

Thorndon School Newsletter

27/2008

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

25 September 2008
principal@thorndon.school.nz

A perpetual holiday is a good working definition of hell

George Bernard Shaw

Action List

Do we have your mobile phone number?

Have you sent in your school donation?

Would you like to get the newsletter by email link?

Have you sent in a scratchy for the fair?

Dear Parents

Kia ora tatou.

The big news of the day is that Thorndon has won the Knoche Cup for the first time. When he left the school to go overseas Kurt Knoche, a teacher here, donated the cup for an annual sports competition with Brooklyn School. The core sports are rugby, netball and football and this year we added basketball and chess. Next year the competition will be at Brooklyn so there may be other sports added. The concept of a cup that we can play for generates huge interest and enthusiasm in the school and winning it just adds another level to the enjoyment. When it is such a summery day and there is a win to celebrate everyone feels great!

Our basketball team won 24 – 18, the chess team won 8 – 4, the netball team lost 8 -12, the footballers drew 2 – 2 and the rugby team won 55 -5 (though there is some dispute about this and the points gap may have been a little wider). This is a lovely way to end the term.

The teams all looked great too! The disco we held recently raised something over \$700 and this was put towards the purchase of 60 Thorndon School T Shirts which were aired for the first time yesterday. We have applied for funding for new netball uniforms and we need to look at getting some new rugby jerseys for next year. Being properly turned out adds a little extra to a team.

This week has also seen the end of our enquiry on China and over the last couple of days there has been a lot of sharing of what has been learnt. Last evening the parents of children in Rooms 1 and 2 came in to see what they had been working on and at lunchtime yesterday the juniors had a Chinese meal. The seniors presented information to the rest of the school in a variety of ways and across a range of topics all related to China.

Today is the last day of the term and the children, not to mention the staff, are all ready for it. There has been a good deal of illness this term and it has been recurrent. Some children look as if they really need the two weeks off. We hope that the weather will be fine and warm and that everyone will return fit, well and ready to get stuck in for the final term. Enjoy the holidays.

Bill Sutton



The Chinese lunch elicited various responses as the photos show. Almost everyone made valiant attempts to master the use of chopsticks and most children tried most of what was on offer.

Art Week

Art week is a feature of the school calendar and this year we will hold it during the week beginning November 10.

For four days that week the usual curriculum will be in hold as the whole school takes part in some concentrated work within the Arts Curriculum. This gives children the opportunity to try things that they may not do in their usual class programme and to work with other teachers and volunteers. Last year our focus was on our own school environment and the resulting work has given the children's work a presence outside the classroom.

This year we plan to move into the wider local environment and to broaden the scope to **Arts Week**, allowing for music, dance and drama as well as visual art.

Of all the various "weeks" that occur during a school year – Maths Week, Library Week, Book Week – Art week is the only one which is driven purely by us and not by some external agency, and it is very important in the life of the school.

As usual, we will ask for parents to volunteer to help, perhaps by taking a small group, perhaps by working alongside someone else. If you think you have the time and would like to be part of this please contact Rebecca Brown. We can help with ideas and planning and the more groups we are able to offer the smaller the number of children in each group and the easier it becomes to produce high quality work.

If you are unable to offer time and skills – and we understand just how busy people are – then you may be able to help with some materials and there are a couple of early requests here.

Alistair would like "blowers" (vacuum cleaners that blow, hairdryers etc), plastic – heavy plastic wrapping of the sort that comes around large furniture items, mattresses etc, and tape – duct tape, electrical tape, packing tape. This is already intriguing!

Beth Huntington is after broken tiles and scrap paper – and this has an environmental aspect, crossing curricula to some extent.

Any old coarse rasps and old handsaws would also be useful

There will, I am sure, be more requests in the new term.

Term Topics

Curriculum areas like Reading, Writing and Maths simply continue term by term with teachers concentrating on developing the range of skills and understandings necessary to understand and use language and to compute.

In other areas of the curriculum though we focus more on specific topics and these are often driven by what is happening in the wider world.

Everyone will be involved in Athletics skills to start the term off with the school athletics competition on October 28 followed very shortly by the Central Zone and Interzone Athletics. The Thorndon Pool opens after Labour Weekend and we will begin thinking about our swimming programmes then.

There will be some formal assessment in Maths and Reading for Year 3 – Year 8 children in Week 3 of the term to help teachers with their report writing.

In the Senior School next term for example they will, in the first part of the term, be looking at the elections and the democratic process. In the second part of the term their focus will be on self-directed learning in which children will have a significant input into what they are learning and when they do it. This links directly to one of the key competencies in the new curriculum.

