

Thorndon School Newsletter

1/2010

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

4 February 2010
principal@thorndon.school.nz

Action List

Do we have your email address for the newsletter?

Are you coming to the school picnic?

Are you coming to the Meet the Teacher evening?

Does your child have an appropriate sunhat?

Dear Parents

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Kia orana, Namaste, Hola, Magandang hapon po, Annyong, Fakaalofa atu ki a mutolu oti.

Welcome to the new school year, the first of the second decade of this century and this millennium. Who knows where the past 10 years went? Our first day was remarkably stress free in spite of having 22 new children enrol. The start of the year process is well practised by now and everything worked like clockwork. All the children seem to be pleased to be back at school and I know that parents are just as pleased to have them back at school – as, of course, are we!

The first newsletter of the year is usually quite large as we try to get all sorts of information out but this year we are going to direct you all to the website where most of this information is available. You will find an A – Z, staff lists, information about lunches, key dates and all sorts of other information here. The address is at the top of this newsletter. Many of our parents elect to get the newsletter through a link emailed out each week and we would like to get as many people as possible doing this in what is both a cost cutting and a time saving exercise. We will also be sending out any hard copies in black and white rather than in colour as we have been doing. Can you please let us have your email address if you would like to go on the newsletter group.

We have had a lot of building done in the last few years and over the holidays this continued. Most of what was done will not be immediately visible to most of you but you will be able to see some improvements around the White House and the Turnbull St entrance. We improved some of our storage and resource areas and the school is in pretty good shape.

This will again be a busy year for the school and this term's calendar is already filling up rapidly. The first major activity is a Meet the Teacher evening on Friday February 19th. This will be a social event and you are all invited to join us at about 5:30 for a barbecue on the field. Staff will be introduced to everyone and I hope that you will be able to use the time to introduce yourselves to your children's teachers and perhaps to parents of other children in your child's class. We look forward to a huge turnout!

Education matters have taken a central role in the news in the last week or two with the introduction of National Standards and I have no doubt that we will all hear a great deal more about this in the next few months. I think that my view of these was made reasonably clear last year and nothing has happened since to cause me to change my view. I believe that they are un-necessary and will do little to redress the tail in New Zealand, a tail which is no greater than the tail in most OECD countries. New Zealand has an education system which is highly regarded internationally and a new curriculum which is leading the world. The concern the sector has about the standards is that they will lead us down a similar track to both the UK and the US. A national standards and national testing regime in those countries has failed to improve education achievement and has, in the words of the Cambridge Report on education in the UK, led to a lost generation. In an interview on National Radio this morning Professor Terry Crooks, the co-director of the National Education Monitoring Project quoted results from a range of international education surveys - PISA, TIMMS and PIRLS – which show clearly that New Zealand's education standards are at the upper end of achievement for OECD countries and have not declined. No-one would deny the need to have standards nor that it is important to assess children and to keep parents informed about their children's progress and most schools are doing this well. Some are not and this needs to be addressed. National Standards may not be the best way to do this. I realise that not everyone will agree with this position and we are aware that we will need to introduce and report on the standards. We will do our best to develop an approach that complies with the requirement and ensures that there is no negative impact for any of our pupils.

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

We have started the year fully staffed which always makes life easier as we get programmes underway but there will be a couple of changes during the course of the year. Jay Smith, one of our senior class teachers, will be on a year's leave from the start of the third term, returning for the start of the third term in 2011. Natasha Jackson, who runs our Extension and Enrichment programmes, will take over from Jay in what should be a seamless transition. I will be away for Term 3 having been successful in applying for a sabbatical. I am intending to do some work on Creativity Across the Curriculum and to travel to Britain and Europe, something I am very much looking forward to. I have applied to attend a TED conference in Oxford in July and am waiting to hear if this application has been successful. Anyone who follows TED through its podcasts will know how exciting this could be. While I am away Alistair du Chatenier will be released from his classroom to become Acting Principal.

The other major activity to take place for the school this term is the Board of Trustees elections. You will see a timetable for this in the school calendar. Hela Isaac has been appointed Returning Officer and she will provide everyone with all the information they need as we reach various stages in the process.

We are looking forward to a busy, productive, and successful year.

Bill Sutton

Football

Play football in 2010 with Onslow Junior Football Club.

Online enrolment is open until 17 February 2010

To enroll visit www.onslow.org.nz

For more information email:

registration@onslow.org.nz

or phone the Registration Secretary on 479 4339

School Picnic

We are beginning the year, as we usually do, with a picnic day involving the whole school. This year we are going to **Maidstone Park** on **Wednesday the 24th of February**. Details about transport and time will come home next week. It will be important that children are at school on time.

Activities like this are much easier if we can have parent help and we would love to have you along. Please let your child's teacher know if you are able to help.

After School Music Lessons Guitar Drums and Keyboard!

Music Lessons will be starting again from next week for children Year 3 and up.

Jimmy Metherall (school teacher aide) will be joining Andrew Pennell (Music Teacher) this year to offer Keyboard lessons and help reduce the waiting list for Guitar lessons.

The cost will remain \$125 per term and run from 3.15pm to 4pm.

For further information, children that are interested will bring home an enrolment/information sheet this week. These can also be emailed if requested, please contact: andrewpennell@paradise.net.nz

Girls Sunday Football

Last year Thorndon School had three teams playing in a Sunday morning girls football competition. Last year we entered one Under 8 (for 7 – 9 year olds) and two nursery (for 5 and 6 year olds) teams. If there is interest there is also an Under 10 competition.

