

Thorndon School Newsletter

8/2009

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Never does nature say one thing and wisdom another.

Juvenal

Action List

Are you coming to the curriculum evening?

Have you sent in your donation?

Can you help with our wish list?

Have you sent in the signed Internet agreement?

Are you coming to look at vision maps?

Can you help with the art auction?

Dear Parents

Kia ora

It seems incredible but we are getting very close to the end of term! We seem to have just started! The term has been largely taken up with an inquiry unit and with some comprehensive formal assessment through a range of standardised tests. The results of these assessments are used to inform planning and programme design for individual and group teaching and teachers will be happy to discuss the results for individual children.

The inquiry unit, *Me and My Environment*, has been a major focus for all classes and is an examination of the school and local environment as part of our commitment to Enviro Schools and to sustainability. Classes have looked at the school environment in particular identifying those areas of the school they like and enjoy and those they would like to see changed. Each class has developed a *vision map* and from this we will develop a vision map for the whole school and examine which of the proposals put forward we might want to proceed with and how we will go about doing this. There have been some interesting ideas already.

You are invited to come in next Wednesday to see what your child's class has come up with and perhaps to wander around other rooms to see what other ideas have been generated. We will also have a map available so that you can contribute your own ideas.

This Inquiry Unit will continue for the whole year, sometimes as a major focus and sometimes running along in the background and by December we should have a comprehensive plan of where we all want to go with our school environment and, if things go well, will have implemented some of it already.

At the end of the newsletter I have put a copy of the notice sent home earlier in the week inviting you to join us for an evening on the revised New Zealand Curriculum. So far we have had only 3 responses. I really hope that a lot more of you are able to come along to get some background and to contribute some thoughts and ideas which will assist with the development of our local curriculum.

The conversion of the bottom floor of the White House and the strengthening and refurbishing of the top floor is proceeding well and everything seems to be on target for us to be able to move in no later than midway through Term 2. We are still hopeful that we can start using the upper floor before that. This would make the whole exercise much easier as we look to start a second new entrant class. In relation to property tenders have been called for a couple of other projects and I hope to be able to let you know more about progress by the start of Term 2. The tenders called are for the redevelopment of the sandpit and the area behind Room 4 and for a deck behind the library. Both these areas, coincidentally, have been identified in most of the class vision maps as places for improvement.

Bill Sutton

Donations

If your school donation is paid before March 31st, the end of the tax year, you will be able to claim it as a deduction.

Art Auction



Neal Palmer, our artist in residence, has already offered us a piece for the Art Auction so we are under way.

As I said last week, we are after one piece of art from each family and we are hoping that you will make use of your contacts to generate works of art that will raise a substantial amount of money.

We need your help and there will be a considerable lead-in time as we get things prepared for what we hope will be an enjoyable social event as well as a profitable fund raising activity. Interested, enthusiastic and energetic parents should contact Rebecca Brown to form an organising committee. Please get in touch with Bex if you think you can help.

rebecca@thorndon.school.nz

Self Defence

We have the opportunity for our Year 7/8 girls to do a self defence course next term and you can see this in the calendar.

This is a course we ran some years ago and it was very successful. The programme is usually funded by the Ministry of Social Development but because we are a decile 10 school they have turned down our application for sponsorship meaning there will be a cost which we will confirm as soon as we know it.

One way of doing this might be to build the cost into the activity fee for Year 7/8. Perhaps you could let us know on the return slip on Page 3 which payment option you would prefer.

Term 1 Calendar

Mar 27	Earth Hour for Schools.
Apr 1	New Curriculum Information Evening.
Apr 3	Inquiry Learning Display
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

Term 2 Calendar

There is a surprising amount of activity here already.

Apr 27	Term 2 begins
May 5	Self Defence – Y7/8 girls
May 5	Self Defence – Y7/8 girls
May 7	School Cross Country
May 11	NZ Book Awards Activity.
May 12	Self Defence – Y7/8 girls
May 13	Self Defence – Y7/8 girls
May 19	Y 4/5/6 Football tournament
May 20	Young Leaders Conference
May 26	Julia Davidson – Wellington Girls Principal to speak to Y8 parents
May 27	Boostrix vaccinations Y7/8
May 27	Gardasil vaccinations Y8 girls
Jun 1	School closed – Queen's Birthday
Jun 2	Central Zone Cross Country
Jun 29	Y 4-8 to performance at Capital E
Jul 3	Term Ends

Soccer Tournament

Yesterday morning we had the Soccer Tournament. Our team was called Cheerfullies. In our team we had Manduhai, Josh E. and me from Room 8 and Melanie and Joon from Room 2. We lost all our games, but some of them were very close. The Mango Zangoes won the Year 5/6 tournament and Double Trouble came second.

Eva Wiles, Room 8

I was in the Mango Zangoes. We won all our games. I was mostly in defence, by the goal. Our team was very good, because we spread out. One of our players (Shaun) scored the most goals.

Matt Valler, Room 8



My Vision for Our School

I have many visions for our school. One of my ideas is to clean up the area next to Room 4 by planting a garden. We would probably need to take a long search to find some plants that don't need sun, since it is under shelter. We should also fix up the wall at the end of the field, because it has been destroyed by kids playing cricket. Maybe the kids of Thorndon School could decorate the wall afterwards, with different tools like paint and spray paint. I would also like to clean up the area behind the library. This includes weeding, picking up litter, and other things. Once we have completed cleaning, we could plant some native plants and other trees to make that area a forest. We should make a path through the forest to the music room and other buildings. I think we should make signs that show the names of the different plants and a little description about them, and stick them next to the plants. These are my visions for our school, and I hope to make them a reality.

