

Thorndon School Newsletter

3/2009

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

19 February 2009
principal@thorndon.school.nz

If you have a place where you can go and have a picnic with your family, it doesn't matter if it's a recession or not
Jim Fowler.

Action List

Do we have all your contact details?

Do you know your child's swimming day?

Have you paid your activity fee?

Does your child have an appropriate sunhat?

Dear Parents

Kia ora

I have been delighted with the response to our extension and enrichment programmes, and in particular to the popularity of the Sports Squad. This is a high status activity and we have high expectations of the children in it. With only 12 places there is a great deal of discussion to take place before we decide who they are.

On Tuesday I met with the project manager and builder for the redevelopment of the White House and we have a start date of March 2. This is 5 weeks later than we had originally planned on and as a result the job will not be finished until 4 or 5 weeks into the new term which is unfortunate and frustrating but beyond our control. The first 8 to 10 days of the project will be the demolition and removal of the reinforced concrete walls in the bottom of the White House and this is going to mean some disruption for everyone. During this time the Turnbull St entrance to the school will be closed to allow the demolition team to get their trucks in and out. Once this has been completed we should be able to start using this entrance in some limited way.

Yesterday we were blessed with just the right sort of weather for a school picnic and everyone seems to have had a wonderful time.

Bill Sutton

Contacts

There has been a fantastic response to the request for parents to get the newsletter by email and today we are only having to print off 70 odd hard copies to be sent home. This is a wonderful saving for the school, not only in copy costs but also in time. The more the better.

We also have the facility to send text messages to parents through our student management system and so it is very useful for us to have cell phone numbers for everyone.

This is particularly useful for reminding parents about school or class activities and for letting you know about cancellations and postponements.

There is a return slip at the end of this newsletter which asks for updates on contact information and we would be grateful if you could return this to us or email the information through.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to everyone who has returned their slips or let us know by email if they intend to come to the meet the teacher evening tomorrow.

A relaxed and informal occasion with a barbecue, drinks available and the opportunity to meet teachers and other parents and to take a wander around the school. In February we would usually regard planning for this as a safe bet and if we had a repeat of the last couple of days things would be perfect.

The forecast however is far from good and if the weather tomorrow packs up we will postpone until next week.

We will let you all know by email, text or phone.

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Coin Trail

As I mentioned last week, the Young Leaders have organised a coin trail to raise funds for the disaster relief fund in Australia.

Children are asked to bring a gold coin tomorrow and add it to the trail the Young Leaders will set up.

I believe they will attempt to complete an outline of a map of Australia with the coins.

New Children

We have had one more child start since last week.

He is

João Nunes de Carvalho Leite	Y7	R9 - Koromiko
------------------------------	----	---------------

João has just moved into Thorndon from Brazil by way of England and arrived on just the right day, stepping onto a bus for the school picnic yesterday.

We hope that João and his family enjoy their time at Thorndon School.

Have Your Say

To Thorndon Residents or property owners

The WCC has proposed a number of significant changes to the District Plan which could affect all Thorndon residents and property owners. The most important of these is its proposal to make some or all of Thorndon a heritage area which will mean more onerous restrictions for property owners and limits on how they may deal with their properties. For more information about the proposed changes, please visit:

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/publicinput/pdfs/2008-12-residentsuburb/residentsuburb-brochure.pdf>

or contact the Secretary of the Thorndon Residents Association, Jo Freeman, on markfreeman@xtra.co.nz.

Information

New parents, when they enrol their children, are given a copy of an A-Z guide to the school. This contains a good deal of useful information for parents.

The guide is updated each year and can be found on the school website at:

<http://www.thorndon.school.nz/documents/ThorndonA-Z2009.pdf>

Round the Bays

A small group of children and staff set off on Sunday to do the Round The Bays fun run/walk, looking very smart in the school T Shirts. Next year we would like to get a big enough group together to create a real presence at the event. Well done to all those who took part.