The Under 8 and Under 10 teams play at Nairnville Park, Ngaio at either 9am or 9.45am on Sunday mornings.

The Nursery teams play at Raroa School, Ngaio around 9am on Sunday mornings.

I am happy to manage teams at school; however we would like parents to volunteer as coaches and manages. Cathy Boyce has volunteered to coach/manage last years Under 8 team again this year – thank you Cathy.

The cost is approximately \$100 per child for the season, which starts on the 17th April.

We have to have teams registered before 17th February.

If you are interested in your child playing, (girls only at this stage) please send me an email with your child's name, class and age. I would also like to hear from any parents willing to coach.

Thank you,

Jane Stocker

jane@thorndon.school.nz

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

New Children

We have enrolled 21 new pupils this year, and, the roll is now closed for anyone outside the zone unless they are a New Entrant.

3 more children will start next week.

We would like to welcome these new children and their families to the Thorndon School community and look forward to seeing them at the Meet the Teacher evening.

They are:

Trinity Anorpong	Y1	R2 -Harakeke
Ella Freeman	Y1	R2 -Harakeke
Lili Solomon	Y1	R2 -Harakeke
Jared Wilson	Y1	R2 -Harakeke
Cassia Song	Y1	R2 -Harakeke
Mia Jeremic	Y2	R4 - Tawhai
Mirella Alexandre	Y3	R 7 - Karaka
Maia Alexandre	Y4	R5 - Taupata
Thomas McCracken	Y4	R6 - Rimu
Ameria McGarvey	Y5	R7 - Karaka
Siem van den Oever	Y6	R8 - Kowhai
Bryn Cropp	Y6	R10 – Manuka
Josie Chambers	Y6	R10 – Manuka
Arianna Hogan	Y7	R10 – Manuka
Billie van den Oever	Y7	R11 – Rata
Ronan Balm	Y7	R11 – Rata
Nick Wills	Y7	R11 - Rata
Charlotte Crampton	Y7	R11 - Rata
Rhiannon Domke	Y7	R9 – Koromiko
Aidan Scott	Y8	R9 Koromiko
Andrew Acevedo	Y8	R11 - Rata

We look forward to everything that these new enrolments and their families will bring to the school.

Email Newsletter

Please put me on the email list for the newsletter.

Name

Child's Name

Email address

Term 1 Calendar

Feb 19	Meet the Teacher – barbecue.
Feb 22	PAT assessments begin.
Feb 23	Year 3/4 Ripa Rugby.
Feb 24	School Picnic – Maidstone Park.
Feb 25	Nominations for Board elections open.
Mar 2	Rippa Rugby Y5/6
Mar 2	Year 7/8 to Arts Festival
Mar 3	World Maths Day
Mar 4	Year 5/6 to Arts Festival
Mar 8	Year 5/6 to Arts Festival
Mar 11	Nominations close
Mar 15	Year 7/8 camp (to be confirmed)
Mar 16	Central Zone Cricket
Mar 16	BoT Meeting – 6:30 staff room (TBC)
Mar 19	Year 5/6 to Arts Festival
Mar 22	Stadium Sports – Year 5/6
Apr 1	Term ends – 3:00
Apr 19	Term 2 begins

This calendar is very much a fluid document. Some things will be added as the term progresses, some things will come off and others will have dates or times changed. The calendar will appear in the newsletter each week and new items will be in red each week.

Sun Hats

The school has a policy of insisting that children wear hats when they are outside between 10:00am and 3:00pm, and the response this year has been very good.

We require children to wear a hat with a brim –not simply a cap. Children who do not have suitable hats will not be able to take part in PE/sports activities or leave the school with their class when there is a trip, and we will be enforcing this strictly.

Please make sure that your child has a suitable hat at school, preferably one that they can leave in their tote tray. It would also be very helpful if they were named.



**HILL STREET FARMERS' MARKET
OPENING 6 FEBRUARY 2010**

Come and enjoy Wellington City's only authentic farmers' market - open 9am-1pm every Saturday from 6 February 2010.

Meet passionate local growers and foodmakers, sample delicious food and catch up with friends & neighbours. It's your local community market, connecting you with your food: fresh fruit and veg, fish, meat, bread, eggs, oils, jams & preserves, chocolate, juice, coffee and more, all direct from local producers.

Email info@hillstfarmersmarket.org.nz to sign up for the Hill Street Farmers' Market e-newsletter and keep up to date with market news, upcoming events and new stallholders.

Kids Colouring Competition

Visit www.hillstfarmersmarket.org.nz to download a copy of the Hill Street Farmers' Market colouring competition. Bring your entries to the market information stall between 9am and 1pm on 6, 13 or 20 February and be in to win fantastic prizes kindly donated by Kids Republic. All entries will be displayed at the market on 27 February 2010 and the winning entry in each age group will be announced during the market.

Hill Street Farmers' Market is proudly brought to you by Thorndon Farmers' Market Trust with the support of Urban Harvest, Doubleclique, Ocean Design and the Wellington City Council.

Thorndon Farmers' Market Trust
PO Box 12650, Thorndon, Wellington 6144
info@hillstfarmersmarket.org.nz
www.hillstfarmersmarket.org.nz