

# Thorndon School Newsletter

6/2009

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12 March 2009  
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The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more.

Jonas Salk

## Action List

Do you want to buy some bottled water.

Have you sent in your donation?

Can you help with our wish list?

Don't forget the swimming sports on Wednesday.

## Dear Parents

Kia ora

Another busy week with classes and groups out of the school and visitors in. An exciting week too, as our Roots of Empathy programme gets started with Liam Hendry making his first much anticipated visit to Room 2. There was some nervousness all round but he behaved himself well and the kids were completely engaged. Further excitement was caused by the arrival of 8 Toshiba Tablet PCs for Room 11 (Bex Brown's class). These laptops are on loan from Toshiba for 18 months as part of a research project into group work. We are hopeful of getting another 2 or 3 to bring the ratio of Tablet to pupil to 1:3 plus one for the teacher. This could be a really exciting project. This is probably the appropriate point to remind everyone of the internet agreements that came home last week. They are returning very slowly. We would like to have them all back tomorrow, and from Monday, unless children have returned these forms, they will not be able to access the school's ICT equipment. More forms are available from the office and you can download them from the school website on the About the School page. I have put the links at the end of the newsletter. We are working towards getting more laptops or netbooks and those children who cannot use them because they have not returned a signed agreement will be very disappointed.

Yesterday all our Year 1 to 3 children went off to Capital E for a day at an Arts Festival for children. They saw three high quality performances over what was a long and tiring but ultimately satisfying day. The middle and senior school go to the festival next week.

Yesterday afternoon we were visited by a delegation from Singapore's Ministry of Education. The group is travelling in Australia and New Zealand learning how we use EOTC to inform revision of their own Outdoor Education Curriculum. One of the significant differences is that Outdoor Education in Singapore is a content driven curriculum whereas in New Zealand EOTC is used as a cross-curricular approach to teaching. The discussion we had covered much more than EOTC. One of the things they said was that they look to New Zealand, as much of the world does, as leaders in literacy education but they cannot understand how it is that we get such high achievement rates from our children in what appears to them to be a very unstructured learning environment. With an average size for primary schools of about 1800 pupils and staffing based on a 1:35 ratio a rather less flexible approach to teaching is probably inevitable. Most of the group had been school principals before moving to the Ministry and were envious of the size of Thorndon and New Zealand schools in general, mainly because for the ability it provides to build relationships across the whole school. We count our blessings.

Bill Sutton



**Successes**

A number of our Year 4 children took part last Sunday in the Weet-bix Kids Triathlon. The day was sponsored by Sanitarium, and involved the kids swimming 100m, cycling 4.5km and finishing with a run of 1.5km. This is an amazing feat for 8 year olds and they had an awesome time participating in this event. There was much support by parents and of course other more well known athletes such as Hamish Carter and Mahe Drysdale, offering the highlight of the day for our budding triathletes – meeting their heroes in the flesh. The kids can't wait to participate again next year.



Harrison Neal, Erin Monckton, (Rm 5) and Amy Turner (Rm 6) with Hamish Carter



**Soccer**

I mentioned the success of the girls only soccer tournament last week and today we have a couple of reports from the girls.

Last week Years 1 – 6 went to an all girls soccer tournament. It was at Ian Galloway Park in Karori. All of the girls were put into teams in their year groups. Then the games started!

There were two Year 5/6 teams. The Thorndon Allieson and the Thorndon Fire Dragons. The Thorndon Allieson came second out of all the Year 5/6 teams in Wellington. The Thorndon Fire Dragons came 5<sup>th</sup>. It was awesome.

Olivia Yeo Room 8

When we arrived most of us had butterflies in our stomachs because we were afraid we would lose. Instead Thorndon A was 2<sup>nd</sup> out of all the Year 5/6 teams. They won 3 games and tied in 3 so that got into the championship final. The game was a draw so they played 5 minutes extra time but nobody won that so they had to have a penalty shootout and lost that by one goal. At the end of all the games some of us got Hannah Wall's autograph. She is a popular soccer player who plays for New Zealand.

Emma, Stefanija, Melanie Room 2

**Term 1 Calendar**

Mar 16	Room 1 to Pataka
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
Mar 23	Trainee teachers start in the school.
Mar 25	In school soccer tournament
Mar 27	Earth Hour for Schools.
Apr 1	Curriculum Information Evening.
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

**New Children**

We have had one new child start this week.

She is:

Chante-Ray Glennon	Y1	Ruma Nikau
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Chante-Ray is the little sister of Mariah who is in her second year at school.

**Website**

We have done a little more work on our Website and on the curriculum page – which is still under development – you will find some links to the New Zealand Curriculum that I have referred to quite often in the past year and which I will refer to quite a lot this year. You will also find some information about some of our Extension and Enrichment groups with links to blogs that these groups have set up. They will use these blogs to report on their activities and would love to get comments and feedback.

- <http://www.sportssquad2009.blogspot.com/>
- <http://thorndonenvirogroup08.blogspot.com/>
- <http://www.youngleaders2009.blogspot.com/>

The sports squad has already put up their first post and the others will do the same over the next few weeks.

The Envirogroup was only finalised today so have not yet met as a full group.

**Mobile Guitar Teacher**

Please phone Geoff Day on:

389 8932 or 021 565 750.

Modern lessons that inspire and motivate.

**Board News**

I have suggested that after each board meeting a brief summary of what was discussed and issues that arise be put into the newsletter and the first of these is below.

The Board of Trustees met on 24 Feb, where the main topics were the updated 2009 strategic plan, the curriculum, the school's new equipment needs (our "wishlist"), and an action plan to make sure future children at Thorndon School have enough space to learn and play. With Kimi Ora school moving from Turnbull St, Thorndon School is trying to acquire the site for expansion.

