

Thorndon School Newsletter

10/2009

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30 April 2009
principal@thorndon.school.nz

Illness doesn't bother me for long because I am too inhospitable a host

Albert Schweitzer

Action List

Activity fees for Term 2 are \$25:00. Have you paid?

Can you help with the art auction?

Do you want a T Shirt?

Have you sent in your donation?

Dear Parents

Kia ora

It has been a mixed start to the new term with both good news and bad news. I am sure that everyone is following the ongoing story on the flu pandemic – something that is not difficult to do as it seems to have pushed all other news well down the page. The Ministry has sent out information to schools as has the Ministry of Health, School Trustees Association and various other agencies. Some years ago we had the bird flu scare and as a result all schools were required to develop a pandemic plan. We have such a plan but in reality we are in the hands of the Ministry and will follow the directions and advice we are given. In the interim the best advice seems to be to treat any flu-like symptoms as you would normally treat flu-like symptoms. Bed rest and panadol! There are a number of things everyone can do to lessen the possibility of infection and we will be talking about these with the children. What comes through most strongly from all the agencies involved is that there is no need for undue concern.

Among the good news is today's announcement of the results of a PISA study across 56 OECD countries in Science. New Zealand 15 year olds were second only to Finland, the country which seems to be setting the standard for all OECD countries at present. Given that last year Science was identified as a concern for New Zealand this is a significant result. It is also an indication of just how contradictory assessment results can sometimes be. The Minister has declined to comment on these results. We have identified Science as an area of the curriculum which we would like to pay some attention to this year and next and Sue Holman and Krista Huber both attended a Science Conference during the holidays and have brought back some interesting approaches and ideas. Last term they started a Science Club for middle school children and there is a little report on this elsewhere in the newsletter. An interesting aside to Finland's success in education was made on Morning Report this morning when it was pointed out that Finland manages this – consistently - without National Standards – as are proposed for New Zealand, without any National Testing as happens in the US and the UK and without even an ERO or an OFSTED, the British equivalent. Something that might be worth exploring.

The debate on National Standards has started and what seems to be proposed is being regarded with caution by the education sector. There has been a clear statement from the Minister that there will be no National Testing but there are other concerns. One is the speed with which the policy is being implemented and another is to do with the brevity of the consultation process which is due to run from late May until the beginning of July, a period of about seven weeks. As yet we have not seen any concrete proposals so we are all operating somewhat in the dark. As a school however we are confident that we are using the appropriate assessment tools, that we are using the data gathered appropriately and that information is reported on to parents. There will doubtless be much more on this over the next few months.

A couple of other things before I move on to the rest of the newsletter. We plan to hold some more curriculum consultation meetings this term and next and parents will receive personal invitations to these meetings. School donations are coming in slowly and it would be nice if we could get the rest of them in this term. Our property projects are on track and we hope to be in the new rooms halfway through the term.

Let's hope for a peaceful and productive term.

Bill Sutton



Art Auction

A steering group will be meeting soon to begin some more detailed planning for this.

We believe we could make it a real success but to do this we are going to need some degree of support from everyone. We have set a tentative date for this though there are a number of things which need to be confirmed before we can be absolutely sure of this. At the moment though we are looking at the week beginning August 24.

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

rebecca@thorndon.school.nz

Wanted – a few things!

We are after a biggish - 19 or 20 inch - flat screen monitor for a computer – but we don't want to pay too much for it!

Does anyone know where we might be able to source one of these at a reasonable cost?

Does anyone have or know someone else who might have:

- o Bikes that are just taking up space in a garage somewhere?
- o Golf clubs – particularly low irons – 5 – 9 and putters.

Does anyone know where we might get hold of packs of cards. Businesses sometimes put out promotional sets which would be perfect.

Soccer

Congratulations to the all girls' football team that played their first game on Sunday. They won 3-2 with goals being scored by Erin Monckton and Emma Montague-Cripps.

The team is allied to the Onslow club but plays as a Thorndon team. In the photos below our girls are playing in the red jerseys.

We are in the process of arranging our own team jerseys – another reason for fundraising activities!

Term 2 Calendar

This is a very full calendar already and I am sure that it will have more added to it. This is an updated version of what went out at the end of last term so there will be a few changes.

| | |
|--------|--|
| May 5 | Self Defence – Y7/8 girls |
| May 5 | Public Health Nurse - Y7 pupils and Y8 girls |
| May 6 | Hearing and Vision Testing |
| May 8 | New Parent evening |
| May 11 | NZ Book Awards Activity in Hall. |
| May 11 | Interzone Swimming Sports |
| May 12 | Self Defence – Y7/8 girls |
| May 13 | Self Defence – Y7/8 girls |
| May 13 | Puppet Show at school Y 1-6 |
| May 18 | Young Leaders Day |
| May 19 | School Cross Country |
| May 19 | Maori/Pasifika parents meeting |
| 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 |
| May 27 | Curriculum Consultation Meeting |
| Jun 1 | School closed – Queen's Birthday |
| Jun 2 | Central Zone Cross Country |
| Jun 8 | Y1/2 to Te Papa - Matariki |
| Jun 10 | Y3/4 to Te Papa - Matariki |
| Jun 11 | Stage Challenge Y7/8 |
| Jun 23 | BoT Meeting |
| Jun 29 | Y 4-8 to performance at Capital E |
| Jul 3 | Term Ends |

