class times.

For more information please contact:

Annick Withinshaw, Fun Languages International (Wellington) Ltd,

ph:04-476 3098 or email: annick@funlanguages.co.nz / www.funlanguages.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.

Jul 1	Wellington High School Open Evening
Jul 4	Term Ends – 3:00pm

Term 3

Our calendar for next term is rapidly filling up and there is obviously going to be plenty for everyone to do!

Jul 21	Term 3 begins.
Jul 21	Maori Language Week begins.
Jul 29	Lion Dance Workshops – whole school.
Aug 4	Maths Week begins
Aug 5	Maths World Activities
Aug 7	Maths World Activities
Aug 8	The Olympics begin.
Aug 8	Enviro Group to Te Papa.
Aug 13	Art Workshop whole school.
Aug 18	Artsplash this week.
Aug 18	International Languages Week begins
Aug 19	Ballet Workshop at School
Aug 21	Group to Ballet Performance – St James
Aug 22	Central Cluster Chess Competition.
Sep 4	Poly Club performance at Wellington Girls
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.

Three Way Conferences

As I mentioned last week, these are well under way. What I did not mention and should have is that we allow for these to take place over a – roughly – six week period, the end of Term 2 and the early part of Term 3. Our internal timetable allows for these to happen on a Wednesday afternoon which is the reason for the extended time allowance. Some teachers have opted to timetable conferences on other days and at other times so they will be well advanced, while others have stuck to the one or two days each week. As a result some of you will not have the conference until next term and may not have had a letter yet. Please don't worry about this. It does not mean that we have forgotten you! The conference will happen.

Homestay

I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that an agent from Korea was looking to bring out a group of children to New Zealand during their summer holidays as he did last year.

He wishes to bring a group of 10 children and is looking for five families able to take two children each.

He has left us very little time to arrange this and it may not be possible but we will put it out there for parents. They are due to arrive here on July 19 and to leave on August 8 so we are looking at 3 weeks, two of which are the holidays, in which to arrange this.

Parents who have children to stay are paid \$200 per week per child plus \$50 per week per child for a pick up fee.

The school obviously benefits and would receive, for 10 students over the three weeks, \$9,000 so it is well worth our while.

I must be honest and tell you that some of the parents who did this last time did not find it easy, and the scattered nature of our school community did not help. I think that with the knowledge and experience we gained last year we could make things easier and more pleasant, communicating our expectations clearly to the agent, the children and their families before they arrive.

If you are interested, **please** let me know **as soon as possible** by returning the slip at the bottom of the newsletter. I will get on to it as soon as I possibly can. The conference and the holidays have not come at the best of times for this and it may be possible to put back the whole programme for a couple of weeks. I will indicate this on the return slip.

Korm

A number of our senior children have been working with Andreas Lepper, a well know Wellington Percussionist, and a group from Kimi Ora School who have formed KORM – the Kimi Ora Rhythm Machine. The group will perform later this year.



Holiday Programmes

School Holiday Art Classes-14th-18th July

Join us for fun, inspiring Art classes taught by a specialist Art teacher and artist.

All classes at Toi Poneke, Wellington Arts Centre
61 Abel Smith St

MONDAY 14TH JULY

Paint the town (6-10 YRS) 9am-12pm

Discover the fun of making your own artworks. You will learn about some New Zealand painters and how they create their paintings.

TUESDAY 15TH JULY

Miniature Worlds (8-15 YRS) 10am-3pm (morning tea provided, please bring your lunch)

Create a diorama in this fun workshop based on the work of New Zealand artists.

WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY

Me, myself, I (8-15YEARS) 9am-12pm

Bring in some photos of yourself and create a mixed media self portrait.

Paint the town (6-10YRS) 1pm-4pm

Discover the fun of making your own artworks. You will learn about some New Zealand painters and how they create their paintings.

THURSDAY 17TH JULY

Miniature Worlds (8-15 YRS) 10am-3pm (morning tea provided, please bring your lunch)

Create a diorama in this fun workshop based on the work of New Zealand artists.

FRIDAY 18TH JULY

Paint the town (8-15YRS) 9am-12pm

Discover the fun of making your own artworks.

Me, myself, I (6-10YRS) 1pm-4pm

Bring in some photos of yourself and create a mixed media self portrait.

For more details and to book:

Text or phone Fiona 021 786 629

Phone 04 386 2908

Email: artsight@slingshot.co.nz

Performance

On Wednesday we hosted a performance of "The Magic Flute" by Class Act Opera, a little "high culture" enjoyed by the children and most of the staff as the photos below show.

Four of our senior children made the most of an opportunity to perform.



Homestay

Yes, I would be interested in providing a homestay for two Korean Students in Term 3 from July 19 – August 8.

Yes, I would be interested in providing a homestay if the visit was a little later in the term.

Name: _____ **Phone** _____

email _____

Child's name: _____ **Room Number** _____