

Thorndon School Newsletter

23/2009

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20 August 2009
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He who sings frightens away his ills.

Action List

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|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Have you got the fair in your diary? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't forget school banking tomorrow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you paid your donation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Can you sell some seeds? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you checked the books in the foyer? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Can you help us get hold of a hangi cooker? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dear Parents

Kia ora.

I made myself a promise after last week that there would be less emphasis on money and fund-raising this week than there was in last week's newsletter but then we had a board meeting and several things raised their heads. Fund raising and money are not the core business of schools but unless we engage in the one and pay attention to the other what we are able to offer is diminished. I won't deal with this on the front page but will revisit them briefly later in the newsletter.

Our core business is the business of learning – not teaching but learning – and there have been a number of learning activities and opportunities over the last week or two that we should celebrate. Last Thursday I went to an Artsplash massed choral performance involving our choir. At that concert the children had the opportunity to sing with Ben Makisi, an opera singer with a growing international recognition. Ben had generously given his time to every one of the concerts that took place that week. Singing in a massed choir is a wonderful experience and to be able to do it in the company of someone like Ben adds an extra dimension. We can go through the values and the key competencies in the new curriculum and tick a lot of boxes under the heading of Artsplash.

On the same evening I watched a number of our children parade their items of Wearable Art, another activity that feeds the creative impulse that exists in all children before the expectations of the adult world suppresses it. I also looked at and enjoyed the visual art exhibited by children from schools all over Wellington. Artsplash is a massive undertaking and we owe a debt of thanks to the City Council for its ongoing support of the event.

Yesterday evening I watched our children participate in the last event of Artsplash 2009, Artsplash Drama. I am clearly a little biased but I thought that our production was of a higher quality than the others I saw. It had life, wit and some sophistication, and was clearly enjoyed by the audience.

Congratulations to all the children who took part in Artsplash as performers, exhibitors, stage crew or simply as audience – and this is a skill in itself. Congratulations and thank you to the staff who have given their time to help the children learn, practice and participate. And finally, thank you to all the parents who supported their children by coming to the performances, helping with costumes and helping your children learn their lines.

Bill Sutton



Wearable Arts

Wearable Arts is when you make your clothes out of different things. All ages were invited to take part in Wearable Arts for Artsplash. We made our clothes out of paper, rubbish, bags, material and sometimes hula hoops. We had fun.

We made them all in the holidays. We put 100% of hard effort into the costumes. Miss Brown and Meta helped us. Our costumes looked really good and crazy. We performed at the Michael Fowler Centre with other schools.

On the night we looked really good sparkling in the bright changing coloured light.

By Bronte and Abby

CWG – the Creative Writing Group

An Alien Meets a Vacuum Cleaner

The long wrinkly trunk stretches out.
It sucks the life out of the surface
Killing everything in sight
and dragging it away into a disposable stomach.

The tail grows longer when pulled out
Then it's attached to the wall so
This creature can't escape.

Sometimes it screams when they kick it,
Until it's forced to sleep at the push
of a button.



Fundraising and Finances

As promised, here is something about money and fundraising. Schools never seem to have enough money to do all the things that are expected of them in the ways that everyone expects them to be done. The operations grant has not kept pace with the growing demands placed on schools, especially in the areas of support staff and the provision of ICT. There has been some recognition of the growth of ICT in schools and an amount now appears in our grant which is labelled ICT. While we are pleased to see some effort made the amount available goes nowhere near matching our expenditure. We made a decision on Tuesday night to buy 30 net-books for the school which will help expand our capability across the whole curriculum. While we have managed to get a very good deal and this was something we had on our wish list for the year it still places some stress on our accounts.

Nearly half of our budgeted income this year has to come from locally raised funds of one sort or another. The Fair is the most significant contributor to the \$230,000 we have budgeted for under income but there are other significant areas, one of which is the school donation. We recognise that it **is** a donation but without contributions like this we are unable to provide the range of services, programmes and activities we offer. These locally raised funds provide for some staffing allowing us an extra classroom, resourcing for extension and enrichment programmes, including the extensive music programme we provide. They go towards the employment of the teacher aides who make such a valuable contribution to learning programmes and they help us pay for such items as the playground and gardens. Reading Recovery too is partly funded by our locally raised funds.

Free education is free only to a limited extent I am afraid and your contributions through the donation, the activity fee and the efforts you make when it comes to fund raising are vital if we are to continue to be able to resource all areas of the curriculum as they need to be resourced.

It would be fantastic if we were able to get 100% of the school donations paid and would make life just that much easier. A bit here and a bit there, a little this month and a little next month all helps.

