

# Thorndon School Newsletter

20/2009

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23 July 2009  
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## Poetry takes you apart and puts you back together...differently

Cilla McQueen

### Action List

Have you paid your Term 3 activities Fee of \$25?

**Don't forget school banking tomorrow**

Are you coming to see the new playground area?

Are you coming to the curriculum meeting on August 6?

Does your child have a poem for Friday?

### Dear Parents

Kia ora.

Welcome back. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and that you were not too afflicted by flu of any sort. I am probably tempting fate but, in spite of a couple of weeks when we had up to 30 children away we have escaped fairly lightly so far. Some schools have had 30% or more of their children absent. Staff at Thorndon have been immensely cooperative in getting the flu over the holidays when we had about half the staff cast down. I have my fingers crossed that the cycle has been broken by the holidays but I suspect that we will see another surge.

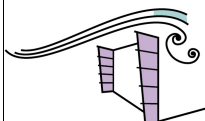
I am breathless already after only 3 days of the new term. The calendar seems amazingly full already in spite of a decision we have made to keep this term quiet and low key after the intensity of Stage Challenge last term. I fear it will only get fuller! There has been a lot happen over the holidays, some of it very plain to see and some of it less visible though no less important. I suppose it depends on where you are within the education system as to whether a by-election for the board or the completion of the climbing wall and the sandpit is more significant. I think the kids would say the latter was far more important!

Part of the brief for the architects when we first started discussion on the redevelopment of the playground was that we wanted something that did not tell children what they should do. This has been accomplished in the top part of the playground where children have invented all sorts of ways of using the soft surface and the pierced walls. I am hopeful that the new climbing wall, the track and the sandpit will allow the same scope for their imaginations to run wild. Creative play is what we are after. The school grounds keep developing and I think that we have managed, within a very small area, to create something that is stimulating and attractive. It is still developing and we hope to keep adding to it.

We have mentioned a couple of times that we aim for 100% attendance at Three Way Conferences and we seem to be tracking along well for that. If you haven't made a booking yet, it is not too late. The website address is: [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz). There are two pass codes. If your child is in Rooms 3, 4, 8, 9 or 10 you use the code MSDR6. If your child is in Rooms 5, 6, 7 or 11 you use the code SE465. If you have two children in different areas you will need to go right out of the programme once you have made one booking and open it again using the other login before making the second booking. If you don't close right out the programme seems to do some very funny things like ignore your booking or booking you with the wrong teacher. All in all the system is working well and I am sure that the next time we come to use it we will have mastered it completely – so there will be no glitches!

There are a couple of return slips at the end of the newsletter for various activities but please feel free to let us know by email if you plan to attend either of these. It is a much easier and more reliable means of sending in information than pupil post!

Bill Sutton



**Thorndon School  
Board of Trustees By-Election  
Declaration of Parent Election Results**

Parent representatives votes:

Cribb, Jo	61
Turner, James	85
Ware, David	59
Yang, Ellen Chuan	35

I hereby declare the following duly elected:

Jo Cribb
James Turner

*Hela Isaac*  
**RETURNING OFFICER**

Congratulations to James and Jo who will join the rest of the board for our next meeting on August 18. We look forward to working with them and making use of the different skill sets they will bring to the board.

Commiserations to David and Ellen. It is a difficult thing to do, to put yourself up in front of your peers for election to any sort of office but without people prepared to do it no sort of election process can take place.

The fact that there were four people prepared to stand and that over 130 voting papers were received indicates a healthy interest in the life of the school. The number of votes was surprisingly high for a mid-term by-election and bodes well for the next full board election in 2010.

**Reminder**

**SPELD Wellington**  
**Open Forum on Dyslexia**  
July 23 at 7.30 – 9pm  
Wesley Hall, 75 Taranaki St

**Term 3 Calendar**

There is a surprising amount in this calendar already!

Jul 20	Term 3 starts.
Jul 23	Central Zone Chess Tournament.
Jul 24	World Poetry Day
Jul 27	Maori Language Week begins.
Jul 28	Gardasil vaccinations – Y8
Jul 29	Drawing Workshops – Whole school
Jul 30	Maori/Pasifika Curriculum Consultation Evening.
Jul 31	Sausage Sizzle – New rooms and Play area.
Aug 6	Curriculum Consultation – Y7/8 parents.
Aug 10	Maths Week begins
Aug 11	Year 7/8 Girls Rugby tournament
Aug 12	Maths World Y1-4
	Artsplash Choir rehearsal
Aug 13	Artsplash Choir performance
	Artsplash Schools for Schools Performance
	Wellington Chess championships – Y5/6
Aug 18	Maths World Y5-8
Aug 18	BoT Meeting
Aug 19	Artsplash Drama
Aug 25	Wellington Chess Championships Y7/8
Sep 2	Central Zone Speech Competition
Sep 8	Winter Sports Festival – Y5/6
Sep 10	Maori Pasifika Parent evening
Sep 15	Winter Sports Festival – Y7/8
Sep 17	Noho Marae – Junior school
Sep 22	Jump Rope
Sep 23	Science Roadshow – Y7/8
Sep 24	Science Roadshow – Y5/6
Sep 25	Term ends

**ARTSIGHT TERM THREE  
KIDS AND TEENS ART CLASSES**

Artsight offers after school and weekend Art classes for kids and teens taught by a registered, specialist, Visual Arts teacher.

