

# Thorndon School Newsletter

9/2009

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2 April 2009  
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Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower

Albert Camus

## Action List

**School Closed next Thursday – April 9th**

Can you help with our wish list?

Can you help with the art auction?

Are you coming to look at vision maps next Wednesday!

Have you sent in your donation?

Dear Parents

Kia ora

Thank you to those who came to the curriculum evening last night. A small group of parents heard Chris Arcus from the Ministry of Education give a very good overview of the new curriculum, the reasons behind the revision and the directions in which education is moving. As is often the case, New Zealand is at the forefront of curriculum design or revision at present and others are watching with great interest to see where we go and how successful these changes will be. It is a substantial change in approach and it is an exciting time to be involved in education. As well as watching and listening last night the parents and staff who were able to attend engaged in some reasonably substantial discussion and we have some very useful feedback to collate. We will feed this back to you all through the newsletter and the website.

The Wellington wide nature of our school community is a barrier to attendance at evening meetings and we are conscious of this. It is difficult for many of you to come to evening meetings and so we would welcome any suggestions you might have to help make it easier to get parents involved and contributing. One suggestion that has been made is that we hold a few very focussed lunchtime meetings of half an hour or so. Other suggestions already made are for meetings after school, different venues or online meetings. I am sure there are other possibilities. We plan to carry on with these over the rest of the year and maybe a series of smaller gatherings is going to be easier and more efficient than trying to get most of the school into the hall for an evening meeting.

Last night we showed a video clip which gives some context to the changes to the curriculum and I have put a link to this on the website. I wanted to show a video last night of an address by Ken Robinson in which he talks about creativity and what schools are doing to children and why they need to change. Again some context for the redesign of our curriculum. We didn't have the time so I am putting a link to this talk on the website too. Both are on the curriculum page. They might take a few minutes to download but it is worth taking the time.

This is likely to be the last newsletter of the term as the children finish on Wednesday to allow staff to take part in discussions on developing a local curriculum, so I will finish with some quick updates and a couple of reminders.

The conversion of the White House is going according to schedule so we should be in by half way through the term. Some work is going on behind the library where we are putting in a deck which we will be able to access from the library. Once this is done we will look at how to redevelop the rest of that area to make it a pleasant and usable place for children. The tender for the area behind Room 4 has been let and work will go on there over the next term. Enjoy the holidays.

Don't forget to come in next Wednesday to see your child's class vision map and to make your own contribution.

I have just checked our school donations and we are about \$4000 behind where we were at the same time last year so I am hoping for a last minute flood of payments next term. The wish list reappears further into the newsletter and is really about money! Please try to make the donation if you possibly can. It is one of the school's major fundraising activities. Enjoy your children over the holidays.

Bill Sutton

**Art Auction**



We have the nucleus of a committee to help organise this but we hope that a few more people will put their names forward. We will meet very early in the new term to get things started and the first task will be to try to access works of art from “names”. We have a few names already of people we will approach but we hope that we will get more contacts from our parent community. As I said last week, we are after one piece of art through each family, not necessarily from each family.

Please get in touch with Rebecca if you think you can help.

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

**Holiday Programme**

Wellington School of Cricket Holiday Programmes  
13-17 April and 20-24 April

Wellington School of Cricket Indoor Facilities  
(Mana, Hutt Rec and Westpac Stadium)

Register online at:

[www.cricketwellington.co.nz](http://www.cricketwellington.co.nz)  
or email [asoka@firebirds.co.nz](mailto:asoka@firebirds.co.nz)

**Lunchtime Running**

Alistair du Chatenier has been taking a lunchtime running group for some time now and interest has grown this year. We now have a number of juniors wanting to run and Meta Beyers is taking this group out at lunchtime on Thursdays. The range of fitness and speed is very broad so the group tends to spread out making supervision difficult. A lot of our parents work locally and I am sure that there are probably some who run during their lunch hours. It would be wonderful if someone in this position could volunteer to run with the group and help Meta with the supervision. If a number of parents are able to do it we might be able to rotate it so that you are not always having to run at junior school pace.

I am sure that parents would also be most welcome to run with the middle and senior children at lunchtime on Wednesdays.

If you can help could you possibly contact Meta or Alistair at:

[meta@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:meta@thorndon.school.nz)  
[alistair@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:alistair@thorndon.school.nz)

**Term 1 Calendar**

Apr 7	BoT Meeting – 6:30 staff room
Apr 7	Central Zone Swimming
Apr 8	Inquiry Learning Display
Apr 8	Kids Lit Quiz
Apr 8	Term ends – 3:00pm
Apr 9	Teacher only day

**Term 2 Calendar**

Apr 27	Term 2 begins
May 5	Self Defence – Y7/8 girls
May 5	Public Health Nurse talking to Y 7 pupils
May 6	Self Defence – Y7/8 girls
May 6	Public Health Nurse talking to Y 8 girls
May 7	School Cross Country
May 8	New Parent evening
May 11	NZ Book Awards Activity in Hall.
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 21	Numeracy Evening
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

**Self Defence**

We have had returns from 20 families wanting their Year 7/8 daughters to enrol in this programme.

The minimum number to allow the course to go ahead is 16 so we are able to confirm one 2 day programme. The maximum number is 26 so there is still room for more enrolments. If we have all girls enrol we would be able to run 2 programmes with 17 in each.

The girls learn to think confidently, speak strongly and use their physical skills when necessary.

Can you please let us know as soon as possible if you would like your Y 7/8 girl to participate.

**Internet Agreements**

We are struggling to get all these agreements in. There are still children from 5 classrooms who have not returned these. Teachers have the names and will send notes home with children this week.

