

Thorndon School Newsletter

27/2009

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17 September 2009
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"I love sleep. My life has the tendency to fall apart when I'm awake, you know?"

Ernest Hemingway

Action List

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| Have you sent in any scratchies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't forget school banking tomorrow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can you help with Art for the Art Auction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you returned your seeds or money? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you filled out the Jump Rope sponsorship forms? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do we have your child's immunisation details? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dear Parents

Kia ora.

Tonight about 70 Year 3/4 children will sleep over in the hall for their noho marae experience, an activity that has become embedded into the school's culture and its EOTC programme. There is a huge bubble of excitement and expectation present in this area of the school, tempered, in some cases by a little trepidation. For some children this will be the first time they have been away from home without their parents so it is a big step. It is also a massive commitment from teachers as is any overnight EOTC activity. The responsibility for looking after a large number of children overnight is a daunting one and this sort of activity, which I believe has real value for children, is only possible if teachers are prepared to give up their time. They could all be sleeping at home in comfort and quiet. Thank you to Alistair Du Chatenier, Becca Nicholls and Niamh King for making the sacrifice! Emily Lawton, one of the trainee teachers working in the school at the moment is also staying the night which is well above and beyond the call of duty. Of course teachers can't take on something as large as this without assistance and we need to thank the 7 or 8 parents who are also volunteering their time. Strong coffees might be the order of the day tomorrow morning.

EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) is a teaching tool and pedagogical approach which is a feature of the New Zealand education system. It encompasses all activities that take place away from the classroom, from PE and Sport, to the week long camps that our Year 7/8 classes take part in. Sometimes it is adventure based activities but it is also the visit to Te Papa, City Gallery or the waterfront. Thorndon, by its very locality, frequently uses EOTC as an approach to the curriculum and the noho marae is a perfect example of this.

Some EOTC activities are adventure based and involve some managed risk. Sometimes things go badly wrong and we have the Kristin College tragedy as a recent example. Good planning and organisation goes a long way toward mitigating risk and the Ministry is about to produce a new resource for schools. I have been a member, since 2000, of a Ministry of Education Reference group which produced, in 2002, a handbook and resource for schools on "Safety in EOTC". Over the past 18 months we have been revising this resource and it will be launched by the Minister here at school on the first day of next term. The new resource contains much more than the risk management and safety procedures than the original and will be a more useful tool for teachers. Having the launch here on October 12 will be a nice upbeat way of beginning the new term.

Bill Sutton

Scratchies

The response to our requests for scratch and win tickets for the fair has been slow but they are beginning to come in. I said we would have a small competition to see which class could bring in the most (per head) and at the moment Room 9 is in the lead. We will see who is leading at the end of next week.

Fair

A very tiny reminder that we will be collecting books for our 2nd hand book stall and we will be happy to start receiving and storing these from the start of next term.

A decision has yet to be made on whether we will have a 2nd hand clothing stall so don't get rid of your labels just yet.

Drama Performance

Over this term we have been lucky enough to be part of the Artists in Schools scheme, a scheme which unfortunately will finish at the end of this year.

All our children have had the opportunity to work with Mel Dodge, a Wellington actor, director and dramatist, and a smaller group auditioned to take parts in a production we will see next week.

This performance will be at Thistle Hall in Cuba St at 1:00 on Thursday 24 September and all parents are invited. We hope to see as many of you as can make it. We will be taking the whole school across for this and will also see a performance by a drama group taken by Kate Minto, one of our teacher aides.

The 24th looks like being a busy day with Vision and Hearing testing and the middle school out at the Science and Technology Roadshow.

Chinese Classes

It may be possible to arrange for Chinese classes after school. There would be a charge for these classes and before we go ahead and organise them we need to get some indication of the level of interest.

There is a return slip at the end of this newsletter and you can use this to let us know or simply send us an email.

We are actively looking for someone to take over the Te Reo Maori after school classes that Philippa Thompson ran earlier this year, and again, some idea of the level of interest for these would be useful. There is also a return slip for this.

New Children

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

Joshua Swaine	Y 1	Room 2 - Harakeke
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Niesya Harahap	Y 8	Room 11 - Rata
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Niesya's parents have recently arrived from Sumatra for an exchange visit at the New Zealand School of Music. In spite of the wonderful weather we have been enjoying they find it pretty cold here. I guess it is relative.

We hope that they all enjoy their time here and perhaps our senior children can learn something about culture, customs and traditions in Sumatra – along with finding out just where it is.