The fund raising subcommittee is working hard to find the funds to buy the items on the wishlist, so you may see requests relating to that, while the property subcommittee embarks on a plan to ensure that the Ministry of Education grants Thorndon School the Kimi Ora site.

Also at the meeting our Chairperson Anaru Mill stood down as he had indicated he would, after almost three years of dedicated and intelligent service, guidance and leadership. Anaru remains on the board, while Mandy Hancock has been elected Chairperson for the year.

Mandy Hancock.

I would like to record my thanks and appreciation for the work Anaru has done as chairperson since May 2006. We have been fortunate over the years in having chairpersons with skills and backgrounds that have brought real value to the board and the school. Anaru has a great deal of experience in the policy area and has worked closely with the Ministry of Education and his analytical skills have been of real assistance as has his interest and expertise in Te Reo Maori and Tikanga Maori. Anaru has been instrumental in ensuring that the closure of the immersion class did not lead to a diminution of the school's commitment to things Maori.

**Holiday Programme**

I know that many parents like to send their children to a holiday programme run at the school and over the Christmas break the YMCA ran a programme from the school hall.

During the Easter holidays the hall is being rented by another group so there will be no programme run from out of the school.



**Entertainment Book**

There has been a fantastic response to the chance to order early and get some extra coupons which can be used immediately.

This offer is still open. \$55 per book

**Homestay**

Emily Lee, a 15 year old Korean student is looking for a home stay family in Thorndon.

If anyone can help Emily or knows of someone who might be able to could you please call 472 1414

**Water**

Just a reminder that we have cartons of water available for sale.

This Springfresh Water can be bought from the school at \$30 for a 24 bottle carton or \$1:50 per bottle for fewer than 24 bottles.

**Swimming Sports.**

One of the highlights of the school swimming sports is the relay competition between staff and students for the Hind Cup. We invite parents to form a team to compete in the relay too. Email Jane Stocker if you are keen. [jane@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:jane@thorndon.school.nz)

**Internet Forms**

Are available from: <http://www.thorndon.school.nz/documents/JuniorInternetAgreement.pdf> for Y 1 - 4 and <http://www.thorndon.school.nz/documents/SeniorInternetAgreement.pdf> for Y 5 - 8

**Thorndon School Wishlist**

Fundraising is always a difficult task for any school and we are lucky we have the Thorndon Fair as our major fundraiser. However, there are always a few items the school needs which fall outside our ability to fund them from our operations grant or even from our usual sources of locally raised funds. We are asking if any parents can help out through knowing someone, knowing someone who knows someone etc etc. Do any of you have any contacts or businesses you can suggest or that we could approach for the following items on the wishlist the staff generated after their planning day last year.

- Netball Uniforms - we would like 36 uniforms at an approximate cost of \$70 per uniform. We could have a sponsors name on the uniform.
- Rugby Jerseys - we would like 20 jerseys. In the past we have managed to get 'end of line' jerseys which have been in a varying range of colours. We have had great feedback from the children regarding the Thorndon School T-shirts - it would be nice to continue the same colour scheme.
- Interactive Whiteboards - Big ticket item!! Especially when you add the data projectors needed. We have 4 at present and would like one per class, 7 in total . We may have to win Lotto for that one ;-)
- Shelving, Cushions for the Library - there is a reasonably urgent need for new shelving to store and display picture books. We are very keen to make the Library a key centre of learning and creating a comfortable, functional environment would go a long way towards this.
- Musical Instruments - Drum Kit, Amplifier, Electric Guitar and Software would be great.
- Gym Equipment - Crash Pad & High Jump Cover, more Gym Mats.
- Laptops.....another big ticket item! We are currently leasing 15 Lenovos for classroom use (though we are not wedded to any particular brand). Our use of ICT increases all the time and the demand for it continues to grow so it would be wonderful if the children could all use a laptop when they needed to rather than having to share.

As we move towards getting these items we will look at applying for grants from the various trusts that are out there and if there is anyone who has the time and experience we would love to hear from you. If any parent is able to help out with suggestions, that would be great. Please feel free to contact Bill or myself, Carleen [jacnz@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jacnz@paradise.net.nz) or 499-1760 Hm.

**Sunday Soccer**

Following from the success of the girls' football tournament last week we have had some children interested in joining a Sunday football team.

There is a competition being run every Sunday morning from April 26<sup>th</sup> though to aAugust as Nairnville Park in Ngaio,

The age groups catered for are:

Under 6	Under 8
Under 10	Under 12

We have one parent with a child in the Year 1/2 group willing to manage a team but for this to go ahead we would need parent manager/coaches for each team and I would help with the admin at school. If we cannot get enough children to form school teams I will send out a flyer about clubs children can join.

There would be some cost involved.

Jane Stocker

[jane@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:jane@thorndon.school.nz)



**Rugby League**

WANT TO PLAY RUGBY LEAGUE IN 2009?

WANT TO SEE THE RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP THAT OUR FAMOUS KIWIS WON ?

Then come to Martin Luckie Park, Berhampore on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 3pm – 5pm. Take your photo with the World Cup that our famous KIWI Rugby League Team won for the first time in 2008. Come and get some free giveaways, play some games, join in on some skills sessions, learn to tackle and play the ball the way they do it on NRL.

If you cant make it on World Cup Day then come to our registration days at Martin Luckie on Sunday 22 March from 1pm or Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 10am or ring or text Shelley or David Feehan, Phone 385-7311 or 027-4493389 if you are keen to play for the mighty Eagles this year!