

Thorndon School Newsletter

13/2009

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The nicest thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from.

Action List

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|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Activity fees for Term 2 are \$25:00. Have you paid? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't forget the Numeracy session at 5:30? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you want a T Shirt? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you sent in your donation? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you coming to the Maori/Pasifika parent evening? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you got an Entertainment Book? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dear Parents

Kia ora.

The big news in the primary education world this week has been the release of the draft National Standards that were signalled at the last election. There has been debate for some months now on what shape these standards will take and what they might mean for schools. There has been real concern expressed about how the information gained might be used and doubts about how useful these standards may be in educational terms. There is a fairly short consultation period beginning next week. I won't make any comment on the standards at this stage as I have not had the opportunity to read and consider the documents which were only made available on the Ministry website yesterday. Parents are being asked to contribute to the consultation process and I have put in the addresses to a couple of links for those parents who are interested. Two of these are to pages on the Ministry website and the other is to an NZEI page.

While feedback is intended for the Ministry, we would also be interested in hearing your reactions.

http://www.graphicmail.co.nz/nz_members/39/ftp/NatStandards_Parents.pdf

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/~media/MinEdu/Files/NationalStandards/NationalStandardsParentFamilyWhanauFeedback.pdf>

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/Consultation/NationalStandards/ConsultationPackParent.aspx>

The other news of note for us, though possibly not for the wider educational community, is that two of our board members have resigned effective this month. Anaru Mill has been a board member for 6 years and has, since Peter Boyle left, been the chairperson until very recently. Anaru has made a wonderful contribution to the school and there are two areas in particular where his input has been crucial. One is in the area of policy development and policy analysis. Another has been in the area of Maori and Pasifika education. Also leaving is Karen Scott-Howman who finds that having returned to full time work she is no longer able to commit as much time and attention to board matters that she could before. I am grateful to both Anaru and Karen for the contributions they have made and the work they have put in to ensuring that the school is a successful organisation. The self managing model of school administration we have in New Zealand is unique and is dependent on the involvement of parents. Almost without exception, those who become board members, gain a great deal of understanding about how the system works and enjoy the experience and the knowledge they gain.

With these resignations we have two vacancies and the board has decided to fill these through a by-election. Further information on the process of nominations and elections will follow and there is a rough timeline later in the newsletter. The process should be complete by the end of the holidays, allowing us to welcome two new board members for our meeting on August 18. If you think you may be interested in becoming part of the board but want more information you might want to talk to our two retiring members, with one of the three trustees who remain on the board or with me. Any of us will be happy to talk with interested parents and contact details are further into the newsletter.

And finally a plea to let us know when you are intending to join us for things like today's Numeracy evening. We need to organise a number of things when we have events like this and knowing the numbers in good time makes it so much easier!

Bill Sutton

Cross Country

We held a very successful school cross country competition on Tuesday in what were almost perfect conditions.

The level of commitment varied as it always does, but everyone took part in good humour. There were some very close results in a number of races and we have been able to select what we hope will be a strong team for the Central Zone Cross Country event on June 2.

The younger children were particularly impressive with 4 boys from Year 3/4 electing to race a second time with the Year 6 boys – and finishing in the top 6. A great effort.

While this was going on at the Botanic Gardens our Year 1/2 children were racing round the field at Wellington Girls College. I managed to get back in time to see the Year 2 children – our 6 year olds – run round the field three times. They did it with huge enthusiasm and commitment and the leading group didn't stop once.

There is a challenge in this for us and for the education system in general. How do we hold on to this enthusiasm all the way through school? This is a question that is often debated, not only at the school level but also by academic researchers and to date no-one seems to have been able to come up with a universal answer.

Term 2 Calendar

May 21	Numeracy Evening
May 26	Julia Davidson – Wellington Girls Principal to speak to Y8 parents
May 26	Junior Curriculum information – Writing
May 27	Boostrix vaccinations Y7/8
May 27	Gardasil vaccinations Y8 girls
May 27	Maori/Pasifika parents meeting
May 27	Curriculum Consultation Meeting - lunchtime
Jun 1	School closed – Queen's Birthday
Jun 2	Central Zone Cross Country
Jun 2	Junior Curriculum information - Reading
Jun 8	Y1/2 to Te Papa - Matariki
Jun 9	Wellington Girls Open day.
Jun 9	Y 5/6 to Te Papa - Matariki
Jun 9	Junior Curriculum information – Discovery
Jun 10	Y3/4 to Te Papa - Matariki
Jun 10	Curriculum Consultation Meeting - lunchtime
Jun 11	Stage Challenge Y7/8
Jun 16	Senior Girls Self Defence
Jun 16	Inter Zone Cross Country.
Jun 16	Junior Curriculum information - Maths
Jun 17	Senior Girls Self Defence
Jun 23	BoT Meeting
Jun 23	Junior Curriculum information - Assessment
Jun 29	Y 4-8 to performance at Capital E
Jul 3	Term Ends

Cross Country

This morning we had our cross country. First it was the Year 3 & 4s. Everybody cheered for them. Then it was the Year 5 & 6s. When it was my turn, I first jogged and then I ran as fast as I could. I came 8th. Alana came 3rd. Brianna came 2nd and Tabitha came 1st. I had a lot of fun. Hopefully I will be 1st next cross country.

Manduhai, Room 8

Today it was the cross country. The whole school went. There were 3 races. It was held at the Botanical Gardens. I came 3rd girl in the Year 5&6 race. I also improved my record, because last time I came 4th. I really had fun running the cross country and I worked hard.

Alana, Room 8

New Pupils

We have had one more new pupil enrol this week.

