

Thorndon School Newsletter

22/2009

www.thorndon.school.nz
office@thorndon.school.nz

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principal@thorndon.school.nz

The Lord loveth a cheerful giver. He also accepteth from a grouch!

Catherine Hall

Action List

Have you got the fair in your diary?

Don't forget school banking tomorrow

Have you paid your donation?

Can you sell some seeds?

Dear Parents

Kia ora.

Two weeks between newsletters seems a very long time, probably because we have been sending out a weekly newsletter for so long. I missed it whether or not anyone else did.

This has been as busy a start to a term as I can remember in spite of a conscious decision we made to keep things as simple as possible. It seems to have been particularly busy at the management level and I seem to have been out of the school more frequently than usual over the past 4 weeks. I was at a meeting with other principals this morning – out of the school once again – and everyone was telling the same story which is a comfort. It is not just me! We all hope that things will settle down in the next couple of weeks.

As I write this the school is deathly quiet as everyone - except the three of us in the office – is out, all but eight of the children at the Schools for Schools performance for Artsplash. The other 8 children are taking part in a chess competition. We have a huge involvement in Artsplash this year with groups involved in every aspect of the two week festival. This is the first time we have been engaged in everything and excitement levels are high. Today we have a dance group performing and the senior school will reprise their Stage Challenge performance. This evening the choir performs in a concert of massed choirs and next week a small group participates in Artsplash Drama. The first Artsplash was purely a choral festival but it now includes dance, drama and the visual arts and is a real celebration of the arts in schools.

I mentioned last week that we were trying a new fundraising effort selling seeds and on Tuesday some of the children took part in a workshop on seed raising. Tomorrow we plan to send home a seed box to every family that has not already asked for one. We would like you to see if you can sell as many as possible to friends, family and colleagues. The seeds can be sold as individual packets and there are 20 in each box. There are also two gift packs to be sold as full boxes, not opened and split. We would like all money and unsold seeds returned to school by September 4th, allowing 3 weeks to get them sold. We are not expecting parents to buy these but hope that, rather like the entertainment books, neighbours, friends, relatives and colleagues will take advantage of the offer, helping to spread the fundraising load.

A little more on fundraising. We have the fair coming up at the end of the year and the core committee has already started meeting to begin the preparations. We hope that everyone has the date in their diaries and is prepared to give some time to helping. In the meantime, as you wait eagerly to be contacted, you could help by adding a \$1:00 or \$2:00 scratchy to your grocery list each week. We make up Christmas trees decorated with these and raffle them off at the fair. Tickets are easy to sell and being donated, everything we take is profit. A very simple and effective exercise.

And a last fundraising reminder. We have not yet reached our budget target of \$35,000 from voluntary donations, in fact we have received a little less than 80% of this budget amount. This figure in turn is only 75% of the potential amount we could get if everyone paid. Perhaps you could all check?

Bill Sutton

Library Week

As part of Library Week we have a display of books in the foyer and we would be delighted to have any of these books donated to the school library.

There will be forms available to fill out so that we can put a plate in the book stating who donated it. Many parents have their child's name put on this book plate.

Friendship Bracelets

Just a reminder about Friendship Bracelet Week from the 10th to the 16th of August.

These cool friendship bracelets from Vietnam will sell quickly, so get in quick.

They are two dollars and we will come to your class and sell them

Thank you,
Young Leaders

Uniforms.

A relatively large group of Year 8 children will be moving on to secondary school at the end of this year and some of the schools they will move to require a uniform, always a significant outlay for parents.

The Parent Support Group at Wellington Girls runs a Second Hand Uniform Shop where they sell high quality 2nd hand uniforms at significantly reduced prices.

The next sale is on Tuesday 15 September from 3:30 until 5:00 in the Wellington Girls College hall.

New Children

We have three new children to welcome this week.

Savannah Vaka	Y4	R5 - Rimu
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Savannah and her mother have recently returned to Wellington from Australia.

Will Atkins-Beavon	Y1	R4 - Taupata
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Will and his family have recently moved into the area from Palmerston North.

Luke Davison	Y1	R2 - Harakeke
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Luke is just beginning his school career.

We would like to welcome all three children and their families and hope they enjoy their association with Thorndon School.

Term 3 Calendar

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 4	School Disco
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

Successes

Gemma Potaka, a previous student of Thorndon, has just returned from the International Youth Physics Tournament in China. The NZ team was one of the 3 teams through to the finals and won silver along with Austria. Korea won this year. NZ is the only country to be in the finals three times.

The Physics Tournaments are a combination of presentation and challenge. The students prepare in advance a selection of physics topics, give a 12 minute presentation of their experiments and explain the physics involved. Another team challenges their work and conclusions in the style of debating and points are awarded.

Gemma, 17, is one of two students from Onslow College who were selected for the 5 person NZ team. 27 countries sent teams of high school age, mostly senior students. More about the tournament can be found on the IYPT website.

It is always nice to get news of the successes of past pupils.

And, slightly closer to home, congratulations to Jocelyn Scott from Room 7) who passed her Tae-Kwon-Do grading for her Yellow belt on Sunday.

Please continue to let us know about the successes children have in their lives outside school so that we can share the celebration.