

Thorndon School Newsletter

1/2009

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

5 February 2009
principal@thorndon.school.nz

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.

Seneca

Action List

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|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Do we have your email address for the newsletter? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you know your child's swimming day? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you coming to the school picnic? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your child have an appropriate sunhat? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you sending in a nomination for an extension group? | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Dear Parents

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Kia orana, Namaste, Hola, Magandang hapon po, Annyong, Fakaalofa atu ki a mutolu oti.

Welcome to the new school year. Everyone I have spoken to has been very upbeat about their summer and the children seem quite enthusiastic about being back at school. Long may this last. Everything has settled down after a slightly frantic start yesterday morning as we enrolled new pupils and teachers and children are now getting to know one another with the serious stuff to begin next week!

Those of you who were here at the start of last year will realise as you read this newsletter that it is almost a duplicate of the first newsletter of last year as we try to make sure that everyone has all the information they need for the start of the year. The newsletter is put up on the website each week and we try to get as many people as possible to get it by having a link sent to them rather than getting a hard copy. Much cheaper for the school in terms of time and paper.

As you know, we are supposed to have a relatively major building project under way as we convert the bottom of the White House to a classroom. Inevitably there has been a delay and while we are ready and did a certain amount of preparatory work during the holidays nothing has happened yet. I have a meeting with the project manager and designers next week and I am hopeful that work will begin soon. We really want to be able to move into the room for the start of the second term, and being a glass half full person I am confident that this will happen!

The planned work and reorganisation for this year means that every teacher and every class has changed rooms and there will be a further change for some classes when the work is done. A list of staff and their rooms appears later in the newsletter.

We are looking forward to a good year in which we build on what has gone on before and develop the local curriculum further.

Bill Sutton

School Picnic

We are beginning the year, as we usually do, with a picnic day involving the whole school. This year we are going to **Kaitoke Reserve** on **Wednesday the 18th of February**. We will travel by bus, leaving school about 9:15, returning at about 2:30.

Please make sure that children are at school on time.

Your children will need to bring the following:

- Sunhats (either a brimmed hat or Legionnaires hat) – **no hat, no picnic!**
- Morning tea and lunch and a large bottle of water (please, no fizzy drinks)
- Togs and Towel – named please.
- Good walking shoes and appropriate clothing.

No-one will need any money.

Activities like this are much easier if we can have parent help and we would love to have you along. Please let your child's teacher know if you are able to help.

New Children

We have enrolled 23 new pupils this year, and, with the enrolment forms we already hold, we are pretty full for this time of year.

We would like to welcome these new children and their families to the Thorndon School community.

The room numbers listed below are the rooms the children will be in when all the shifting about is done and I have put the actual room the class is in for this term in brackets.

They are:

Rueben Kapene	Y1	R1– Nikau (Art)
Frances Upton	Y1	R1– Nikau (Art)
Quinn Jackson	Y1	R1– Nikau (Art)
Riley Tiata	Y1	R1– Nikau (Art)
Maya Hillman	Y1	R1– Nikau (Art)
Alyssa Gazo	Y2	R3 - Tarata
Bailey-Jayne Egan	Y2	R4 - Tawhai
Jaehyon Park	Y2	R4 –Tawhai
Mikayla Prattley	Y2	R4 - Tawhai
Priyanka Durga	Y3	R6 - Rimu
Holly McCarron-McIntosh	Y4	R6 – Rimu
Aisha Syed	Y4	R5 – Taupata
Bronte Martin	Y4	R5 - Taupata
Xinyue Yang	Y5	R8 – Kowhai
Shaun Corfield	Y5	R10 – Manuka (2)
Megan Steen	Y5	R10 – Manuka (2)
Sally Gillbanks	Y6	R8 - Kowhai
Eliza Muldrock	Y6	R10 – Manuka (2)
Taehyun Kim	Y6	R10 – Manuka (2)
Jae Min Yang	Y6	R8 - Kowhai
Emma Heath	Y7	R9 - Koromiko
Mikaela Bovey	Y7	R11 – Rata (1)
Gillean Miller	Y7	R11 – Rata (1)

We look forward to everything that these new enrolments and their families will bring to the school.

New Staff

We have two new staff members to welcome this year.