Girls Soccer Tournament

On Sunday Onslow played against Karori. It was so cold that we got long sleeved T Shirts. The score was 3 – 2 and do you know what? We won! Everyone was proud in the Onslow team.

A special thanks to Tash – Lucy's mum- because she warmed us all up by giving us a jellybean.

Mia and Isabella



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Saturday 18 April, 2.00pm Pulse vs Firebirds

TSB Bank Arena (Ticketek 0800 842 538)

Saturday 25 April, 2.00pm Pulse vs Fever

Arena Manawatu (Ticket Direct 0800 484 2538)

Monday 4 May, 7.00pm Pulse vs Mystics

TSB Bank Arena (Ticketek 0800 842 538)

Saturday 30 May, 2.00pm Pulse vs Steel

TSB Bank Arena (Ticketek 0800 842 538)

Saturday 6 June, 2.00pm Pulse vs Tactix

Te Rauparaha Arena (Ticket Direct 0800 484 2538)

Sunday 14 June, 6.30pm Pulse vs Magic

TSB Bank Arena (Ticketek 0800 842 538)

Sunday 28 June, 6.30pm Pulse vs Swifts

Te Rauparaha Arena (Ticket Direct 0800 484 2538)



ASB Banking

Our ASB school banking system is all up and running and children who have opened accounts can now start using the Kashin Box in the office.

They can drop their banking envelopes in the locked box at any time and it will be collected each week by someone from Chubb Security who will deliver it to our ASB Branch.

School T Shirts

We have had some response to the offer to supply T Shirts but at this stage probably not enough to make it worthwhile. The fewer we order the more expensive they will be.



I have left the return slip in the newsletter this week in case you have forgotten or lost it and are still interested in the possibility of getting a school T Shirt for your child.

Lunchtime Running

You may remember that at the end of last term I asked if any parents might be able to come in during the lunch hour on Wednesday or Thursday to help with our running groups. The senior group runs on Wednesday and the junior group on Thursday. Both leave from outside the office at 12:40 and are away for about 30 minutes.

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

meta@thorndon.school.nz

alistair@thorndon.school.nz

Stage Challenge

Our Year 7/8 classes will be heavily involved with developing their Stage Challenge Performance over the first 6 or 7 weeks of term. The performance is on June 11 and tickets cost \$33 for adults and \$27 for children under 12.

MogMusic

Moggie Grayson has places available for private tuition for:

- Piano beginners 5 – 8 years
- Recorder beginners 7 – 12 years
- Guitar beginners 8 – 12 years

Tuition in guitar and piano for adult beginners.

Phone Moggie Grayson on 384 8213.

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



Entertainment Book

Sales are going well though we have an awful lot of books still to sell to reach our target of 1 book for every child in the school. We have already sold all our initial order. Thank you to everyone who has bought or sold books.

This is a great little fund raising activity when an organisation is as successful as we have been over the past few years. Let's keep it going.

Discovery Learning

Discovery learning is well away in the middle school and the junior school has made a start this term with the arrival of a considerable number of new resources. A couple of reports from one of the middle school classes follow.

You will see a reference to juggling in one of these reports. Juggling is quite a powerful tool for learning particularly in helping with fine and gross motor skills but also in helping with focus and concentration. There is a link here to a clip children in these rooms have had the opportunity to see which is fascinating - even breathtaking!



Juggling_Finale.wmv

Discovery Time

On Friday we had Discovery Time. We had a choice of things to do:

- Pikelets
- Making juggling balls
- Learning to juggle
- Making flax flowers
- Painting flax
- Playing a game in a team
- Making things out of cardboard and paper
- Playdough

I wanted to do pikelets, but I didn't get picked to do them. So I learned to juggle. It was really fun, but it was also very hard!

By Alana, Room 8

On Friday Room 8 and Room 2 did Discovery Time. This time I did something creative. I made a hot air balloon out of one balloon, one bottom off a soft drink bottle and the top part off a soft drink bottle. My creation went well.

By Waylon, Room 8

New Children

We have had a little spike in enrolments this week with 10 children having started since Monday. This has been offset slightly with 3 having moved away Wellington over the holidays.

