

# Thorndon School Newsletter

35/2009

[www.thorndon.school.nz](http://www.thorndon.school.nz)  
[office@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:office@thorndon.school.nz)

26 November 2009  
[principal@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:principal@thorndon.school.nz)

Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so

Douglas Adams

## Action List

Last day for scratchies is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Can you help with the barbecue?

Are you coming to the barbecue on the 9<sup>th</sup>?

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

## Dear Parents

Kia ora. I will start with some really good news. On Tuesday we heard from the Ministry that we would get the Kimi Ora site when the school relocates. This will probably happen late next year meaning we will have use of the site from 2011. Initially it is likely that it will be grassed and become an extra open space for our children. There will be other effects too in that we will be able to use the car park so will have no cars inside our school grounds, freeing up more space. The board will develop plans for the medium to long term use of the site which are likely to include the provision of the multi-purpose, flexible learning spaces that will assist with the implementation of the new curriculum. We are all conscious though of our small footprint and having this extra space can only benefit our children. This is a really exciting development for the school. I would like to thank the board members and other parents who worked on developing the business case we sent to the Ministry. It was a persuasive piece of work!

Thank you all for your cooperation last Friday. We had an intense and very useful two days discussing the curriculum, talking about the National Standards, reviewing what we have done this year and looking ahead to next year. We now have to draw all the talking and notes together to form a coherent plan for 2010. The National Standards continue to cause concern in the sector and you may have seen yesterday that four of the country's leading educational academics have sent an open letter to the Minister asking that the introduction be delayed and that a pilot scheme be set up. It seems unlikely that this will happen and the conversation and argument is likely to go on for some time yet. We will keep you informed.

Reports are due to be posted on Monday of next week but as I said last week, this timetable may have been a little ambitious. I will have them back to teachers on Monday for any changes that might be needed and we should be able to have them all posted by Wednesday.

Our Year 5/6 classes have headed off to Kaitoke this morning in a state of high excitement. They will engage in a number of EOTC activities through the day including pitching the tents they will be sleeping in overnight. I plan to join them this afternoon and spend the night out there before coming back to school tomorrow morning. Everyone has been watching the weather forecast closely this week and we seem to have a window of weather which is fine if a little windy, and rain does not seem to be on the horizon. The children themselves have done much of the planning for this activity from costings to RAMs forms and along the way, as well as developing particular competencies, they have learned a number of new skills.



**Holiday Programmes**

Kelly Sports Holiday Programmes are running these holidays.

Sports based programmes across Wellington for children of any ability aged 5 -10.

Fun, challenging and active; our programmes encourage children to try to beat their best and help them learn to love sports. For more information check out our website [www.kports.co.nz](http://www.kports.co.nz), or call the office on 04 972 7201.

Happy Holidays!

**School Holiday Computer Classes**

*Day to week long holiday computer classes ages 5-15. Create games, program, animations, graphics, web design, filmmaking, video editing, build and upgrade computers. Call Ed Brown on 499 2211 or [www.grandtraining.co.nz](http://www.grandtraining.co.nz).*

**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.

**Barbecue**

Last year we had a very successful and enjoyable barbecue/concert/community carols at the end of the year and we would like to do the same thing this year.

We would like to invite you all to come along to school from about 5:30 on Wednesday 9 December to enjoy a sausage or two, a wine, beer, juice, or water, a few brief performances and then lend your voices to some community singing.

We would like to do this outside and have everyone sitting on the grass so to some extent it is weather dependent though we can always retreat inside if things turn bad.

There is a return slip at the end of this newsletter and we would really like to know – for catering purposes – if you are able to come. Low key, relaxed and over by 7:30.

**Term 4 Calendar**

Please note that some dates have changed.

Nov 26	Y 5/6 overnight
Nov 28	Muka Prints exhibition
Nov 29	Muka Prints exhibition
Nov 30	Rooms 1/2 to City Gallery.
Dec 1	Rooms 3/4 to City Gallery
Dec2	Written Reports posted
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>The Fair</b>
<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>School Chess Tournament</b>
Dec 8	BoT meeting
<b>Dec 8</b>	<b>School Tabloid Sports</b>
<b>Dec 9</b>	<b>Carols and barbecue</b>
Dec 10	Envirogroup Trip
Dec 15	Parent Helper Morning Tea
Dec 16	Y 8 Farewell Dinner
Dec 17	Road Patrol Training
Dec 18	Term ends 12:00.
Feb 3	Term 1 begins

**New Children**

The roll continues to grow and we still have children starting school, using the last few weeks to familiarise themselves with the school and its people.

This week we have had 2 new children begin.

