

Thorndon School Newsletter

29/2009

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

15 October 2009
principal@thorndon.school.nz

A child educated only at school is an uneducated child

George Santayana

Action List

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|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Have you sent in 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"/> | Do you want to come to a KOS meeting? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you saving books for the fair? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do we have your child's immunisation details? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dear Parents

Kia ora.

The fourth term already and we started with a hiss and a roar. At an assembly at 9:00am on Monday morning Karen Sewell, the Secretary of Education, launched a new resource for schools – *EOTC Guidelines, Bringing the Curriculum Alive*. We hosted a group of about 40 people from the Ministry and various outdoor groups for this launch and a group of our senior pupils joined them for morning tea before taking them on tours of the school. This is not necessarily the sort of thing that you look forward to on the first morning of the term but it was extremely successful and I was immensely proud of the children who took these visitors around. They did a wonderful job and were positive, enthusiastic and articulate. I have had a number of calls from people who attended to tell me how much they enjoyed their visit and how impressed they were by the children. The children were so enthusiastic that Karen Sewell is planning another visit during our Art Week.

The calendar, as you will see as you work your way through the newsletter, is already looking crowded and I have no doubt that more activities will be added, both curriculum related and extra curricular. In curriculum our focus at the moment is on formal assessments in Maths and Reading and the information we gather will feed into the written reports that go home later in the term.

This leads to the National Standards which are on their way. There is still considerable debate about how school information may be used and there has been a good deal of misinformation put out. The school sector has real concerns about the data being used to create league tables, not because they wish to hide anything but because these tables serve no useful educational purpose. Some commentators seem to have interpreted this as meaning that schools do not want parents to have access to their child's assessment data. This is not the case and I do not know of any principal or school that advocates this. Parents already have access to PAT, STAR and aTTle results and teachers make these available to both children and parents as part of their normal reporting processes. This will not change.

Among other, non curriculum activities, we are working away at the organisation for the Art Auction and have about 35 lots for auction so far. We will be calling on your help next week for publicity and would like some volunteers to help on the night. More on this next week.

Bill Sutton

Scratchies

The scratchies we have asked for are making their way in very slowly.

Don't forget there is a class competition for these with the winning class getting lunch from Wholly Bagels or Hell Pizza.

The Christmas trees we decorate with these scratchies are a very popular quickfire raffle prize and make a lot of money for very little outlay. **Please** try to send some in.

Seed Sales

This fund raising effort has finished now so we need all money and unsold seeds returned urgently.

According to our records there are 15 families who have boxes of seeds they have not returned. It may be that the seeds have been sold and you just haven't sent the money in yet – which would be fantastic. It may be that you haven't sold the seeds. We need either the money or the seeds returned so we can settle up with the suppliers.

Tomorrow or Monday would be good!

Drama

Many parents managed to get along to Thistle Hall at the end of last term for the performance that has been the culmination of our Artist in Schools programme. I would like to thank Mel Dodge, the actor and playwright who worked to help our children produce and perform this play. Children do not often get the opportunity to work with professional artists over an extended period of time and it has been a valuable learning experience. Teachers too have learned from Mel and she will be returning to take a staff meeting on drama later this term.

The Artists in Schools programme will not be available next year, suffering from current cost-cutting and a different set of government priorities. We hope to see it return as the economic climate improves.



New Children

We have one new child to welcome this week. He is:

Nguyen (Harry) Pham	Y4	Room 5 – Koromiko
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Nguyen has recently arrived in New Zealand from Vietnam, adding to the schools multi-cultural make up.

We welcome Nguyen and his family and hope they enjoy their experience in New Zealand.

Term 4 Calendar

Oct 18	Trout fishing at Capital Trout Centre
Oct 19	STAR and PA Testing.
Oct 20	BoT meeting
Oct 22	Keeping Ourselves Safe Meeting (tentative)
Oct 26	Labour Day – school closed
Oct 27	Art and artist profiles due in for Art Auction
Oct 28	School Athletics
Oct 30	School Photos
Nov 2	Art Week begins – Monday to Thursday
Nov 4	Gardasil vaccination – Y8 girls
Nov 6	Art Auction
Nov 10	Art Week Picnic and art walk.
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
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 Tabloid Sports
Dec 15	Parent Helper Morning Tea
Dec 16	Y 8 Farewell Dinner
Dec 18	Term ends 12:00.
Feb 3	Term 1 begins

Please note that there are some changes of dates in this calendar. School photos have been brought forward to October 30th and forms will come home today. It would be helpful if we could get these back as soon as possible.

The new parents evening we were going to hold this Friday has been postponed and invitations will be posted shortly.

Please note too our intention to use the teacher only day the Ministry has given schools to allow teacher time to work on the development of the local curriculum. We will take this on Friday 20th and work it in with our staff planning day on Saturday 21nd.

