

# Thorndon School Newsletter

21/2009

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30 July 2009  
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**No two gardens are the same. No two days are the same in one garden.**

Hugh Johnson

## Action List

- |   |                          |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Have you paid your Term 3 activities Fee of \$20? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Don't forget school banking tomorrow</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you checked for school rugby jerseys?        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you coming to the curriculum meeting on August 6? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you booked a 3 way conference?               | <input type="checkbox"/> | Can you sell some seeds?                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Dear Parents

Kia ora.

We are well into the swing of things now this term and the calendar shows just how busy everyone is. Three way conferences are mostly done now and seem to have gone very well. We have had a very good response and teachers will be contacting those parents who have not yet booked a time. As I have already said, we are aiming for a 100% turnout and will do as much as we can to ensure this happens. From our point of view these conferences are well worth while and they give children the opportunity to demonstrate their learning to parents. As well as being a reporting session they are a celebration of learning and an opportunity for some shared goal setting. Parents' attendance sends some really strong messages to children. I would very much like to get some response from parents about the conferences and what you got from them. Please email us or send in a note with your child giving us your thoughts.

We have, perhaps, been a little ambitious in trying to arrange a social activity this early in the term. We had planned to have a sausage sizzle and drinks tomorrow to celebrate the completion of the climbing wall and the remodelling of the White House. Only 2 families have indicated that they will be attending and one of these is at least partly staff so we will hold fire. Please don't turn up tomorrow expecting a barbecue, soup or wine as there will be no-one here! We will try again another time. The Maori/Pasifika Curriculum Consultation planned for this evening has also been postponed because no-one had indicated that they intended to be here. Again, we will try later in the term. We still have a lunchtime curriculum consultation session planned for next week and at the moment we are still intending to go ahead with this – though we have no takers yet. If you do intend to come can you please let us know either by emailing or by returning the slip from the newsletter.

Bill Sutton

## Fundraising

Many of you will be familiar with the chocolate and sweet sales many schools engage in as fundraising activities. These have gone on for years and have been very successful. They are no longer, however, seen as appropriate for schools and we have been given the opportunity to try something different. We have in the foyer at the moment 180 boxes of seeds – roughly one per family – and we are asking each family to try to sell one of these packs.

Each box contains 20 Garden seed packets and 2 Edible Garden packs. The single packs of seeds sell for \$3:00 each (which is cheaper than the garden centre price for McGregor's seeds) and the Edible Garden boxes which contain 10 packets of seeds sell for \$29.99 (\$30).

One of the boxes is on display on the counter in the foyer, and a flyer is coming home with each child today. There is space on the flyer for you to order packs and return the flyer.

With spring on its way and a renewed interest in gardening around the country this seems like a good time to give this a try.

If we sold all 180 boxes we could make as much as \$7,000 which we would put towards more grounds development in the school

**Friendship Bracelets**

From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of August the Young Leaders will be selling VSA (Volunteer Services Abroad) friendship bracelets. The money from the sale of these bracelets will allow the VSA volunteers to work with some of the poorest people in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. They also help communities achieve their goals. This year the bracelets were made by organisations in Vietnam. They were made under Fair trade conditions. These bracelets will cost \$2.00 each. You can use them to symbolise friendship with people in poverty or even buy them to symbolise friendship with you and your closest friends. They're for a great cause and it would mean a lot if you could consider buying a bracelet.

Thanks,  
The Young Leaders

**Dental Treatment.**

August 7 is World Dental Day and schools have been asked to encourage adolescents to enrol with a dentist. Children from Year 9 until they are 18 are entitled to see a dentist for free and our Year 8 pupils will be bringing home a letter to this effect.

In spite of this free service in 2006 only 34% of adolescents saw a dentist in the Wellington/ Porirua area and only 61% in the Hutt Valley.

**Activity Fees**

There was some confused information in the newsletter last week with the activity fee showing as \$20 in one place and \$25 in another.

*My apologies. The correct figure is \$20 for the term.*

**New Children**

We have one new child this week.

Caitlyn Frawley	Y1	R2 – Harakeke
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We would like to welcome Caitlyn and her family to Thorndon and hope that they enjoy their association with the school.

**Term 3 Calendar**

Please note. The Maori/Pasifika Curriculum Consultation tonight has been postponed and the Sausage sizzle planned for tomorrow is cancelled.

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 20	Y 5/6 to NZSO at Te Papa
Aug 25	Wellington Chess Championships Y7/8
Aug 24	Cricket Skills training this week.
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

**Flu**

We seem to have escaped relatively lightly from swine-flu but there is every possibility that with children back at school we might see an upsurge in the number of cases.

Schools have been asked to monitor their absences carefully and to inform the Ministry of Health of any change in the expected rate of absence. The school community has been extremely helpful in keeping children away when they have showed any sign of flu-like symptoms and I am sure that this is at least partly why we have been relatively unaffected.

The risk of infection has not passed so please keep doing what you are doing.

## THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### **Thorndon School Rugby Tops**

We have new rugby jerseys on order thanks to Kelly and Lincoln Falconer and until they arrive we will use the ones we already had.

Unfortunately we are missing a lot of these light blue rugby shirts. We assume they have not come back from the Knoche Cup competition last year. Can parents please have a good look to see if there are any of these jerseys at home.

Jane Stocker

### **Artsplash Choir**

Thursday 13 August  
5.30pm  
Michael Fowler Centre.

Tickets are \$4 per person, from Hela.

All children need to have a colourful shirt to wear during the last song. A lot of children still need to bring in their old white shirt that we can tie dye. As time is running out we need them in asap.

Sue Holman  
Jane Stocker

### **Poetry Day**

All classes were involved in some poetry writing and reading last Friday and here are some of the results. I will put some more in next week.

**Did you ever see a potato in the  
ground,  
brown, ripe and ready to be cooked  
just for me?**

By Liardet

**Did you ever see an octopus with one  
tentacle,  
black eye floating at the top of the sea?**

By Sophie

**Did you ever see a ripe apple about to fall  
off a tree,  
ready to be eaten?**

By Jamie

**Did you ever see a whale on the sand  
eating fish?**

By Florence

**Did you ever see a dragon,  
flying in the air, fighting, catching  
children?**

By Sarah

**Did you ever see a puppy,  
catching his tail, nibbling on your toe?**

By Kiri

**Cold frosty snow dancing  
I'm sleighing on an icy mountain  
Snow boarding on windy snow**

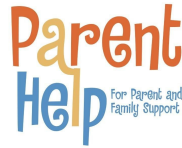
Isabella Falconer

**My cat's eyes are like fiery sky.**

By Kiri

**Soft white snow falling  
Hot chocolate sprinkling cold  
Sledging fast, silky snow.**

Maxwell Leuga



...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.

**More Room 4 Poems**

My teacher is an evil witch  
with one black eye and a bruise like soot.  
She goes to school with a broom stick too,  
as fast as lightning.

By Sophie

My teacher is a very evil witch.  
She has a very evil broom stick  
with a big bad pot.  
The pot sings a song.

By Kiri

**Curriculum Consultation**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_