The Middle School is carrying out an inquiry unit looking at what Maori and Pakeha have learned from each other. In particular they will be looking at developing understandings of different navigation systems and of different methods of farming and gathering food. Linked with this will be mapping skills (New Zealand geography) and Maori place names. The inquiry approach integrates a number of curriculum areas and dance, drama and poetry will play a significant part in the process for the middle school.

The junior school's major topic will be in the area of Health, looking at the way communities support their members. They will be looking at needs and services Along the way they will try to develop the school's relationship with an outside organisation such as Kimi Ora School, a childcare centre, a retirement home or the like.

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

New Children

We have one new enrolment this week.
She is:

Sophie Wiles	Y0	Room 1 - Harakeke
--------------	----	-------------------

Sophie joins her two older sisters, Lilliana and Eva.

We hope she too has a successful time at Thorndon school

Sun Hats

Yes, it is almost summer and time for children to be wearing sunhats. Our usual practice is to ask that children wear sunhats from Labour weekend on and, even though daylight saving will have started, we will use the same date.

From October 28 everyone will be expected to wear **suitable** hats if they are outside between 10:00am and 3:00pm.

Suitable hats are those which have a brim and most children wear a bucket hat. These are reasonably cheap and are available everywhere! Last summer everyone responded very well and we are hoping for an easy transition again this summer. It is much more pleasant if we don't have to become the hat police because everyone is conforming!

Spring Clean

WADESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Wadestown Presbyterian Church is having a Picture Frame and Recycling Sale on October 31 and 1 November. If you have frames (with or without pictures) and would like to get rid of them please ring Elizabeth or Alan Purdie on 472-5150 for further details. We will also be selling small household items such as brass, vases and china. So spring clean your cupboards and recycle. We will do the rest.

Reporting

Everyone has had the opportunity to come to the 3 way conferences held with teachers, parents and pupils earlier this year and in the fourth term we send out a written report.

All these reports will be posted by November 26 though some of you may get them before that as we will post them as they are completed.

Anyone who has been here for a term or more will get the full report while those who have been here for a shorter period will get a somewhat abbreviated form.

Once you have received the report feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions arising from it.

Term 4 Calendar

This looks quite light at the moment but I have no doubt that the days will start filling up soon.

Oct 13	Term 4 Begins.
Oct 27	Labour Day – School Closed
Oct 28	Sunhats to be worn. School Athletics
Oct 29	New Parents Evening
Oct 30	Women's World Cup – Football.
Nov 4	Central Zone Athletics
Nov 11	BP Technology Challenge.
Nov 26	Inter Zone Athletics All reports posted.
Dec 7	The Fair
Dec 11	Tabloid Sports
Dec 17	Year 8 Farewell Dinner.
Dec 19	Term Ends – 12:00



THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Christmas Shopping

Lullaby – opening Saturday 11th October, at 60 Northland Rd, Northland – beautiful cotton baby and children's clothing, ladies' silk and cotton nightwear, scarves, gifts and much more – free gift with every purchase until 18th October.

The Fair

Just a brief reminder before the holidays. If you happen to be doing any cleaning out we are very keen to rescue any books you might be thinking of tossing out. Books of any sort. They can come in to school as soon as the term starts and we will store them. Any friends, relatives, colleagues or acquaintances who have books they might want to get rid of are welcome to bring them in also.



Updates

As some of you will already know, volunteer parents have already started ringing round about the fair. We have had some difficulty though with phone numbers and emails being out of date.

Quite apart from the fair organization it is really important that we have up to date information in case we need to get hold of you in the event of an emergency or even something as basic as checking on absences. The more cell phone numbers we have for absence checks the better too so if you have moved house or changed jobs this year could you please make sure we have the right details.

Just send through an email with these details.

Changed Organisation

As many of you will realize we have had a large number of new entrants enroll this year and we are expecting more over the fourth term. Staff/pupil ratios have changed to 1:18 for new entrant children ratios and Room 8 where we have our new entrants now has 21 children.

To manage this next term we are creating a new class which will start with 5 new entrants, the three Year 0 children already in Room 8 plus two new enrolments at the start of the new term. Over the rest of the year we are expecting another 7 enrolments so this class will grow to 12.

Sue Holman, who has been working part-time in Room 10, will take over the new class in the small room attached to Room 10. This will certainly be large enough to start with but we will monitor things as we go.

In 2009 we hope that we will have a new room – somewhere! – which will mean we can start the year with the extra class.