

# Thorndon School Newsletter

38/2009

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“A New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.”

## Action List

**School finishes at 12:00 tomorrow.**

Dear Parents

Kia ora. It’s here at last. Or almost. One more day. This seems to have been a very long term though I know it hasn’t been any longer than usual. It seems to have been busier than ever but that probably isn’t so either. I said something similar last year so perhaps it is just a function of all the usual things that go on during the fourth term.

Last night we had the Leavers’ Dinner for our Year 8 pupils at which they received their certificates and books. This farewell dinner is always a time to reflect on the cohort we are sending on to secondary school and to look back over the year and their time at Thorndon School. There are 28 pupils leaving this year and as usual they will scatter to schools over the wider Wellington area. They have been an engaged and creative group who have displayed leadership in a number of areas and have had a positive effect on our culture and environment. I hope that they will remember the school fondly as they move through college and that they will take up the invitation to visit us and tell us about life after Thorndon. We wish them every success for next year and beyond.

Tomorrow we hold our final assembly for the year. The central activity for this assembly will be the presentation of a number of awards, including both the Principal’s Award and the Sports Award, presented to outstanding Year 8 pupils who have displayed leadership, modelled positive behaviour and attitude and who have made a difference to the school. Any parents who would like to come along to this assembly are most welcome. We start at 11:00 and following the assembly children will return to their rooms for the last 15 or 20 minutes before school finishes at 12:00.

Class lists and stationery lists come home with your children this afternoon and you will notice some changes in the way the classes are structured. These changes have been brought about by pupil numbers and there is a letter of explanation with the lists. We have spent considerable time and energy in working out these lists and have tried to satisfy everyone as well as catering for the particular needs of the school.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in February, refreshed and ready for what will be another busy year. Board elections take place in Term 1 and you will see a timetable in the Term 1 calendar. There will be more information about this coming out in the new term. It could also be a very challenging year as National Standards are introduced to a great deal of concern and opposition within the sector. It will be our role to ensure that the debate, discussion and our own feelings about this initiative do not impact on learning.

I hope that the sun shines for everyone during the holidays, that everyone gets what they want for Christmas, and that the New Year finds everyone fit, healthy and ready for new challenges.

Bill Sutton



Room 7 has been making slippers, an activity which crosses the curriculum. Some of the results can be seen here.

**Lost**

Meg Gleadow has had a scooter go missing from the rack outside the hall. This has happened before but the scooter has always reappeared. Not this time however, and it has now been missing for about 3 weeks.

The scooter is a SpeedRacer, red and silver with some rust in the back brake.

As it is the last day tomorrow if it turns up someone may need to contact Michelle, Meg's mother, to arrange for its return. Ph 499 3515.

**Mathletics**

Many of you will know about Mathletics, a web based programme designed to increase children's confidence and skills in Maths. It is a programme we have used at school as part of Maths Week and this year, as a year long programme for middle and senior school children.

Some of you have paid to enrol your children to allow them to use the programme at home.

We have enrolled as a whole school next year which will give everyone access to the programme at home as well as at school for a cost of only \$20, a considerable saving over what you might pay as a private individual. We will be giving you more information about this in the new year but in the meantime don't pay the hundred odd dollars to join. Wait till we come back to school.

**Successes**

We always enjoy hearing about the successes of children who have left the school and gone on to college and last week 3 past pupils took out prizes at the Wellington Girls prize giving.

Congratulations to Steph Bremner, Sophie Hunter and Adelaide Gleadow.

I wish there was a way to ensure that we heard from everyone as I am sure there will be other past pupils out there enjoying all sorts of success in all sorts of fields.

**Library**

Thank you to everyone who has returned books. There are still 37 library books outstanding however and this represents a loss to the school of, conservatively, more than \$500.

This is over \$500 which has to be spent on replacing stock rather than building the collection. Please get your children to have one last look for these books tonight.

**Baby Sitting**

Adelaide Gleadow, a 17 year old ex Thorndon pupil, is available for childcare over the school holidays.

Experienced and reliable.

Please contact Adelaide on 021 250 2817 or email her at [adelaide.gleadow@xtra.co.nz](mailto:adelaide.gleadow@xtra.co.nz)

**Term 1 Calendar**

Dec 18	Term ends 12:00.
Feb 3	Term 1 begins.
Feb 17	School Picnic.
Feb 19	Meet the Teacher barbecue.
Feb 25	Nominations for BoT elections open.
Mar 2	Year 7/8 to Festival event.
Mar 3	World Maths Day.
Mar 4	Year 5/6 to Festival event.
Mar 8	Year 5/6 to Festival event.
Mar 11	Nominations close.
Mar 15	Year 7/8 to Festival event.
Mar 17	Swimming Sports.
Mar 19	Year 5/6 to Festival event.
Mar 22	Year 5/6 to Stadium Sports.
Mar 22	Year 7/8 camp.
Mar 26	BoT Voting closes.
Apr 1	BoT Election results declared.
Apr 1	Term ends

**Contact Details**

A number of parents did not get their child's report and we discovered that the address we had was wrong.

Please, please, please make sure that we have the right details at the start of next year.

**Envirogroup/Earthnuts**

It has been a very busy year for the Earth Nuts. We worked hard and achieved a lot. The students have been actively involved in a variety of events and programmes. Some of these included delivering petitions to Parliament, writing and illustrating children's books, participating in whole school environmental vision mapping, attending waste and alternative transport conferences, attending rallies and participating in clean-ups.

We are very happy to now have representatives from every class in the school in the Earth Nuts. It is pleasing to see systems like recycling, composting and reusing now firmly established in every classroom.

There is, of course, always room for improvement and the challenge will be to sustain these systems. We finished the year's activities with a fun day around the Wellington Waterfront last week.

Meta Beyers, Becca Nicholls, Rebecca Brown