

# Thorndon School Newsletter

34/2009

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19 November 2009  
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If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people

Chinese Proverb

## Action List

Have you sent in scratchies?

Do we have your correct contact details?

Have you sent in books for the fair?

Is all money in? (donation, activity fee, etc)

# NO SCHOOL TOMORROW!

Dear Parents

Kia ora. We looked at the date yesterday and realised that there was just a month left before we reach the end of the school year. There is an awful lot still to do and we will be running frantically to make sure we get it all finished.

Tomorrow staff will be meeting to look at the further development of our local curriculum. We have gathered a great deal of information from a number of sources over this year and we are ready to start using this to put some final shape to the way we do things next year. We are aiming for something that is dynamic and vital and that will be receptive to further adaptation and modification as we gain greater understanding of the document and where it might lead us. We want to put together a curriculum or plan that lives and will develop year by year. We have received the National Standards and these too will have some impact on the way we implement the New Zealand Curriculum. We are determined that we will continue to provide a broad based curriculum while at the same time working to ensure that the standards are useful for parents, children and the school and do not narrow a new curriculum that is recognised world-wide as an innovative and exciting approach to learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

On Saturday staff will meet again to review the year and to look ahead to the specifics of 2010, working from some of the discussions we have already had and the decisions we will have made on Friday.

In the few weeks remaining we will be making decisions on school organisation, class placements and particular programmes and approaches for next year. There is always an element of hope, expectation, and excitement at the beginning of any new year and with the new curriculum and national standards this is compounded for 2010.

Today all staff will be finishing their reports and these will be sent out shortly. I have allowed a week to read all these and while this may have been a little ambitious with the fair looming, we will do our best to make sure that they are all posted on November 30. Class placements and locations will be developed over the next week or two and you will all know which classes your children will be in before the end of the year.

## The Fair

You have all had a special fair newsletter this week and I won't labour any points today – just remind you to read it, to send in books and scratchies, and to volunteer your assistance.



## Wet and Wild Fun at Hutt River

**WHAT:** Day on a Wild River

**WHEN:** 3pm-6pm, Sunday, November 29

**WHERE:** Pakuratahi Forks at Kaitoke Regional Park

Come along for a fun Day on a Wild River with free kayaking and fishing demonstrations, nature walks, talks and children's riverside activities at Pakuratahi Forks at Kaitoke Regional Park on Sunday, November 29, from 3pm-6pm.

**Athletics**

Last Friday we sent a team to the Central Zone athletics competition and a number of our children will be going on to the Interzone competition on November 25. We have come to expect co-operation and courtesy from the groups we take out of the school and this group did not let us down. We are probably somewhat biased but we always seem to be able to make favourable comparisons with other schools.

The 1<sup>st</sup> placed relay teams all go on to the interzones and in the individual events, the first 3 place-getters go on to represent our zone.

Results were as follows:

**Relays**

Year 4 Boys	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 7 Boys	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 7 Girls	1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 8 boys	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 8 girls	3 <sup>rd</sup>		

**Individual Events**

**Short Sprint**

Year 5 Boys	Shaun Corfield	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 7 Boys	Pio Lupo	1 <sup>st</sup>
Year 7 Girls	Alex Gooch	1 <sup>st</sup>
Year 8 Boys	Renata Mahuika	1 <sup>st</sup>

**Long Sprint**

Year 5 Boys	Shaun Corfield	1 <sup>st</sup>
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**High Jump**

Year 4 Boys	Flynn Crampton	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 8 Boys	Renata Mahuika	3 <sup>rd</sup>

**Long Jump**

Year 5 Boys	Shaun Corfield	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 5 Boys	Oliver Stanish	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 6 Girls	Nimthara Udawatta	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 7 Boys	Pio Lupo	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 7 Girls	Samantha Panganiban	2 <sup>nd</sup>

**Quoit Throw**

Year 5 Girls	Brianna Anglesey	1 <sup>st</sup>
Year 6 Boys	Jeremiah Paku	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 7 Boys	Pio Lupo	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 7 Girls	Samantha Panganiban	1 <sup>st</sup>

**Vortex**

Year 4 Boys	Max Leuga	1 <sup>st</sup>
Year 7 Boys	Taylor Mauriohooho	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 7 Girls	Samantha Panganiban	2 <sup>nd</sup>

Congratulations to everyone who took part but particularly to those children who are going on to the next round.