Meta Beyers has joined us as a teacher in the Middle School, taking a Year 5/6 class in Room 8. Meta, a qualified children’s librarian in an earlier life has joined us from Paparangi School where she had a huge involvement in their Enviroschools programme. We look forward to using her knowledge and expertise in these areas.

Niamh (Neeve) King is working in Room 6 with the new Year 3/4 class we have created this year. Niamh is from England and has particular skills in Film and Media Studies as well as in Literacy.

New teachers always add to the set of skills available to the school and we look forward to working with both Meta and Niamh.

Healthy Eating

Part of our responsibility is to promote healthy eating and we have made efforts to encourage this over the past few years.

This year we are trying to take this a little further, banning soft drinks and junk food in the school. A number of children, particularly seniors, have been calling in to the supermarket on their way to school and buying soft drinks, chippies and hot chips which they are eating before class. We do not plan to allow this any longer and have told the children this already. Their response has been prompt and positive.

Your support will help reinforce the message.

Football

Onslow Junior Football Club invites registrations from young people between the ages of 5 and 14 years of age.

Online enrolment is open at www.onslow.org.nz and closes on February 22nd.

For more information email registration@onslow.org.nz or phone the Secretary on 479 4094.

Meet the Teacher

As you will see in the calendar, we have our Meet the Teacher evening scheduled for Friday 20 February. The traditional Meet the Teacher evening has never been particularly well attended and this year we plan to turn it into a social occasion.

The Young Leaders' group will organise a barbecue and you are invited to come along after work for a sausage and a drink and the opportunity to say hello to your child's teacher. Children can show you where they are in the school as this will have changed from last year, and you will be able to meet some of the other parents. It will be a very low key evening and not a time when teachers will be discussing individual children. At this stage of the year they are still gathering information and the children have not been here long enough for there to be any meaningful basis for discussion on progress and achievement. The opportunity for this will come later in the year. You can of course contact teachers at other times if you have particular concerns you wish to discuss.

Sun Hats

The school has a policy of insisting that children wear hats when they are outside between 10:00am and 3:00pm, and the response this year has been very good.

We require children to wear a hat with a brim –not simply a cap. Children who do not have suitable hats will not be able to take part in PE/sports activities or leave the school with their class when there is a trip, and we will be enforcing this strictly.

Please make sure that your child has a suitable hat at school, preferably one that they can leave in their tote tray. It would also be very helpful if they were named.

Term 1 Calendar

Feb 6	Waitangi Day – School Closed
Feb 18	School Picnic – Kaitoke
Feb 20	Meet the Teacher
Feb 24	BoT Meeting – 6:00 staff room.
Feb 23	PAT Testing
Mar 4	World Maths Day
Mar 11	Year 1 – 3 to Capital E Arts Festival
Mar 17	Year 4 – 8 to Capital E Arts Festival
Mar 17	Central Zone Cricket
Mar 18	School Swimming Sports
Mar 23	30 Year 5/6 children to Westpac Sports
Apr 3	Curriculum Evening.
Apr 7	BoT Meeting – 6:00 staff room
Apr 7	Central Zone Swimming
Apr 8	Term ends – 3:00pm
Apr 9	Teacher only day
Apr 27	Term 2 begins

This calendar is very much a fluid document. Some things will be added as the term progresses, some things will come off and others will have dates or times changed. The calendar will appear in the newsletter each week and new items will be in red each week.

Lost Property

Every year we end up with a colossal amount of lost property, and because almost none of it is named, most of it ends up going to organisations like The Salvation Army.

If everything is named we would be able to return most of this lost property. Just writing your child's name on the label with a vivid marker is effective.

We would be extremely grateful for your co-operation with this.

Email Newsletter

Please put me on the email list for the newsletter.

