

Thorndon School Newsletter

14/2009

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Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counsellors they succeed

Action List

Activity fees for Term 2 are \$25:00 and are due now.

Remember Subway are now available on Friday only.

Don't forget the Junior Reading session on Tuesday.

Have you sent in your donation?

Are you coming to the Maori/Pasifika parent evening?

Dear Parents

Kia ora.

Isn't it nice to see the sun? Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Numeracy evening last week. It was a fantastic success with well over 100 parents and 80 children attending. The feeling I got is that most people felt that they had gained something worthwhile from the evening and we – staff – have learned a number of things about managing events like this.

Having the children involved is obviously a factor in getting parents to come in to school and, while it is not always appropriate for children to be present at some meetings there may be other ways we can manage this. The time of the meeting seems to have been important too with parents coming in on their way home. Once you get home in the evening it requires considerable effort to get out again, especially if the weather is a little unfavourable. Having something later in the week was mentioned as a positive as were the personal invitations you all received from your children. We would welcome any other feedback you can give us.



This year seems to be shaping up as one full of consultation with the new Curriculum to be discussed and National Standards introduced last week. You may well get a little tired of all that is going to be offered this year but this is your opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas and to have some input into the shape of our local curriculum. The more input we get the closer we are likely to be able to come to a curriculum which reflects, at least in part, the feelings, values and beliefs of most of the community. Some people will be more comfortable than others with the direction and intentions of the new curriculum but even the disagreements can inform the development of Thorndon's curriculum. I hope that everyone will contribute in some way.

We had intended to have a meeting this week with Maori/Pasifika parents as part of this broad consultation process but this has been put back to Thursday of next week, when we hope to get a greater number of parents.

A request related to these meetings– please let us know if you are coming so that we can be sure we can accommodate everyone and have our catering right.

Bill Sutton

Fundraisers

The Onslow College Concert Band has a trip to the Australasian Band competition in Sydney later this year and a number of fundraising activities have been planned. Two former Thorndon pupils are members of the band.

A Musical Journey

Performances by the Onslow College Concert Band, Kugeltoy, the Klezmer Rebs and the Onslow College Choir.

Adults \$15, Child/Student \$10 Family Pass (2 adults plus children) \$40

Tuesday 2nd June 7-9

St Andrews on the Terrace.

Get your tickets by phoning 475 7126, or by email smitana@ihug.co.nz

Dinner at the Bistro Breton

With musical entertainment.

Sunday 7th June,

7.30pm

87-89 Upland Rd, Kelburn.

Tickets \$55 per person (includes drinks)

Contact Beverley on 4798200 or by emailing d.dinsdale@xtra.co.nz

House sitters and Pet sitters

Available in July.

We are homeowners from Christchurch, looking for a house or houses to sit in Wellington from July 5-31.

We can bring in mail, look after pets and provide references.

Valerie Wycoff 03 3517432

vwycroff@gmail.com

Nicky Woodward 03 9804216

nwoody@paradise.net.nz

These two women, who come to Wellington for a study course twice a year, looked after the house of a Thorndon school teacher aide last winter.

Term 2 Calendar

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

Secondary Schools

Will your son be going to Wellington College?

The Deputy Principal, Mr Gregor Fountain, is presenting an interactive workshop on Tuesday 9 June.

He will be addressing such issues as:

- What are the implications of the revised New Zealand curriculum which is to be introduced after 2010?
- How will it affect students at Wellington College?
- What is the desired Wellington College Learner Profile?

Please join us at 7:30 pm in the main school hall.

*Light refreshments will be served
(Gold coin donations please)*

RSVP, if possible, for catering purposes, to Sue Mahon - mahons@paradise.net.nz

Operation Donation

The Young Leaders would like to say thanks to everyone who brought in any donations for Operation Donation. On behalf of Bethany Home Orphanage we say thankyou.

Now the children will be warm, happy and stylish because of your kindness and compassion to these small kids.

We’re overwhelmed by how many toys and clothes we’ve collected from the classes. Thanks so much for all of it; Bethany Home Orphanage will be very grateful for all of this.

Thanks again.

The Young Leaders

Information Sessions

The information sessions for the parents of junior school children began this week when Beth Huntington talked with a group of parents about Writing in the Junior School.

Next Tuesday, June 2, Krista Huber will talk about Reading in the Junior School, our expectations, the programmes and how you can help at home.