Can we get them all in by the end of the term please?

***Wish List***

A few weeks ago we published a wish list in the newsletter in relation to fundraising and we have had a number of parents provide us with some of the things we are after.

I have been asked to put it in again, just to remind everyone of some of the things we are looking for.

- Netball Uniforms - 36 uniforms at an approximate cost of \$70 per uniform.
- Rugby Jerseys - we would like 30 jerseys at a cost of about \$40 a jersey and Kelly and Lincoln Falconer have just told me that their company, Interwaste, will sponsor about half of the cost of these which is fantastic. Thank you Kelly and Lincoln!
- Soccer Shirts – we would like to get about 30 shirts at a cost for about \$25 per shirt.
- Interactive Whiteboards and data projectors
- Laptops 1000s of dollars!
- Cushions for the Library we are fine with. Thank you to Carolyn Neal who sent in two large cushions this morning and these will go with 6 we have been able to get at a very good price today. The shelving will come later in the year.
- Musical Instruments - Drum Kit, Amplifier, Electric Guitar and Software would be great. About \$2000.
- Gym Equipment - Crash Pad & High Jump Cover, more Gym Mats. Up to \$7,000

Jo Freeman has volunteered her time to help with grant applications and we will get started on these shortly. Thank you Jo.

There are other things on our wish-list like new software for the library for which we are unlikely to get any funding. We will target some of the money we raise from the art auction towards this.

We would be very grateful for any ideas on how we might raise money for these and other projects.

***School T Shirts***

We now have a limited number of school T Shirts for children to wear when they take part in some event or represent the school somewhere. These have been received with some enthusiasm by children and it has been suggested that parents might like to buy one for their child. The picture here gives you some idea of what the T Shirts are like though it is not quite accurate. It is possible to have them made up into almost any colour scheme we like though I should point out that this is the one the children seem to like most.



Can you please fill out the return slip and return it to school to indicate whether you would be interested in getting one of these. The prices I have put on the slip are indicative only and a return is only an expression of interest – not a commitment to buy.



***Entertainment Book***

The school community has done fantastically well with this particular fundraising activity having sold almost 100 books before this year's edition was even launched.

We now have the books and our target is to sell one book for every child in the school. Each year parents buy books for themselves and act as agents for friends and colleagues. There are some changes to the book this year with more vouchers for retail and service opportunities. It is very easy to recoup the \$55 outlay with only a few uses of the book.

Send in an order and the money and we can send the book home straightaway.

***T Shirts***

Yes, I would be keen to buy a T shirt for my child at a cost of about \$25.

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room



**Hot Yoga**

Kids Yoga at Hot Yoga of NZ  
(The room is not heated for the kids classes)

A special time just for kids aged 4-7 years. There'll be stories 'that come to life' through yoga, music, movement and play in a nurturing environment. Kids will develop self-esteem, hone their concentration skills and learn ways to self soothe (relax). Taught by former Primary School Teacher turned delightful yoga teacher, Theresa Bowen. Pre-registration is advised.

Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:15  
22 April – 27 May  
\$65 Course or \$13 Drop-In (\$20 two kids)  
Hot Yoga of NZ  
Corner of Tory & Wakefield Streets.  
04 801 9642 or [www.hotyoganz.com](http://www.hotyoganz.com)

**Teacher Only Day**

The term finishes next Wednesday to allow teachers to attend a workshop on planning for and implementing the new curriculum.

If you need childcare you could contact Jude or Sara at After School Care as they have staff available for babysitting.

Email [tasc@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:tasc@thorndon.school.nz), call 472 8183 or drop in.

**ASC**

Don't forget:

- To bring ASC accounts up to date
- Barbecue on Friday – tomorrow.

**New Children**

We have one new child to welcome this week. He is:

Sean Forsyth	Y 7	Room 1/11 - Rata
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Sean has just moved from Dannevirke and is struggling to accept the size of our field! We hope that he profits from his time with us.

**Earth Hour**

On Friday 27 March Thorndon School helped start Earth Hour. On Thursday Years 4-8 were told, "If you want to help start Earth Hour, you can meet Meta in Civic Square underneath the fern ball at 8:20 am. You will be signing a wall to send a message to the whole of New Zealand." In the morning the people that turned up to meet Meta were surprised to be told that it had moved to Manners Mall. Megan's mum stayed at Civic Square to tell any late comers that it had moved. When I got to Manners Mall, I was surprised to find that the wall wasn't a concrete or brick wall like I thought it would be. It was really a huge billboard saying **WELLY!!!** We called it the **WELLY** Wall! The words were outlined in white. Everywhere else was black, except the top left corner had the Earth Hour sign on it. 10 people from Room 8 were there. Here are some of the things people wrote:

Save power! *Waylon*  
Save power. Support Earth Hour! *Olivia*  
Save the earth!! *Megan*  
Switch off, save power, save money, SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT!!!! *Tymesha*  
Earth Hour rules! *Royden*

We each got an Ecobulb, one bar of Ecosoap, and one More FM sticker. Some people got interviewed by TV3 News and More FM radio station. On the way back to school a piece of cardboard and a pen was passed down the line so Meta knew who and how many kids were there. There were 22 kids in total. At school we all went to Hela to tell her that we were here. Then we went back to our classrooms for the rest of the day.

**Tymesha**

On Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, my family participated in Earth Hour! It was awesome! We turned off all our lights. We also set up candles in the kitchen, the dining room and the lounge! The whole time, Mum and Dad watched TV. I said to Mum "turn the TV off" and she replied "they only want us to turn our lights off." So me and Ethan went exploring upstairs with our torches. It was fun!

**Tabitha**

**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.