Name

Child's Name

Email address

Staff List

The full staff list for 2009 is:

Bill Sutton	Principal		principal@thorndon.school.nz
Alistair du Chatenier	Deputy Principal	Room 7 – Karaka	alistair@thorndon.school.nz
Rebecca Brown	Assistant Principal	Room 11 – Kowhai	rebecca@thorndon.school.nz
Jane Stocker	Senior Teacher	Room 10 - Rata	jane@thorndon.school.nz
Beth Huntington	Senior Teacher	Room 2 – Harakeke	beth@thorndon.school.nz
Sue Holman	Teacher	Room 1 - Nikau	sue@thorndon.school.nz
Meta Beyers	Teacher	Room 8 - Kowhai	meta@thorndon.school.nz
Jay Smith	Teacher	Room 9 – Koromiko	jay@thorndon.school.nz
Niamh King	Teacher	Room 6 – Manuka	niamh@thorndon.school.nz
Zeeta Andrew	Teacher	Room 3 - Tarata	zeeta@thorndon.school.nz
Krista Huber	Teacher	Room 4 - Tawhai	krista@thorndon.school.nz
Rebecca Nicholls	Teacher	Room 5 - Tarata	rebeccan@thorndon.school.nz

Christine Scott	Kimi Ora Liaison Teacher
Amanda Kotrotsos	Kimi Ora Liaison Teacher

Andrew Pennell	Part time teacher	andrew@thorndon.school.nz
Natasha Jackson	Part time teacher	natasha@thorndon.school.nz

Leris Everitt	Resource Teacher: Literacy	leris@thorndon.school.nz
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Hela Isaac	Office Manager	office@thorndon.school.nz
Julie Prout	Accounts Manager	accounts@thorndon.school.nz

Jenny Kaye Potaka	Library Assistant	library@thorndon.school.nz
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Regina Singh	Teacher Aide
Rita Holmquist	Teacher Aide

John Dinnison	Caretaker/groundsman (part-time)
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Jude Hancock	ASC Senior Supervisor	asc@thorndon.school.nz
Sara Dib	ASC Senior Supervisor	

The school is organised into four teams, the lower junior school, the upper junior school, the middle school and the senior school.

Rooms 1,2,3 and 4, make up the lower junior school led by Beth Huntington.

Rooms 5, 6 and 7 make up the upper junior school led by Alistair du Chatenier.

Alistair has responsibility for the junior school as a whole

Rooms 8 and 10 make up the middle school led by Jane Stocker.

The senior school is comprised of Rooms 9 and 11, led by Rebecca Brown. Rebecca has overall responsibility for the middle and senior school.

Fundraising

A little advance notice. We will be selling Entertainment Books this year and once again we need your assistance.

The school gets 20% of the sale price for each book and the school has become one of the more successful sellers in Wellington.

Now would be a good time to get commitments from friends, family and work colleagues.

We are aiming to sell one book for each child in the school, a total of about 240 books.

Email Newsletter

This newsletter is going home with each child today but from next week we will again begin sending a link to the website to those people who wish to get their newsletter this way.

We will rebuild the email list so please make sure you return your email address to us before next Thursday.

The more people who take this option the easier it is for us to get the newsletter out to you.

Arrival Times

We need to remind everyone that the school is open for pupils from 8:00 in the morning.

Please do not send them earlier than this. We have already had a number of children here at or even before 7:30am. At this time of the morning there are very few staff here, rooms are not open and there is no sort of supervision available.

It is also important that everyone realises that children who are not attending After School Care or who are not involved in organised after school activities such as sports practice, should be collected or should leave school by 3:30pm.

Absences

If your child is going to be away from school can you please make sure that you phone in before 9:30am to let us know.

Registers are marked between 9:00 and 9:30 and a list of absences is sent to the office. If there are any unexplained absences office staff will call parents to find out if the absence is genuine.

You can avoid these phone calls by making sure we know about the absences.

Swimming

Swimming is an integral part of our PE programme and each class is timetabled for one visit to the pool each week. We would love to go more often but the times available don't allow this.

All children are expected to take part in the swimming programme unless there is a medical reason for them not swimming. Please make sure that they bring their togs on the days their class goes to the pool.

Swimming will start next week and the **interim** timetable is below. Please make sure that your children have their swimming gear with them on these days no matter what the weather.

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
	Room 5	Room 9		Room 4
	Room 8			Room 1
	Room 7			Room 2
		Lunch		
Room 6	Juniors		Juniors	Room 7

School Lunches

As from next week lunches can be ordered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from Wholly Bagels.

The system will be the same as it was last year with children filling out a form and putting it into an envelope provided by Wholly Bagels. **No change will be given.** These envelopes are to be put in the box on the counter **before 9:00am.**

Orders for Subway sandwiches will be available on Mondays from the following week - February 16.