The session will be held in the staff room at 1:30 and anyone who wants to come along is welcome.

Still to come are:

Discovery	Sue Holman	Tues 9 June
Maths	Zeeta Andrew	Tues 16 June
Assessment	Alistair du Chatenier	Tues 23 June

Curriculum Consultation

Thank you to the group of about 15 parents of Year 5/6 children who attended what was a very rushed session giving an overview of the new curriculum and what it might mean for our pupils. We will repeat this – more slowly - for parents of Year 3/4 children on June 10 and there will be further sessions on aspects of the curriculum through the rest of the year.

Invitations will be sent out to remind parents of these sessions which will start at 1:00 in the library. This week we had set aside 30 minutes for this but a more realistic time frame is probably 45 minutes. We hope that over the course of the year everyone will have the opportunity to contribute in some way to the development of a local curriculum.

Lunches

As from next week, Subway lunches will be available on **Fridays** rather than Mondays.

The demand for lunches from both Subway and Wholly Bagels seems to have diminished this year and this is an attempt by Subway to see if there is any difference between one end of the week and another.

This means that there will be no lunch orders available on Mondays.

National Standards

Last week I put some links in the newsletter to Ministry pages and NZEI pages on the draft National Standards which are being debated at the moment. There is a short time frame for consultation on these standards and I am happy to arrange an evening at school to discuss them and to coordinate parents' responses if there is a demand for this. If you are interested in this being arranged perhaps you could email me.



Rumpelstiltskin

On the 13th of May, the whole of year 1-6 went to the hall to watch a puppet show. The show was called Rumpelstiltskin. It all started when the messenger started to tell his story... it all ended when the queen's baby nearly got stolen from her by Rumpelstiltskin. The puppet master was very talented. He had made all of the backdrops, the puppet costumes and all of the props. He also put on a different voice for each character. All of the little kids loved it. But it got quite annoying when they were shouting out in the middle of it. The characters in the puppet show were the queen/miller's daughter, the king, the messenger, Rumpelstiltskin, the messenger's donkey and the baby (but the baby didn't say anything). It was very good when there was a break where he was changing the clothes for the puppets but he kept talking about the story, so we wouldn't get bored. All of the teachers from years 1-6 went, and that's including Whaea Jenny. I think it taught us to not lie because terrible things happen when you lie!

By Olivia Yeo, Room 8

Young Leaders Conference

Last week a group of children from our school went to a young Leaders' Conference for the day. We travelled by shuttle vans to the Town Hall. The hosts of the programme were Whitney Pa'u, Alice Gallagher, Epati Fale and Charlie Panapa from "What Now?" This year the theme was "Building tomorrow today".

The first speaker was Rob Harley. These are some of the things he said: "Great leaders learn from mistakes, pain and interruptions". Another one was: "It's not what happens to you, but what is in you" and "Through life the interesting things happen by mistake".

The next speakers were James and Justin from Australia. They were talking about perseverance and following your dreams, and by persevering you will get the hard jobs done. They experienced this by being the first people to kayak from Australia to New Zealand. These are the steps to follow your dreams:

1. Having a dream.
2. Getting ready.
3. Team of likeminded people.
4. Testing and Trialling.
5. Just do it.

A quote from them: "Life is a daring adventure or nothing at all."

The next speaker was Judge Andrew Becroft. These are the steps to being a good leader:

1. Character starts with the small things.
2. Choose good friends.
3. Learn to say no.
4. Nothing beats teamwork.
5. Live by a value system.

These are some of the things he said good leaders have to have:

- Honesty and truthfulness.
- Kindness.
- Consideration.
- Compassion.
- Obedience.
- Responsibility.
- Respect.
- Duty.

The next speaker was truly inspirational. She was Barbara Kendall and she said:

"Dreams have to be important to you.", "If you can see it you can do it.", "Don't use competition as an excuse." and "Think – Feel - Behave and have fun!"

The last, but not least, was Nick Tuitasi. He said "Nice people finish last but your legacies live on forever." And this is what he said about being a good leader: "

1. Integrity - doing the wrong thing at the wrong time for the wrong reason is wrong; doing the right thing at the right time for the wrong reason is wrong, doing the right thing at the right time for the right reason is right.
2. Chose your friends carefully.
3. Watch your reputation.
4. Walk in humility.

This was sadly the end of the program, but we learned a lot from the speakers.

By Tymesha Cousins.