We wish them luck for next week.

**Term 4 Calendar**

<b>Nov 20</b>	<b>Teacher only day</b>
Nov 25	Interzone Athletics
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
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>School Chess tournament</b>
Dec 15	Parent Helper Morning Tea
Dec 16	Y 8 Farewell Dinner
Dec 18	Term ends 12:00.
Feb 3	Term 1 begins

**New Children**

We have two new children this week.

Phoenix Talagi	Y1	Room 2 - Harakeke
Henry Guy	Y1	Room 2 - Harakeke

Phoenix joins his older sister Timah at the school and we welcome him to our new entrants group.

Henry and his family are starting their connection with Thorndon School and we welcome them all.

**Contact Details**

Please make sure that we have up-to-date contact details – phone numbers and address in particular. We have had difficulty getting in touch with one or two people recently because phone numbers have changed and mail has been returned because people have shifted.

School reports are posted out so if we have the wrong address you are unlikely to get your child's report for some time.

Quite apart from the inconvenience both to the school and to you, it is important that we are able to contact parents in the event of an emergency.

**Beach Mural...**

was created in 2009 by the artist Shi Yi Nan Luo. Luo used paint, a wall and some pencils. First she decided to draw a fish on paper. She drew lots of different sea animals. Luo decided to focus on one fish. Luo drew lots of patterns. Then Luo painted the wall. She used lots of colours. She used pink, red, blue, yellow and white. Luo painted the wall with lots of people. The wall is beautiful.

Shi Yi Nan Luo  
(Shi Yi Nan Luo is one of our ESOL pupils and this is a wonderful effort.)

**ROOTS OF EMPATHY MORNING TEA**

Yummelicious sandwiches and scrumptious raspberry and coconut slices plus many more delicious snacks were served at the Roots of Empathy morning tea at the Mayor's office.

When we were finally allowed to enter the big hall crowds of people surrounded the Green R.O.E mat. Past the people were Liam (our Roots of Empathy Teacher) and a whole bunch of other cute babies that were playing joyfully.

The Celebration was based on all adults to talk about how successful the Roots of Empathy programme was, while the Kids/students talked about R.O.E or their school baby from their point of view.



After all the adults speeches it was time for the student's speeches, my heart was pounding it felt like it was going to pop out of my chest.

Defeating my heart attack with extreme effort, I suddenly remembered that I had written my speech.

(If you could call a crumpled piece of paper with squiggly lines a speech)

I spoke it calmly reading it word by word while shaking and dying of embarrassment in my mind.

As I sat down I got passed a CHOCOLATE AND CREAM CAKE with chocolaty sprinkles that was the Heavenly cake of angels which I scoffed down on the way to the City Gallery with my class.

By Stefanija

**Art Picnic**

It was nice to see a group of parents able to make it for the Art Week picnic. The weather was kind and everyone was able to sit out on the grass to eat with their children before having a quick tour of the art that had been produced.

With so many parents working locally the picnic lunch from time to time might be something we could link with various school activities from time to time.



**Bike the Bays  
Sunday 13 December  
FREE!!**

Bike the Bays is back!!! This annual FREE event is a great way to explore Wellington's beautiful coastline with your family. Have fun. Dress up. All bikes welcome! The 26km Scorching Bay ride leaves at 9am, followed by the 10km Evans Bay Marina ride at 9.30am and the 3km waterfront ride at 10am - all from Waitangi Park. The 3km ride is fully secure with marshals to keep riders on the waterfront shared path. There will be no road closures and riders need to obey the road rules at all times.

The ride will be followed by a picnic in Waitangi Park with live bands, giveaways, food stalls and more. Spot prizes for the best-dressed riders. Bring lunch for the picnic afterwards in Frank Kitts Park from 10am-12 noon.

Register online at [www.feelinggreat.co.nz](http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz) to be in the draw or just turn up with your bike around 9am. Remember to bring your drink bottle and helmet - you must have a helmet to participate.