There are 6 options available from Wholly Bagels.

Mega Moo A wholemeal sandwich with roast beef, fresh lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise. Plus fresh seasonal fruit.	\$3:00
Mini Muncher Mini bagel with bacon, cheese, tomato and mayonnaise. Plus yoghurt.	\$3:50
Big Bite Baguette A sesame baguette with lettuce, tomato, alfalfa and hummus. Plus a yoghurt or a Mother Earth muesli slice.	\$4:00
Wonder Wrap A wrap with ham, lettuce, tomato and sundried tomato cream cheese. Plus a yoghurt or a Mother Earth muesli slice.	\$4:50
Power Pita Pita bread filled with chicken salad, lettuce, cheese and mayonnaise. Plus a muesli slice.	\$5:00
Wholly Awesome A Wholly Bagels bagel with butter. Plus yoghurt.	\$3:00

Children are not permitted to go out of the school grounds to buy lunches.

Library Timetable

Classes visit the school library on the following days.

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Room 11	Room 3	Room 2	Room 5	Room 7
Room 1		Room 8		Room 10
		Room 6		Room 4

Room 9 have not yet selected a time as Jay Smith is away sick.

Years 7/8 and Years 5/6 walk to the public Library on alternate weeks, the middle school on Wednesdays, the seniors on Thursdays.

Extension and Enrichment

Our Extension and Enrichment programmes will get under way in the next couple of weeks. There are 3 groups in particular where we are inviting parents, teachers and children to nominate members. Nominations do not, of course, mean automatic entry.

Sports Squad

This group is for selected Year 7/8 children who take part in a range of sports related and leadership activities. These children have to demonstrate commitment and consistency throughout the year if they are to stay in the group, and this commitment and consistency will have to apply to all areas of school life.

The group is limited to about 12 children and they are selected on the basis of nominations from other children, parents, teachers and their own applications.

We are looking at squad membership at the moment and parents are invited to nominate any children they feel would benefit from the group.

Each year is a new start, so those children who were in last year's group are not assured of being selected in this year's group but must apply again.

Young Leaders

This is a group of children identified in the past by teachers as having leadership potential. They are given opportunities to take leadership roles in the school as well as receiving some training. Nominations are invited from parents as well as teachers.

Future Problem Solving

This group takes part in a series of exercises in creative and critical thinking over the year. They need to have the ability to think outside the square and to work cooperatively.

Nominations for all these groups can be emailed to natasha@thorndon.school.nz or directly to my email address.

When sending in nominations can you please tell us why you think your child would benefit and what you think they could offer.

Netball

Netball Wellington runs a Junior Netball Academy for 6 weeks each term.

Sessions run at **Johnsonville School** at 5:00pm on Mondays and Thursdays beginning on February 16th and at the **Chinese Sports Stadium** on Fridays at 4:00pm or at 5:15 pm, starting on February 19th.

Cost \$50 per term.

Contact Kyle on 386 0943 or by email at: juniornetball@netballwellington.co.nz or download a registration form from www.netballwellington.co.nz

Netball Wellington also runs an After School Netball Clinic, a 6 week programme with an emphasis on fun. The programme begins on February 23rd at Hataitai Netball Courts and is designed for *Fun Ferns* (5-7 year olds) and for *Future Ferns* (8-10 year olds)

Cost \$30.

Contact Kylie on 386 0943 or by email at: juniornetball@netballwellington.co.nz

Demi-Pairs

The Campbell Institute is looking to place several **Demi-Pairs** with families over the coming months. In brief, a Demi-pair studies in the mornings and then works for the family in the afternoons and evenings, helping with childcare, housework and/or cooking, in exchange for accommodation and a small stipend.

Demi-pairs are usually from France, Germany or Switzerland and stay for 12 or 24 weeks.

Contact Susan McQuade on 803 3434 or by email at: info@campbell.ac.nz

Music Lessons

Private tuition available at **MogMusic**.

Piano beginners aged 5 – 8
Recorder beginner aged 7 – 12
Guitar beginners aged 8 – 12

Also tuition available in guitar and piano for adult beginners.

All lessons at MogMusic Studio in Brooklyn.

Phone Moggie Grayson on 384 8213