Lakan Beech, Room 8



Enviroschools

Imagine...a generation of innovative and motivated young people, who instinctively think and act sustainably.

Our school is an enviroschool. This is an exciting collaborative programme run by the Enviroschools Foundation in partnership with Te Mauri Tau, and a number of national and regional agencies. As an enviroschool, we are aiming to develop a whole school approach to environmental education. Students develop skills, understanding, knowledge and confidence through planning, designing and creating a sustainable school. Action projects undertaken by enviroschools have both environmental and educational outcomes that benefit the school and the wider community.

Our new Enviro Group (with a representative from each class) met yesterday for the first time. This year we are starting work towards a Silver Award.

For further information, take a look at the website.

www.enviroschools.org.nz

We are looking forward to an exciting time ahead!

We will be celebrating Earth Hour at school this Friday. Please remember that this Saturday from 8:30-9:30 you can celebrate Earth Hour at home. Please turn off your power for this hour. Register online at:

www.earthhour.org.nz

Meta, Bex and Becca



Entertainment Book

We have already sold 85 books, a third of our target and we have not even got the books yet. A wonderful effort. The books should arrive this week and then we will be asking all families to try to sell one book each. If we can do this we will raise about \$2,600 which we can apply to something on our wish list.

The books are sold at \$55 each and you can cover this cost with a very few uses of the book.

Internet Forms

These Internet agreements are coming in fairly slowly. Without them children will not be allowed to access the school's ICT resources including classroom computers and laptops and their participation in class programmes could be hindered as a result.

The forms can be downloaded from the website at:

<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

Self Defence

Yes, I would like my daughter _____ to participate in the Self Defence classes next term.

Please invoice me

Please include in the activity fee

Name _____

Please note this is for Year 7 and 8 girls only.

Holiday Programme

Come and be Creative at Craft House!

We have a wonderful School Holiday Programme that is Unique and Educational – inspiring projects for Boys & Girls of all ages. Clever Cards, Mother’s Day Gift Ideas, Albums, Clocks and Blocks to name a few of the many Easy, Fun, Exceptional Value AND Affordable sessions (*starting at just \$18 with morning, afternoon, daily and weekly options with flexible time arrangements before and after*).

Join us for some fun and creativity these School Holidays at Craft House, 47 Hutt Road, Thorndon.

Visit www.CraftHouse.co.nz or call **499-4499** to register now. Your kids will definitely love their time with us at Craft House

Netball Night

Weekend Sport

Recently we had something in the newsletter about the possibility of having girls’ soccer teams in a Sunday competition and I am delighted that we have entered two teams in this competition.

These activities would not be possible if it were not for parents able and willing to volunteer their time so thank you to those parents who are coaching and managing these teams.

And that leads me to ask if there are one or two parents who could share the coaching/management of our waterpolo team. The team plays at Kilbirnie Pool on Monday evenings and Tash Jackson has been doing the job. Tash however has 3 young children and it is difficult for her to manage this every week. Is there someone who can take over or at least share this role? Please contact Tash – natasha@thorndon.school.nz – if you are able to help.

Fundraiser

FASHION SHOW
RIDGWAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

WHEN: Thursday **7 May** 8pm

WHERE: **Te Whaea: National Dance & Drama Centre**
11 Hutchison Rd. Newtown.

WHO: Iconic **Wellington designers** including:

EUREKA, FIN CLOTHING, MINNIE COOPER, MIRIAM GIBSON, PUMPKIN PATCH, REX ROYALE, VOON ...

TICKETS: Standard **\$35** Premium **\$45**
All tickets include Wild Chef gourmet finger food and a glass of bubbles.

HOW: For tickets please **contact:** Jacq Brooke-White
hijacquaa@yahoo.co.uk
04 3898160

BE IN QUICK – tickets are strictly limited.

Parent Help

Thank you to the parents who are coming in for our parent reading programme and to those who have volunteered to help with remedial maths programmes. Both these were really valuable last year.

We can make use of any and all parents who volunteer to help with activities like this so please don’t be shy of coming forward.

Don’t forget either that we are happy to hear of any parent willing to come in and take some more cooking, teach knitting, sewing or some other craft activity.

Curriculum Evening

April 1
7:00pm



The New Zealand Curriculum

**What do you know?
What would you like to know?**

The New Zealand Curriculum has been revised and from the start of next year schools need to be ready to implement it. A great deal of thought and discussion is going on behind the scenes as schools consider how they might develop their local curricula. As part of our preparation we would like to hear your views.

We have Chris Arcus from the Ministry of Education coming along to talk about why the curriculum has been revised and what the Ministry expects from the changes. There will be an opportunity for to ask questions at the end of his talk.

Following Chris's address we will break off into groups led by staff. These groups will look at key elements of the curriculum, in particular the principles, values and key competencies and get your thoughts and reactions to these. We will discuss such things as what you value about the school and what sort of children you would like to see come out of Thorndon after 8 years. You may have other ideas.

You can find links to these from the school website on the curriculum programmes page.

Can you please return the form below to indicate whether you will be attending? We would really like to get as many parents along as possible as part of this consultation process.

Yes, we will be attending the curriculum evening on April 1.

Name _____

Name _____

Child(ren)'s Year Group(s)

I would like to know:

