

Thorndon School Newsletter

19/2008

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There is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

John Ruskin

Action List

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Are you coming in for Maths during Maths Week? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you sent in your school donation? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you coming to our numeracy evening? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Can you be a Maths mentor? | <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"/> |
| Have you sent in a scratchy for the fair? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you responded to the text message proposal? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dear Parents

Kia ora tatou.

Wellington seems to have been the best place to be over the past week, though looking out the window and listening to the rain on the roof it is hard to imagine why. The lack of wind in Wellington when the rest of the island is being lashed has been extraordinary. Long may it continue.

As I mentioned last week, we plan to have an information evening in week 4 to talk about Maths. At the end of this newsletter is a return slip asking if you are coming. Please return these if you intend to come to this evening. It helps with our planning if we have some idea of how many are coming, what they are particularly interested in and what area of the school their children are in.

Bill Sutton

Art Exhibition

You are all invited to the opening of an exhibition of art works by children in the senior school.

These works, inspired by the work of Don Binney, were done as part of last term's inquiry unit on birds.

WHOLLY BAGELS

TODAY 5:00pm

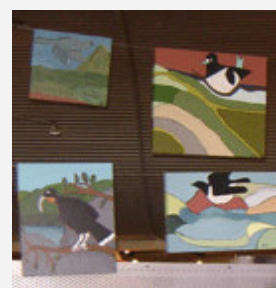
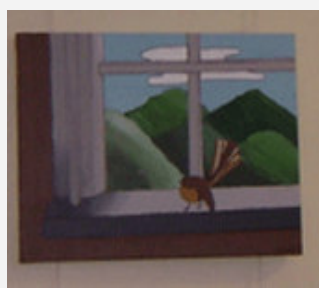
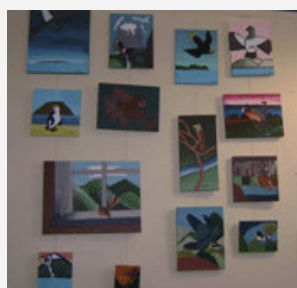
Food and drink available

We would like to see as many people as we can supporting the children who have done this work.

Term Dates 09

While there is still a lot of this year left, we have had some enquires already about next year's dates. I will put in some indicative dates but please understand that these have not been confirmed.

4 Feb	Term 1 begins.
6 Feb	Waitangi Day – school closed.
9 Apr	Term 1 ends.
27 Apr	Term 2 begins.
1 Jun	Queen's Birthday – school closed.
3 Jul	Term 2 ends.
20 Jul	Term 3 begins.
25 Jul	Term 3 ends.
12 Oct	Term 4 begins.
26 Oct	Labour Day – school closed.
18 Dec	Term ends.



THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Calendar

Jul 31	Junior school to panto performance at WGC
Jul 31	Senior School Art Exhibition – Wholly Bagels
Aug 5	Maths World Activities.
Aug 7	Maths World Activities.
Aug 8	The Olympics begin.
Aug 8	Enviro Group to Te Papa.
Aug 8	Room 2 to NZSO performance at Te Papa.
Aug 11	Maths Week begins.
Aug 12	BoT meeting.
Aug 13	Art Workshop whole school.
Aug 13	Chess competition at Kelburn.
Aug 14	Numeracy Evening for Parents.
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.
Aug 29	School disco.
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.

Successes

Can Do Attitude

During the holidays Pump Dance held an In-House Hip Hop competition. Jade Harrison and Jocelyn Scott, who both go to Pump Dance, entered the competition. Jocelyn organised a team of 5 from Thorndon School with 3 girls who had never done hip hop together with the 2 girls who had. The group competed in and won the junior division of the competition.

Congratulations to Jocelyn, Abby, Sophie, Jocelyn Scott and Jade Harrison.

We will acknowledge the successes children experience as part of the school programme and school activities, but we rely on parents to let us know about many of the successes children experience in out of school activities. The children themselves are often a little shy about blowing their own trumpets, so please let us know when there is something to celebrate.

New Children

We have enrolled 2 children since the last newsletter.

They are:

Jessica Kemp	Y2	Room 9 - Tarata
Renwick Sinclair	Y0	Room 8 – Harakeke

We welcome these two children and their families and hope they enjoy their time at Thorndon School.

While I am talking about enrolments, we are beginning to look ahead to next year and it would help us if we knew about children who are likely to enrol over the rest of this year – and who have not yet sent in an enrolment form, as well as children, other than Year 8, who are likely to be leaving at the end of the year. It would also be very helpful if we knew about any children likely to enrol next year.

Activity Fees

The activity contribution for this term has been set at **\$30**.

This pays for all those things like the Lion Dance Workshops we had on Tuesday as part of our unit on China, the Maths World Activities we host next week and the various visits and trips classes take, and save us having to ask you for money each time we engage in one of these activities.

Reminder notices for these, for last term's unpaid contributions, for school donations, pool entry costs for swimming, tech costs for the senior classes etc will go out shortly.

These contributions make a significant difference to the school's financial position and we are anxious to get as many people paying as we can.