Bookings are open for Term 3 classes beginning the week of the 27<sup>th</sup> July. All classes are held in a purpose set-up studio at Toi Poneke, Level 2, 65 Abel Smith St, Wellington.

For more information and to book go to: <http://www.artsight.co.nz/> or call Fiona on: 04 3862908 or 021 786629

***New Children***

We have had another of those sudden rushes of enrolments and a large group of new children started this week.

Holly Needham	Y1	R2 – Harakeke
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Holly joins her older sister Abby as a pupil at Thorndon.

Joy Cheng	Y3	R5 -
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Joy has recently arrived from China so is coming to grips with the climate, the culture and the weather.

Zi Yi (Mary) Wang	Y4	R7 – Koromiko
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Like Joy, Zi Yi has recently arrived from China though from Shanghai rather than Beijing.

Ariya Kea Charles	Y4	R6 –
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Ariya has transferred from Newtown School and is making the transition from immersion education to a mainstream class.

Alexander Rae	Y4	R7 – Koromiko
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Alexander and his older sister Maisie have moved to Wellington from Napier.

Murilo Gonzales	Y5	R10 – Manuka
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Murilo is another traveller, having recently arrived from Brazil.

Kieran Simpson	Y8	R9 -
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Kieran too is a traveller, returning to New Zealand after 6 years in Canada.

Maisie Rae	Y8	R11 – Rata
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As mentioned, Maisie and her brother are recent arrivals from Napier but have travelled further than that being from Scotland originally.

It is unusual at this time of the year for there to be such a large enrolment at the start of the term and even more unusual for so many of the new enrolments to be recent arrivals from overseas.

We welcome the children and their families and hope that they enjoy themselves here and that they get everything they expect from Thorndon School.

***Guitar Lessons***

**MOBILE GUITAR TEACHER**

**Please phone Geoff Day on 387 2630 or 021 565 750**

**Modern guitar lessons that inspire and motivate.**

***World Poetry Day***

Tomorrow is World Poetry Day and I hope that all our classes will mark it in some way. Perhaps every child could be sent to school with a favourite poem of their parents. I was at a function last night at which they announced the Poet Laureate for 2009 – 2011 (Cilla McQueen) and one of the speakers said that there is a little poetry in all of us, a nice sentiment and one we might try to build on.

The best poetry is, in some ways, the essence of good writing. Everything non essential is stripped away leaving only what is important to meaning. The ultimate expression of this is probably haiku. Children can learn a great deal about effective use of language by reading, listening to, and writing poetry.

A poem about words and poetry from Glen Colquhoun, one of the current crop of very good New Zealand poets whose work is always easy to engage with.

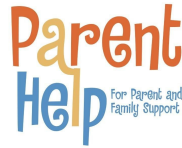
Words are halfbacks  
 They don't scrum.  
 They don't ruck  
 They don't maul.  
 They don't jump.  
 They don't throw into lineouts.  
 They don't carry oranges at half-time.  
 They don't argue with the referee.  
 They just pass –  
 Ideas as quick as bullets.

God help you  
 If you drop them!  
 Poetry is a game  
 But so is footy  
 And we all know how serious that is.

***Activity Fees***

In spite of what appears to be a crowded calendar already, we are making an effort to make this a less frantic term so there will not be quite so many activities.

As a result the fee for this term will be \$20 per child which should cover everything we do.



...presents **“The Politically Incorrect Parenting Show: The First Decade”** by Nigel Latta

A hugely entertaining, informative, and irreverent one-man show by Clinical Psychologist and best-selling author Nigel Latta on how to get kids through the first ten years and stay sane. **Some language may offend.**

**Tue 4 Aug, 7-9 pm @ Riley Centre, Wellington High School. Tickets \$15**

Purchase online [www.parenthelp.org.nz](http://www.parenthelp.org.nz) or at:

Parent Help, Compassion House, 2 Lukes Lane (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm)

Konev Leather, 166A Featherston Street

Dymocks Queensgate, Shop 107, Westfield, Queensgate

Playdays Toyshop, 238 Jackson St, Petone

Toyworld Porirua, 7 Cobham Court, Porirua

Many of you have probably seen the first two episodes of Nigel Latta’s television programme and may have heaved sighs of relief at the refreshingly down-to earth advice he has to offer. I am a huge fan. He is sensible, funny and offers useful, common-sense advice. I wish he had been around when I had young children! I have not seen one of his shows but I am told that they are very entertaining as well as being informative and “educational”. Thoroughly recommended.

**Tiki Hunia**

Everyone will have seen and heard the news of Tiki Hunia’s sad death in Jamaica, but many of you may not have made the connection with Thorndon.