Library Week

The display of books we have in the foyer has stimulated a lot of interest, and every day we have children in there before and after school, at morning tea and at lunchtime, looking at the books and identifying the ones they would like to see in the school library.

We have had a number of books donated already and I am sure that parents are having their arms twisted by their children.

The book display will be there for another week.

Friendship Bracelets

We would like to thank everyone who bought a Friendship Bracelet last week. We raised \$400 for the VSA.

Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Thank you
The Young Leaders

Term 3 Calendar

It is slightly scary to see how this calendar has shrunk, showing us just how quickly the term is moving.

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 4	Seeds and money due back.
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

Seed Sales

The seed promotion we have going at the moment was a real experiment. We have had no experience with this and so no real idea of how successful it might be.

All the comment we have had both at school and from some of the businesses, agencies and offices where the seeds are being sold has been universally positive and sales appear to be going really well.

If you have specific requests – 2 packets of broccoli, 1 of basil and 1 of sweet peas for example, we can probably subvert the system and provide packs to match such specific orders. We are aiming to get all the money and unsold seeds back by September 4 so please keep up the good work.

Things we Want

Towards the end of the term the junior school will be holding its noho marae and they are looking for a portable hangi multi-cooker that we could hire. This is a new initiative for the noho marae and would add another layer to the whole experience. Various people have been making efforts to hire one of these but without success.

Are there any parents out there who could tap into their own networks and get hold of something for us? If you can or you know of someone who might be able to help please contact Alistair du Chatenier at alistair@thorndon.school.nz

New Children

We have two new children and their family to welcome this week. They are:

Rohit Ramgire	Y7	R11 - Rata
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Dhruv Ramgire	Y2	R3 - Tarata
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Rohit and Dhruv and their parents arrived in Wellington in the weekend from Pune not far from Mumbai so they are still acclimatising. The weather has been kind so far.



**HUTT REPERTORY
THEATRE**



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

**Mon 28th Sep to Sat 3 Oct
(School Holidays)**

Performances: 11am & 2pm

All tickets \$8

Mail Order

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

No. tickets: _____ **\$** _____ **+ 50c**

Send to 108 Oxford Tce, L.H.

(Available up to Mon 21 Sept.)

**JOHNSONVILLE JUNIOR SOFTBALL CLUB
2009/2010 REGISTRATIONS**

The Junior Club Under 7 T-Ball softball is holding registrations at the Johnsonville Softball Clubrooms situated in Phillip Street, Johnsonville (across the road from Alex Moore Park) on the following days:



Note: Players who have turned or will turn 15 before 31 December 2009 need to contact Michelle O'Hagan on 4772031

**Thursday 3rd September 2009
6pm – 7.30pm**

**Sunday 6th September 2009
11am to 1 pm**

**Tuesday 8th September 2009
6pm – 7.30pm**

If you can't make any of these dates, please ring **Di Alexander on 4782228 or 021895477.**

The fees are \$55 for one child, \$100 for two and \$125 for 3 + children **payable at time of registration.**

Player of the day awards given every week, Sausage Sizzle, drinks and lollies for sale, **FREE Iceblock** each week, and **FREE Tea and Coffee** for the adults!



Measles

There has been a rapid rise in the number of measles cases reported around the country, with the number of notified cases so far this year already seven times higher than the total number of cases last year. There have been more than 100 cases in Canterbury, including 11 who have been hospitalised. The number of cases in Auckland is growing, and there are isolated cases in other regions.

Measles is a highly infectious notifiable disease with serious complications. Case fatalities are around one per 1000. It is important to stop the spread of measles by keeping infected children at home. Immunisation is free, and is the best way to prevent measles. Doctors have begun recalling unimmunised patients to increase immunisation coverage.

Once a notification of measles is received by the local public health service, the early childhood centre or school the child attends will be contacted urgently by public health staff who will provide information and advice to the manager or principal. Under the Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Regulations 1966 (Section 14), a student or teacher with measles must stay away from school for seven days from the appearance of the rash. Unimmunised students, or those with no immunity to measles, who have been close contacts of a measles case during the infectious stages will be excluded from school for 14 days from their last contact. This exclusion also applies to students taking part in sporting events.

This notice has prompted us to check our immunisation records and we find that they are far from complete as the information held in our old Pupil Files student manager has not transferred to our new Student Management System. It would be very useful if everyone could send in the attached slip so we can make sure our records are completely up to date.

Immunisations

Child's name Room No

There is a long list of possible immunisations here. If your child has not been immunised a negative response would be just as useful as getting the list below filled out.

HPV	Hep B	MeNZBTM	Tetanus	Polio	Measles	Pertussis	Diphtheria	Mumps	Rubella	HIB