

# Thorndon School Newsletter

21/2008

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14 August 2008  
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The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well.

Pierre de Coubertin  
Founder of the Modern Olympics

## Action List

### No Maths Information evening tonight.

Is your child coming to the disco?

Can you find time to read to children during Book Week?

Have you sent in a scratchy for the fair?

Have you sent in your school donation?

Can you be a Maths mentor?

Have you sent in your mobile phone number?

Do we have up to date address details?

## Dear Parents

Kia ora tatou.

There seems to have been a lot going on over the past fortnight and we will draw breath at the end of the week.

We are in the throes of Maths Week which has been low-key but successful, with one of our senior pupils, Jean Lean, leading the country in work on the Mathsletics website. Every child in the school has been registered for this and is free to participate from home. Ask your child about it. The web address is [www.mathsletic.co.nz](http://www.mathsletic.co.nz)

Still on Maths, we had planned an information evening tonight but we have called this off as we had only 10 people indicate that they were intending to come and it hardly seemed worthwhile. Teachers are more than happy to talk with any parents who have questions about the Maths curriculum. We have not abandoned the idea of holding such an evening but will go away and rethink our approach. Perhaps when the weather has improved and everyone's health is better we will try again. The last few weeks have been fairly grim for many people in terms of their health and possibly an evening at school did not seem terribly attractive!

Artsplash, the annual arts festival for schools has started and on Tuesday evening a group of children performed in the Opera House as part of Drama Splash. The five children performed an excerpt from *A Midsummer Nights Dream* and it was great. The stalls were full and performing to a full house is a daunting prospect and they carried it off without a hitch in spite of one of the group having to play two parts because of illness. Congratulations to Zoe Poppelwell, Olive Brown, Hannah Saul, Jan Earle and Kahurangi Mill, as well as to Jay Smith, the teacher director.

Also this week we sent four teams of chess players to a competition at Kelburn School, the first step on route to the national championships. Unfortunately we did not enjoy the same level of success as we did last year but our top team did manage to finish 5<sup>th</sup>. They have another opportunity next week when the New Central Cluster Championship is to be held at Newlands School.

On Wednesday the whole school took part in Art Workshops presented by Jane Lloyd. Every child in the school received drawing lessons from an expert practitioner. Jane was extremely complimentary about both the behaviour and the level of skill of the children, and it is always extremely gratifying to get that sort of feedback.

In and around all this we have our Inquiry Unit on China and, of course the Olympics are occupying a large part of everyone's minds and we are feeling considerable disappointment this morning at the disqualification of the women's relay team where we have a connection with one of the team members, Natasha Hind, having been a pupil here not very long ago. We feel for them.

Bill Sutton

## THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

As most of you will know, our Young Leaders' Group is selling Friendship Bracelets to raise money for VSA. We have received an email from one of our former pupils, Annie Lenihan, who is now in South Africa with her parents who are working for the organisations funded by VSA. This makes a nice link for the school. We are told that she sometimes has ridiculous amounts of homework but maybe this is balanced off by being able to do things like going to a Lion Park for her birthday and playing with cheetah cubs!

Molweni (that's hello in Xhosa)

A couple of months ago I left Thorndon School and came to South Africa with my parents, who are VSA volunteers here. It is great that Thorndon School is supporting VSA Project Friendship again this year because it means volunteers can come here. There are lots of poor people in South Africa. I have seen many people here living in shacks made from rusted iron and bits and pieces they find on the side of the road. Every Tuesday when we put out our rubbish, there are people who go through it looking for food or bottles and cans they can sell.

Today I went to work with my mum, who works with an organisation helping people to stand up for things like clean water and proper healthcare, and ways to earn a living. First, my Mum visited some people to talk to them about bee-keeping. That was how the women in the village tried to make some money. I learnt an interesting fact: this is the place in Africa that killer bees come from. Fortunately, the bees we saw were ordinary bees.

Then we visited another VSA volunteer, Karen. Karen works in a school for the disabled called Nomzamo. Karen said there are no toys in the school, so one day she brought in some empty Coke bottles. They filled them up with water, and Karen showed them how to play 10-pin bowling with pet-balls (the reason she bought pet balls was because they had a bell inside so the blind kids could hear them and play too). The kids just loved them, even though some of the bottles fell over or got stuck in the ground.

We met one little girl who wanted to hold my hand as we walked around. She looked like she was three years old, but she was actually seven. She was really cute, and liked people touching her nose while saying 'beep, beep". She liked trying out new things, like drawing in the dust on our car.

It is interesting for me to be here and visit places like Nomzamo. At school, I am also learning to speak Xhosa and Afrikaans. I miss Thorndon School and all my friends lots.

Thanks for selling the friendship bracelets.

Arohanui (love) Annie. (Lenihan)



## THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### **Term 3 Calendar**

Aug 18	Dancesplash performance at MFC – 5:00pm
<b>Aug 18</b>	<b>Room 7 to Te Papa</b>
Aug 18	International Languages Week begins.
Aug 19	Ballet Workshop at School.
<b>Aug 19</b>	<b>BOT Meeting</b>
Aug 20	Choir rehearsal MFC
Aug 21	Group to Ballet Performance – St James.
Aug 21	Artsplash Choir performance at MFC -
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**

Over the weekend Stefanija Paleaee competed in the North Island Seido Karate champs and won a silver medal for Randori – introductory sparring.

Well done Stefanija!

Don't forget to keep letting us know about these extra-curricular successes so we can acknowledge them.

### **Text Messaging**

All the feedback I had in response to the question about the use of text messaging to check on absences and to convey messages has been positive so we have signed up for this.

We now need to collect and enter mobile numbers so we can begin to use the system. We already have quite a number of these numbers but we don't have everyone's mobile number. There is a return slip attached to the newsletter and it would be very useful if everyone could send this in so we can be sure we have up to date information.

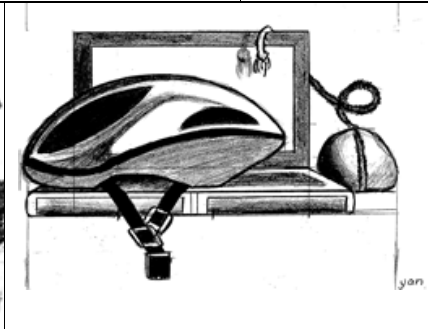
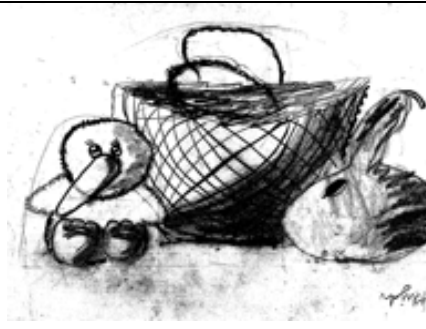
These numbers will be used only occasionally, to check on unexplained absences and to send reminders about various school activities.

When you send in your mobile number – which you can do by email, you could make sure at the same time that we have up to date contact and address details. It is important that we are able to contact you in the event of an emergency and that we can be sure that any correspondence is being sent to the right address.

### **Disco**

Don't forget the disco on Friday 29 August. Children need to let us know whether they will be coming and should all have a form to return.

More forms are available from Room 5.



### **Mobile Phone Number**

My mobile phone number is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren)s Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Room

Room