The new children are:

| | | |
|----------------------|----|---------------|
| Rebekah Peters | Y1 | NE – Nikau |
| Chelsea Linvingstone | Y1 | NE – Nikau |
| Poppy Svenson | Y1 | NE – Nikau |
| Leon Tuiloma | Y1 | NE – Nikau |
| Isaac Waterman | Y1 | NE - Nikau |
| | | |
| Poppy Beaumont | Y2 | R4 – Tawhai |
| | | |
| Isabelle Beaumont | Y6 | R8 – Kowhai |
| | | |
| Morgan Fuli | Y4 | R6 – Rimu |
| | | |
| Connor Fuli | Y7 | R9 – Koromiko |
| | | |
| Tristan Fuli | Y8 | R1/11 - Rata |

The 5 new entrants who have started this week bring Sue Holman's class to 15, and later this term, when the next new entrants begin to arrive we will start a new class to be taught by Beth Huntington.

Poppy and Isabelle have moved across from Clyde Quay school while Morgan, Connor and Tristan have moved into the area from London by way of Auckland.

We welcome all the children and their families to the Thorndon School Community and hope they enjoy their time with us as a positive learning experience.



Flax Flowers made during Discovery Time

At discovery time our group did dress ups from the movie "Mamma Mia" and I was the Minister for the wedding.

By Caithi



At discovery time I made a big rocket with boxes and bubble wrap. I also used plastic bags for the parachute. We learnt to share. I was very excited!

By Max

Enviro Group Thanks You!

The Enviro group would like to thank all the parents and families who came and participated in our School Environment Inquiry on the last day of term. It was a huge success! Parents made pledges and shared their ideas about their vision for our school environment.

Last term all classes in the school created a vision map. We all put our ideas into what areas in our school we thought were dangerous, safe, quiet, unhappy, interesting, comfortable, etc. It was a fun process and it was interesting that every class came up with such a different map.

Our next step to make a big school vision map with everyone's ideas on it including teachers and parents. Then we will be able to start putting some of these ideas into action.

Charquera Room 1



Successes

During the holidays a number of our children entered the Wellington Chess Championships and once again they did extremely well. Alistair's Monday Chess club and Mark Van Der Horn's Friday coaching sessions are clearly paying off.

Congratulations to the following boys in the under 9 section.

- Joshua Wight 1st
- Xiang Tao 2nd
- Zac Scott-Howman 3rd

A clean sweep for Thorndon!

And in the under 14 section congratulations to:

- Dylan Hefford-Thomsen 3rd

Science Club

An easy experiment can lead to a lot of fun, especially in the science club. We have done experiments such as the vinegar and baking soda volcano, we used the litmus paper to see if liquids were alkaline or acid. It is a great way to spend Wednesday lunchtimes if you are lucky enough to be in Year 5/6.

The Science Group



If you look carefully you can see the "lava" flowing down the sides of the volcano.

Fundraising

I seem to devote quite a lot of space in the newsletter to fundraising activities of various sorts and in this one alone I have mentioned the school donation, an art auction and the entertainment book as well as asking for your assistance with a number of resources.

We share the need to do this with most schools. We all seem to be finding it harder and harder to provide everything we need through the Operations Grant and there is general recognition that this grant is inadequate for today's schools. We hope for some relief in the budget but given the current economic climate we recognise that the relief may be slight.

All of this is a preamble to the first major notice about the Thorndon Fair, our primary fundraising activity. It may seem early but May is only a few hours away and the year is rushing past at a frightening rate.

From the Committee

Thorndon School, like most schools finds it necessary to raise funds locally and top-up government funding.

Luckily Thorndon School is in a unique position... we have the Thorndon Fair, a key iconic Wellington event that has been operating for over 30 years.

The Thorndon Fair was started by the Thorndon Society in April 1977 to increase the feeling of community in Thorndon. The 1982 Fair was run jointly by the Society and Thorndon School and in 1983, Thorndon School took over the organising of the Fair entirely. The Fair has become a huge asset to the school and over the years, the funds raised have enabled the school to boost its teaching staff, upgrade equipment and improve our play spaces.

We are lucky to have this one-off event, annually raising over \$40,000 which also means we do not have to continually fundraise throughout the year. Last year was a whopping success having raised \$58,000.

Due to the size of this event, parental participation is not only desirable but **essential** to make the annual Fair a success. It is a vital component that we cannot do without. We **NEED** parents to help on the day and in the days leading up to the Fair.

We need all parents, in particular new parents to Thorndon School, to keep the importance and the value of the Fair in mind when they are approached by the fair committee towards the end of the year. The more volunteers that are available to help with the Fair the more likely it is to be a success. It also enables us to spread the workload and makes the day more fun and more enjoyable for everyone.

If you are keen to help with the Fair at this early stage in any capacity, please feel free to email the Fair Committee at thorndon.fair@paradise.net.nz

Cheers

Carleen Needham
Thorndon Fair Convenor