Tiki’s wife, Nicky-Jean worked at Thorndon for a few months in 2007. She was initially employed as a part-time teacher working with a group of Korean students who spent some weeks with us. A little later Nicky-Jean was the part-time teacher who released the Reading Recovery teacher. Tiki too had a direct connection with Thorndon having worked on the design of the school’s website while working for Anaru Mill, our former chairperson.

Nicky-Jean and the family are due back in Te Teko today and our thoughts are with them. I am sure you will all be as sorry as we are over what is a tragic and pointless death, and absolutely devastating for Nicky-Jean and the family.

**Curriculum Consultation**

Last term we held a number of meetings to introduce the new curriculum to parents and to get some feedback and ideas from you.

Two more of these information meetings are planned for early this term before we get into something more interactive.

The first of these is for parents of Maori/Pasifika children, something we agreed to last time we met, and this is timetabled for next Thursday evening. A reminder will be emailed out next week.

The second is for parents of Year 7/8 children, replacing the meeting that was postponed last term. This is a lunchtime session in the library at 12:45 on August 6. While we have designated this for parents of Year 7/8 children any parent is welcome.

Just be aware that if you have come to one of the other meetings – either an evening one or one of the lunchtime meetings, this will largely be a repeat of what you have already heard.



## YEAR 7 AND 8 SKILLS SESSION and MINI NETBALL TOURNAMENT

**SUNDAY 16 AUGUST  
10.30AM-3.30PM**

The Onslow College Senior Netball Team are offering a Day of Netball Skills and a mini tournament as a fundraising venture to raise funds to travel to the North Island Secondary Schools Netball Tournament in Gisborne in September

**Year 7-8 students (Girls and Boys welcome)  
\$30 fee**

**Onslow College Gymnasium, Burma Road, Johnsonville (indoor and outdoor facilities)**

The participants will be organised into teams on arrival  
Each team will be allocated coaches (Senior A players) who will run skills sessions for the morning followed by a mini tournament in the afternoon

This is a great opportunity to show case your skills learnt during the current season and to meet other aspiring netball players

Afternoon Tea provided

Participants need to bring their own lunch, a drink, netball shoes and wear appropriate clothing

Sessions will be supervised by Onslow College PE staff member netball convenor and coach Jo Te Morenga

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Contact Jo Te Morenga

[joanne.temorenga@onslow.school.nz](mailto:joanne.temorenga@onslow.school.nz)

477 9317 after 7pm

Maori/Pasifika Curriculum Consultations

Yes. I will be coming to this evening on July 30.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

***The Arts and Thorndon School***

Thorndon has a reputation as an “Arts School” and we place a good deal of emphasis on our arts programmes, based on research evidence which indicates that strong arts programmes have a positive impact on all other areas of the curriculum. This term we are involved in a number of activities which reinforce our commitment to the arts.

Last year we applied to participate in the Artists in Schools initiative, a government funded project to bring professional artists into schools to work with children. We were lucky enough to be selected for this project and this term Mel Dodge will be in every week to workshop with children in drama. The programme will lead to a performance by some children at the end of the term and we will keep you informed about this. We are doubly lucky in being involved this year as the funding has now been cut and the programme will end at the end of this year which is a great shame.

We have also made a successful application for a music mentoring programme and later this term some of our senior children will have the opportunity to work with two established song-writers. We are hoping that one will be Wayne Mason who wrote, among many other songs, that New Zealand anthem *Nature*. He is regarded as one of the country’s best song writers.

We are again participating in Artsplash with a choir, a drama group, a Wearable Arts display, a dance group, and participation in an art exhibition, as well as a second performance of our Year 7/8 Stage Challenge.

These sorts of activities are hugely important and influential in a child’s primary school education and the skills and attitudes they learn link directly to the core values and key competencies identified in the new curriculum.

***Sausage, Soup and Sips***

While we will not have a formal opening of the new play area we would like to mark the completion of this, the new classroom at the bottom of the White House, the refurbishment of the top room of the White House, and, with a little luck, the completion of the new resource storage and Reading Recovery Room below what was the Art Room and is now the music room.

You are all invited to come along after work on Friday July 31 for a drink, a snack, and a wander around these areas of the school. A very informal occasion starting at about 5:30 and over by 7:00. We will provide sausages and/or soup, and you will be able to buy a beer, wine or juice to sip as you take a look at what has been done.

This is clearly weather dependent but we would like to see as many of you as possible. I am sure your children would love to show you the climbing wall, sandpit and the track, and you will find the two classrooms of some interest as they differ a little from standard classrooms.

***Secondary Schools***

The season continues and we now have a few prospectuses from Onslow College. These can be picked up from the front desk and we can always get more if they are needed.

***Chess***

Our chess team competed today in a Central Cluster competition at Newlands Primary School with some success.

We are looking forward to seeing how they do when they take part in the two Wellington Championship events coming up.

***Curriculum Consultation***

Yes, I will be coming to the curriculum consultation meeting at lunchtime on August 6.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

***Sausage, Soup and Sip***

Yes, we will be coming to view the new playground and classrooms on July 31.

Adults

Children

Name \_\_\_\_\_