She is:

Minsadi Heenkenda	Y3	Room 6 - Rimu
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Minsadi is from Sri Lanka and has just moved into Thorndon where life has started with a hiss and a roar. Minsadi took part in the cross country about 45 minutes after she started with us.

We welcome Minsadi and her family to the school and hope that such a vigorous introduction to the school has not put her off.





Entertainment Books are still available for sale

Junior Cross Country

When I was running I was thinking about my slightly wiggly tooth. I ran three times around the field. On the outside of my body I felt sweaty. On the inside of my body I felt sore.

I came fourth and I was happy and proud.
By Sarah Hale

Today we did cross country, I felt nervous at the start but when I was running my heart was beating fast. When I ran I was thinking different things, like my birthday and wondering why we had to buy chicken things.

At the end I came third place. Well I had a pink face.
Sophie Montague- Cripps

Today we did cross country. I ran as fast as I could. My heart was beating fast and I was puffed.
Jamie Lockwood

Today I did cross-country. I ran as fast as I could. I felt good.
Liardet Anderson

I felt proud of myself and I came fourth. My body felt good when I was running. I got a certificate.
Poppy Beaumont

"I liked the cross- country," said Zach.
Zach Lovett

Information Sessions

The information sessions that I mentioned in last week's newsletter are now in the term calendar and the first one is next Tuesday, May 26, at 1:30 in the staffroom.

These sessions are intended for the parents of children in the first 4 years of school but anyone interested is more than welcome to attend. Come along and learn something about what your children will be doing in these first four years, what the school's expectations are and how you can help.

Writing	Beth Huntington	Tues 26 May
Reading	Krista Huber	Tues 2 June
Discovery	Sue Holman	Tues 9 June
Maths	Zeeta Andrew	Tues 16 June
Assessment	Alistair du Chatenier	Tues 23 June

School in Action

On June 10 Wellington Girls is holding its School in Action morning and parents and girls considering enrolling at WGC are invited to go along and have a look.

The school will be open for visits from 9:00 – 12:30 and, while you are free to go at the time that best suits you, the school has asked if Thorndon parents try to go along at 11:30am.

Don't forget too that Julia Davidson, the principal of Wellington Girls College, will be here next Tuesday at 3:15 in the staffroom to talk with parents and answer any questions you might have.

Open Evening

Wellington High School is the latest to send us information on their open evening which is to be on Wednesday July 1 at 7:00pm.

We will also have a visit from WHS staff and pupils who will talk to our Year 8 pupils. This is likely to be in mid June.

Envirogroup Goes To Waste Forum

Last Friday the Envirogroup went to the Environment house to ask interesting questions about where our waste goes. At the meeting there were people from the Wellington City Council, the Hutt City Council and people from the Porirua region. There were also representatives from All Bright, Full Circle and we are also proud to say that Councillor Celia Wade Brown was there.

In preparation for this event the Envirogroup meet up with Arahia to come up with ideas of questions to ask these people. What did we want to find out? We also went on a tour of our school to see what places in our Enviro-school we could show them that would be interesting.

When we got to the Environment house we meet up with people one on one and got to have conversations and ask questions. It was very interesting and we learnt lots! It was a challenging but really enjoyable experience!

Charquera and Angela (Enviro group members)

BoT By Election Time Line.

May 29	Electoral Roll available for checking.
May 30	Nomination Forms posted out
May 30	Election advertised
June 4	Main roll closes
June 5	Open Supplementary Roll
June 16	Supplementary Roll closes
June 20	Nominations close.
June 23	Voting papers posted
July 1	Election Day – voting closes at 12:00 noon.
July 9	Results declared.

Somewhere in here there may well be a meeting at which you can meet and hear from the candidates.

The counting of votes takes place during the holidays as will the official declaration in the paper of the election result.

We will publish those results again as soon as we return to school.

Our returning officer, responsible for the management of the whole process is Hela Isaac, our office manager.

People you might want to talk to are:

Mandy Hancock	john_mandy@paradise.net.nz
Carol Weston	carol.weston@xtra.co.nz
Carleen Needham	jacnz@paradise.net.nz
Karen Scott-Howman	scott-howman@xtra.co.nz
Anaru Mill	anaru@hingstonmill.co.nz

And you can always get in touch with me either by phone or email - principal@thorndon.school.nz



Enviro - The Waste Forum

On Friday the 15th of May the Thorndon School Enviro Group went to the Waste Forum in the Environmental House. We talked about the waste in the landfill and what could be reused. We were each given a question to ask to people at the Waste Forum.

Thomas, Room 8



After the Forum some Wellington City councillors, Enviroschools staff and other guests visited Thorndon School. Our Enviro Group took them on guided tours around the school, pointing out the different projects, activities, displays and art related to the environment. It was lovely to see the enthusiasm with which the students explained everything to the visitors. Please feel free to come and look at an Enviroschool in action anytime!

Meta Beyers

Curriculum Consultation

You will see in the term calendar that we have two dates for curriculum consultation this term, one on May 27 and the other on June 10.

We plan to run these meetings according to the ages of children and you will receive an invitation to attend. These initial meetings are an introduction to the new curriculum and some background on why the curriculum has been revised and we will be asking you to think about various aspects of the new curriculum and to respond to some questions.

We will continue this process next term and hope that we will get everyone involved in some way.

There are some links on the website which will take you to pages where you can get some readings about this new curriculum prior to any meetings. You can access these links through the curriculum page on the website.

<http://www.thorndon.school.nz/curriculum.htm>

I have run out of time and space in this newsletter to include an item one of the children has written on the Young Leaders Day a group attended on Monday. My apologies to Tymesha. The article will appear next week.