Jayden Hooper	Y1	Room 2 - Harakeke
Sam Harris	Y1	Room 2 - Harakeke

We welcome Jayden and Sam and their families to the school community and hope they enjoy their time here.

**GUITAR LESSONS IN THE HOLIDAYS!!!**

With all this spare time on your kids' hands there is no better time than the holidays to learn how to play the guitar!

All styles, any age, anytime, in your home!

**HOMEGROUND MUSIC**

Experienced teachers of children and adults. References available

Enquiries to:- Paddy Bleakley  
[info@homegroundmusic.co.nz](mailto:info@homegroundmusic.co.nz)  
 3835461  
 027 470 6769

**Reminders**

A couple of reminders as we approach the end of the school year.

Please make sure that we have your correct contact details. Very important in case of an emergency!

Please make sure that all money owing is paid by the last week of the term. We are happy to take any school donations that have not yet been paid and would like all activity fees paid for the term.

**Movie Opportunity**

White Balance Pictures are casting for a short film – **Toi La Who** to be directed by David White.

**Synopsis**

The movie is about Rachel, an 8 year old girl living in suburbia New Zealand. The world she sees is perfect, her family, her school, her friends, herself. One day, without warning or any real understanding, Rachel's world comes crashing in around her, literally and figuratively, revealing the imperfect world ignored. This forces Rachel to re-examine herself and she starts to recognise her culture and her identity.

The company is looking for:

Three blonde boys who are between 130 and 140 cm tall and over the age of 8 who would be able to commit to two days of filming in December between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> and 3 short workshops over three weekends during the month prior to shooting.

One (approximately 10 years old) South Vietnamese girl required for a slightly bigger time commitment.

1 late 30s South Vietnamese woman required for 1 day's filming between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of December. Anyone interested can email headshots or enquiries to:

[david@whitebalancepictures.com](mailto:david@whitebalancepictures.com). As soon as possible.

Filming will take place at 2 Wellington Primary Schools.

**Muka Prints**

The Muka Youth Prints exhibition is on this weekend at Capital E in Civic Square.

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to begin a collection of quality art works at a very reasonable cost.

The gallery will be open from 10:00am till 5:00pm on both days.

Parents are not allowed in to the gallery so children must make their selections based on their own tastes and reactions to what they see. It is available to children aged 5 to 18 and it is fascinating to see how tastes change and mature as children get older. I cannot recommend this highly enough to anyone who has an interest in art.

**Intelligent Rewards**

Don't forget to take a look at the Intelligent Rewards programme that has been set up to reward schools whose supporters sign up.

The address for this is:

[www.intelligentrewards.com](http://www.intelligentrewards.com)

**Scratchies**

The competition for the scratchies is all but finished with Monday being the last day and the standings are as follows (with the numbers being a per head average).

Room 1/2	3.6	Room 3	1.6
Room 4	1.5	Room 5	2.7
Room 6	2.7	Room 7	7.5
Room 8	2.4	Room 9	1.8
Room 10	5.2	Room 11	2.6

We will see what Friday and Monday bring.



**Concert**

The little poster here has not reproduced very well from the scan so I will put the important information here.

Irwan and Ritha are parents at Thorndon with a daughter, Niesya, in Year 8. They have been in Wellington on a three month residency with the New Zealand School of Music and have a farewell concert at 6:30 on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>.

The concert is free and the Thorndon School connection is doubled with another of our parents, John Rae, involved.

All welcome.

**Junior School Athletics**

On Tuesday the Juniors (Year's 1 and 2) decided to hold an athletics sports at Wellington Girls College. They did this with the help of the Sports Squad. This was a very low key event about fun more than anything else and there is a report below from one of the participants.

On Tuesday the 24th we went to the Wellington Girls' college field to do our athletics. We had six different events long jump, high jump, sprints, quoits, vortex and long run. I tried my best to participate in all the events, my favourite one was the sprints. I got a bit tired at end but we still had great fun.

By Caithi Cummings

**Inter Zone Athletics**

On Wednesday a group of our children represented the Central Zone at the Interzone competition at Newtown Park. Just making the team for the Interzones is a great accomplishment and to get a place at this level is wonderful.

Congratulations to:

Year 7 Girls Relay		2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 8 Boys 60m sprint	Renata Mahuika	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 7 Girls 60m sprint	Alex Gooch	3 <sup>rd</sup>

Well done to the whole team.



**Barbecue and Carols**

Yes, we will be coming to the barbecue on Wednesday 9 December.

Adults

Children

Name \_\_\_\_\_

While the barbecue will largely be run by our Young Leaders group we would like a few adult helpers so teachers are not tied up cooking and selling all night.

I am happy to help with the barbecue.

Please feel free to email rather than send this slip back.