Safety Unit

Last term I mentioned that the whole school would be engaging in an inquiry unit around the them of safety.

As part of this we offered to hold an evening to talk with parents about elements of the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme if enough parents were interested.

Please email your child’s teacher if you would like to attend such an evening.

Successes

While we are only one week into the term there are already a number of successes to celebrate.

I mentioned at the end of last term that our senior chess team was to compete at the national championships in Palmerston North during the holidays. This is the first time we have got this far in the competition and the boys finished in a very creditable eighth position. It was very satisfying to hear that they finished ahead of Raroa Intermediate, the other Wellington school in the championships.

Congratulations to Logan Jeffries, Taine MacKenzie, Noah McGarvey, and Aidan Hallett who played, and to Alistair du Chatenier, who runs our chess programmes and has brought the team to this level.



I would also like to thank the parents who took the children up to Palmerston North and generally looked after them during the weekend. It is impossible to participate in activities like this unless we get that level of parent support.

Chess is now a well established aspect of school life and culture and we look forward to building on this success in the future.

Young Designers

Last year we entered the National Young Designers Awards for the first time, enjoying some success. Success breeds success and this year our children have been even more successful.

Congratulations to:

Logan Corke and Isobel Bassett
1st – Interior Design

Kayleigh Burchett-Cotterall and Emma Heath
3rd – Café Design

Jan Earle, Malachi Paku and Patricia Posadas
2nd – Evening Wear Design

Matt Robilliard, Kahurangi Mill, Taylor Mauriohooho
3rd – Garden Design

Gabby Shea
Highly commended – Garden Design

This is a wonderful result and they should all feel extremely pleased with themselves as should Natasha Jackson who coordinated the whole thing as part of our extension and enrichment programme.

Karate

Congratulations to Ethan Dombroski who attained his blue belt in karate over the holidays and now has only 2 colours to go before he has his black belt.

Taekwon-Do

Congratulations to Waylon Shadlock for his achievement in coming second in his age group in the national tournament held during the holidays.



Things We Need

As Art Week approaches we have a number of requests for items that will help us keep costs to a reasonable level.

Can any of you help with any of the following items?

Wool (knitting, not fleece)

Newspaper

Coloured plastic bags

Chicken wire netting

Fabric – old curtains etc

Any old clothes that would be good for dress-ups.

Old doilies

Any old machines/props/toys suitable for drama

Old clothing for scarecrows – shirts, jerseys, hats, jeans, shoes etc about 9/10 year old sizes.

Plastic bottle tops – there is a photo here to show you what we are after.



Safety Inquiry

Next term all our classes will be working on a Safety Inquiry. Each syndicate and class will be looking at safety from slightly different angles but each will be building in some elements of the Keeping Ourselves Safe units we do from time to time.

The KOS programme looks at safety from a number of perspectives but in particular focuses on giving children the tools to be able to recognise what is not safe in terms of interactions with other people and gives them a bank of resources to help them manage uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

As part of the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme we usually hold a parent evening, and, though KOS will only be a part of a wider inquiry unit, we will do the same this year *if there is sufficient demand*. We will hold this on the evening of Thursday October 22 if enough parents are interested.

Can you please email us at office@thorndon.school.nz if you would like to come to an information evening or email your child's teacher.

GUITAR LESSONS.

Experienced, enthusiastic tutors that come to your house!

All practising, professional musicians experienced with beginners.

Guitar, Vocals, Piano, Saxophone, Drums, Bass.

\$40 for half hour lessons, during holidays or term time at hours to suit you.

Enquiries to:- Paddy

homegroundmusic@gmail.com

027 470 6769

Mog Music

Private tuition available this term:

Piano Beginners	5 – 8 years
Recorder Beginners	7 – 12 years
Guitar Beginners	8 – 12 years

Lessons in guitar and piano are available for adult beginners also.

Phone Moggie Grayson – 3848 213

Jump Rope for Heart

Last term we engaged in the annual Jump Rope activities, culminating in a whole school jump off in the last week.

While this forms part of our PE programme we also undertake to raise money for the Heart Foundation in return for some free resources. This is another little financial exercise we need to wrap up so could children please bring in the money they raised.

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The Thorndon Fair is approaching at a frightening rate and you will soon start to be bombarded with requests for time, effort and articles. Everyone can expect to receive a phone call asking for your assistance and we are hopeful that every family will commit time to helping with the fair. As well as your time we need scratch and win tickets and your old books. You can send these in at any time and we are more than happy to take books from your friends, neighbours and work colleagues. The book stall raises more money than most of our stalls but is dependent on lots of books being donated. Free up some space for more – which can eventually be donated to another Thorndon Fair!