Term 1 Calendar

Feb 20	Meet the Teacher
Feb 23	PAT Testing begins
Feb 23	Soccer coaching Y 1-6 girls
Feb 24	BoT Meeting – 6:00 staff room. Agenda on the website.
Feb 25	R 11 (Y7/8) to Dowse Gallery
Feb 25	Soccer coaching Y 1-6 girls
Feb 26	R 9 (Y7/8)
Mar 2	Building Project begins
Mar 4	World Maths Day
Mar 4	Visit from John Key and Anne Tolley for World Maths Day
Mar 4	Girls Soccer Tournament
Mar 4	Group from Hataitai School to visit to look at artworks around the school.
Mar 11	Year 1 – 3 to Capital E Arts Festival
Mar 11	A group from the Dept of Education in Singapore visit the school.
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	Kids Lit Quiz
Apr 8	Term ends – 3:00pm
Apr 9	Teacher only day
Apr 27	Term 2 begins

Banking

A number of parents have automatic payments set up to manage their After School Care accounts, making things easier for them and for us.

We are in the process of changing banks so these arrangements will need to be changed in the next few weeks.

We will let everyone know as soon as the details have been finalised.

ASB, which will be our bank before long, runs a banking programme for children and details about this will come home before long. There is a collection box in the office and the system seems very easy to use for us and for you.

Swimming Timetable

We have an updated timetable for swimming which you will see below.

Please make sure that your child has their togs on the day the class goes swimming – even if the weather looks doubtful. Things sometimes change during the day!

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
	Room 8			
Room 9	Waterpolo		Years 3/4	
		Room1	Years 3/4	Room 2
	Years 1/2	Years 1/2	Years 3/4	

Artists in Schools

Last year the Ministry of Education began providing funds for an *Artists in Schools* programme. Schools are able to work with an artist to apply for the funds for a particular project. The Ministry provides the funding for successful schools to pay the artist and to buy materials. We sent off an application at the end of last year and today we received a letter telling us that our application had been successful.

The email stated that, *“Your application was strong and innovative artistically and will support learning in line with The New Zealand Curriculum. Your project should provide professional learning opportunities for teachers as well as exciting learning opportunities for your students.”*

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to extend our involvement in the arts and we are looking forward to working with *Mel Dodge* later in the year.

We will also be getting *Neal Palmer*, our own *Artist in Residence* back next term and 5 of our classes will be working this term with one of the Arts Advisors from the College of Education, helping him to produce a number of films that will be used to help with teacher training .

The school places a high value on arts programmes and we have a reputation for strength and innovation in this area so these are exciting opportunities for the school which can only help our children to develop their skills and understandings in these areas further.

Congratulations and thanks to Rebecca Brown who prepared the application.

Te Reo Lessons

Last week I mentioned that we were able to offer Maori Language lessons after school. Philippa Thompson, the tutor who took these classes will take these classes and has Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons available.

Lessons last for 1½ hours and the charge last year was \$120 per term.

A number of people have indicated their interest in these classes already. Please let us know if you would like your child to take part.

Extension and Enrichment

After much deliberation, a representative from each class has been chosen for Geeks on Feet. This is a student group who are responsible for supporting teachers and other students to use IT at school.

Jay Smith



ICT

Another exciting piece of news. Last year we had the opportunity to apply for 30 Toshiba Tablet Laptops for two years as part of a research project. We applied and reached the final group which was whittled down to two – Thorndon and Southwell, a private prep school in Hamilton. We were hugely excited about the prospect and enormously disappointed when Southwell was given the nod.

Our application impressed the people at Toshiba however and they have offered us 9 of these tablets for this year and we will take part in a different research project. The tablets will be used in one of our senior classes and again, this is a really exciting prospect for both children and teachers.

Congratulations and thanks to Jay Smith who prepared this application.

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Contact Details

There are a number of pieces of information we need in order to be sure that we can contact parents either as part of routine activities like posting reports or invoices home or in the event of an emergency. In most cases we will have most of this information but you would be surprised at how often mail is returned because people have shifted or at how often we are told when we ring somewhere that the person no longer works there or at how often a cell phone number is no longer live.

If you are absolutely certain that we have everything on this list don't bother to return this but if you are not sure please send it in. We would rather have the information twice than not have it at all.

Name _____

Child(ren)s Names and Room numbers _____

Are there any medical conditions we should be aware of?

Email address _____ (please use for the newsletter)

--

Home Phone _____

Address _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Emergency Contact 1 Name _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact 2 Name _____ Phone _____