Invoices for After School Care have also been sent out recently and we would like these paid as soon as possible. The After School Care programme is a service offered by the school for which we receive no funding so the amount we ask for is a charge and not a contribution, and if we are to employ sufficient staff to manage the programme we need to get money in regularly.

Young Leaders

As they did last year, the Young Leaders Group will be selling Friendship Bracelets to fundraise for VSA during Friendship Week.

The bracelets will be sold from Monday 11th August to Friday 15th August at school. Great colours, great designs and only \$2 each.

Please support our efforts in being part of a national fundraising event and helping send our skills to others in need!



Sports Squad

At the start of term 2 the sports squad started squash lessons. Our instructors Pete and Andy were champions at the sport, especially Pete who came second in the Hawkes Bay championships. I have now learnt the rules, and different shots you can use in a game of squash.

There are three different shots you can use in squash and they are forehand, backhand and volley.

Forehand is when the ball is in front of you, and you need to have your racquet high so you can drive through the ball as though you are skimming a stone.

Backhands are usually the most challenging of shots. This is when a right hander would have to do a 180 degree turn to hit the ball. I think volleys are the easiest to do, because it is just the same as normal shots except you don't let it bounce before you hit it.

Serving is just like doing a forehand but you're not letting the ball bounce and you're aiming for the centre of the front of the wall. We learnt that if you want to hold the racquet properly you needed to have the corner of the handle going into the V shape between your forefinger and thumb. You should always have the correct stance when you are in a game of squash. You should have your feet shoulder width apart so you can step out easily before you hit the ball, your shoulders also need to be facing the area of the wall you want to hit the ball to. After four weeks of practicing we had a tournament between the sports squad. It was a lot of fun.

Natana.

Lion Dance

On Tuesday 29th of July, a group including different people from Asia came in and did a spectacular Lion Dance for the senior syndicate.

Two dragons were included in the Lion Dance. One dragon was controlled by two professionals and the other by two apprentices. The dragon controlled by the two professionals had lots of features including the movement of the eyelids and ears. There were many amazing moves and steps on the performance.

This was followed by a Lion Dance workshop which was a great opportunity for senior school students to experience the Lion Dance and the Chinese culture.

A DVD of the latest Singapore Lion Dance competition wrapped up the workshop. It included many amazing moves and steps performed by professional lion dancers. The storyline was about how a Lion needed to cross a broken bridge.

Jean Lean and Liam Byrne.



THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Fund Raising

A constant theme I know, but we need to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way.

Mercury Energy is about to launch a promotion called **Bills into Books**. For every customer who signs up to Online Billing before 30 September Mercury will send a book to the primary school the customer nominates. The books are selected from the Scholastic Books Catalogue.

If anyone would like to know more they can call 0800 101810 or visit www.mercury.co.nz/onlinebill
Also on the website you will find a kids section with energy education from "Benny the Bulb", interactive games and tips on safety and energy.

If any of you are with Mercury you might like to consider this.

EXPO

Bring the kids along to Wellington's only FREE parenting expo and let them meet Dora the Explorer, enjoy the playground and art area, watch the free local entertainment from storytellers Moira Wairama and Tony Hopkins, DanceStars and Kicks 4 Kids, all while you check out new and exciting products and services from around New Zealand. Items such as nappies, baby slings, maternity clothing, childrens music, toys, educational products, birthing and childcare options etc. See, touch, ask, try and buy while enjoying a relaxed and fun atmosphere. From expecting parents to grandparents, there's something for everyone.

Mother Baby and Child Expo, August 16/17, NZ Kennel Club, Prosser Street, Porirua.
www.childshow.co.nz for more information

Music Lessons

Mog Music is offering music lessons this term for:

- Piano Beginners - 5 - 8 years
- Recorder Beginners - 7 - 12 years
- Guitar beginners - 8 - 12 years
- Phone Moggie Grayson - 384 8213

Communication

We have the opportunity to sign up to a service which would allow us to communicate with parents using text messaging. The programme, which aligns with our Student Management System software, and is MoE accredited, would allow us to generate messages on the computer and send it out to cell phones. We could use this to check on absences, to remind parents of trips and other activities, to send messages about cancellations etc.

The catch is that there is a cost to you as well as to the school. Text messages to you will cost you 5c plus GST.

I would really like to get your reactions to this proposal which seems to us to have quite a lot of scope.

Just send us an email or a note.

Dore

Dore, an individualised, exercise-based treatment for difficulties, such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADD and ADHD are holding an open day this Saturday.

Dore Centre
Level 1, 220 Thorndon Quay
Saturday 2 August
10:00am - 2:00pm
0508 367 3698 or www.dore.co.nz

Numeracy Evening

We have a Numeracy Information evening planned for August 14 and we would like to get a feeling for how many people might come along and what people would like to see, hear and discover. We would be grateful if you could fill out and return this slip as soon as possible.

Name

Child's Room

Yes, I will be attending the Maths evening on August 14 people.

What I would like to know is: _____

What I don't understand is: _____