Term 3 Calendar

Sep 17	Noho Marae – Junior school
Sep 22	Jump Rope
Sep 23	Science Roadshow – Y7/8
Sep 24	Science Roadshow – Y5/6
Sep 24	Artist in Schools Drama Performance
Sep 24	Vision and Hearing Testing
Sep 25	Term ends

Initial Term 4 Calendar

Oct 12	Term begins
Oct 12	Minister launches new EOTC resource.
Oct 16	New parents evening
Oct 19	STAR and PA Testing.
Oct 20	BoT meeting
Oct 26	Labour Day – school closed
Oct 27	Art and profiles due in for Art Auction
Oct 28	School Athletics
Nov 2	Art Week begins – Monday to Thursday
Nov 4	Gardasil vaccination – Y8 girls
Nov 6	Art Auction
Nov 11	New Central Cluster Cultural Festival
Nov 12	BP Technology Challenge
Nov 13	Central Zone Athletics
Nov 20	Teacher only day (tentative)
Nov 26	Y 5/6 overnight (to be confirmed)
Nov 28	Muka Prints exhibition
Nov 29	Muka Prints exhibition
Nov 30	Written Reports posted
Dec 6	The Fair
Dec 8	BoT meeting
Dec 10	School Tabloids
Dec 15	Parent Helper Morning Tea
Dec 16	Y 8 Farewell Dinner
Dec 18	Term ends 12:00.

There may be a teacher only day to allow us to work on the development of the local curriculum next term, possibly in conjunction with the staff planning day on Nov 21. I will let everyone know as soon as this has been decided.

Seeds

The term is winding down and we have a few bits and pieces we would like to clear before the last day.

A number of boxes of seeds – or the money generated by the sale of these seeds – are still outstanding and we would like these to be returned before the end of next week.

It would be good if we could get this term's activity fees cleared before Friday and of course, we are always looking for 100% of the school donations.

Successes

This is not a recent success but is an addition to something I have already had in the newsletter. Aliyah de la Mare was selected earlier this year for the Northern Suburbs Netball Reps, a terrific accomplishment on its own.

Even better though was the letter written to Aliyah by the coach of this team. It is hugely complimentary not only about Aliyah's athleticism and her ability to read the game but also about teamwork and the confidence she developed over the season.

It is something which Aliyah should take real pride in. Well done. As a staff we get real satisfaction when we hear about things like this.

Planning and Organisation

I have mentioned a couple of times now that we are beginning to think about school organisation for next year and gathering information about how many children there will be. The nature of our school community means that there is always an element of guess and hope when we are doing this.

If you know of a child who will be coming to the school next year can you please let us know? We already have quite a few enrolment forms but past history tells us that there are other children out there that we don't know about. It is also very useful to know about children who are not or may not be returning next year.

Holiday Programme

A reminder that the senior supervisors from the After School Care programme are putting together a plan and will offer a programme limited to 20 children which will be entirely self managing. Children will be enrolled on a first come, first served basis. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity you should talk with Jess from the After School Care programme.

Holiday Programme

The YMCA is offering a holiday programme from 28 September – 9 October.

Spaces are limited so early booking is advised.

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www.ymca.greaterwellington.org.nz

Holiday Activities

Wellington City Libraries are running free school holiday activities at libraries around town to celebrate New Zealand Book Month. Design a book cover, learn how to illustrate like a pro, make dog collars for Hairy Maclary, have fun with food and more!

No bookings required at these fun family events. Visit www.wcl.govt.nz/kids/whatson.html for session times and locations or call 499 4444.

Children's Writing

A little more writing this week.

I think that Frances stew sounds marginally more appealing than Maya's

Gumboot Stew

In my boot stew there is an old gumboot and a gum nut and an egg and a wiggling worm and a tooth and a smelly octopus.

Maya Hillman, Room 1



My stew is...

In my stew there are snakes and dark chocolate and flies and slugs and mud and salami.

Frances Hey, Room 1



Children's Writing

Today

Today two girls were working on a laptop; they were in deep thought about what they should write about, when Maddy, the elder, and Petra, the younger, came up with a brilliant plan to write about today. This is what they came up with.....

Today two girls were working on a laptop; they were in deep thought about what they should write about, when Maddy, the elder, and Petra, the younger, came up with a brilliant plan to write about today. They kept arguing about who should type, which took a long time, so this is what they came up with.....

Today two girls were working on a laptop; they were in deep thought about what they should write about, when Maddy, the elder, and Petra, the younger, came up with a brilliant plan to write about today. But the battery ran low, so they had to save it and shut it down and go to morning tea which is 20 minutes, So this is what they came up with.....

Q: What has 33 legs, 62 eyes, 3 ears and 1000 arms?

A: A liar!!!

Petra Sele and Maddy McVie.

Te Reo Classes.

Yes, I would be interested in my child being involved in after school classes in Te Reo.

Child's name Room No Year Level

Preferred Day(s) _____

Chinese Classes.

Yes, I would be interested in my child being involved in after school classes in Chinese.

Child's name Room No Year Level

Preferred Day(s) _____

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