

# Thorndon School Newsletter

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3 December 2009  
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Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone.

Charles Schultz

## Action List

Don't forget the fair on Sunday!!!!. (As if we could!)

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

Can you help with the barbecue?

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

## Dear Parents

Kia ora. Only 3 more sleeps to the fair. The people on the organising committee who have been beavering away for most of the year will be on tenterhooks as we look for a fine day on Sunday. The last week or two have been dreadful which adds a little extra tension to the last few days leading in to the fair. Have we remembered everything? Will the sun shine? Will the punters turn up? Experience tells us that everything usually works as intended on the day but the worry never goes away. If you are working on Sunday please make sure you turn up when you are supposed to turn up. All sorts of problems can arise when one or two people do not show.

The fair to one side, we have a long list of other things to be done by the end of the year, and after Sunday we will be able to pay much more attention to these. The major ones are the organisation of the school next year and, linked to this, class lists. The way we structure the school is likely to be a little different next year, something that has been forced on us by overall number, the numbers in the various cohorts and by our desire to keep class sizes as low as we can. We not only have to accommodate all the children already on the roll, we have to be able to accommodate those who arrive later in the year and smaller classes give us more flexibility to do this. We have had two pretty big senior classes this year and we would like to be able to avoid this in 2010. For next year that could mean a redesign of the way children are grouped. Once this decision has been made we will start to draw up the class lists.

Last week I spent half a day and the night camping with Rooms 8 and 10 at Kaitoke, an activity that is part of the schools EOTC programme. I always enjoy spending time in these outdoor situations with the kids. I have been on more school camps than I care to think about and I was most impressed. The whole exercise was a real learning inquiry with children planning menus, costing the event, developing safety plans, doing the bookings, the shopping, the cooking - the works. The teachers and parents were not quite irrelevant but their role was diminished because of the way things were put together. I think that every single one of the key competencies from the new curriculum came into play and a wider range of skills were used and developed. Jane and Meta and the children are to be congratulated – even the weather was properly organised. This was a great camp experience and the children going through to Year 7 will be able to almost do it all for themselves next year when they begin to plan for the senior camp. I probably had the best of it all – no responsibility and I was lucky or wise enough to pitch my tent strategically so that the chat through the night did not affect me as it affected some of the others.

I will keep this newsletter nice and short as the fair is taking up everyone's time and energy. See you all on Sunday and some of you on Saturday. Fingers crossed please for the weather.

Bill Sutton



**Barbecue**

We are hoping that we will be able to get a good turnout next Wednesday for the barbecue and carol singing.

You are all invited 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. Please us know by email or return slip – for catering purposes – if you are able to come. Low key, relaxed and over by 7:30.

**Intelligent Rewards**

I was told yesterday that Thorndon School does not appear on the list of registered schools for the Intelligent Rewards programme. I have been in touch with the organisers of the programme and expect this to be corrected immediately so it is still worth checking out. Remember, anyone can support the school through their Telstra Clear account, regardless of where they live or whether they have children here.

The address for registration is:

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

**Term 4 Calendar**

Please note that some dates have changed.

<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>The Fair</b>
Dec 7	School Chess Tournament
Dec 8	BoT meeting
Dec 8	School Tabloid Sports
<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

Next week I will begin to flesh out some of next term's key dates.

**Scratchies**

The competition to bring in scratchies for the fair has been fairly intense and continued right to the end. We have a winner! Room 7 have out done everyone else and they will enjoy their pizza lunch sometime next week. Congratulations to everyone in Room 7. This was a sterling effort. Well done to the rest of the school as well. Everyone made a real effort and we passed our target quite comfortably. While the pizza lunch belongs to Room 7 we might be able to find a way to say thank you to the rest of the school as well.



**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.