

Thorndon School Newsletter

2/2010

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

11 February 2010
principal@thorndon.school.nz

If we believe something does not exist unless we measure it, then we put aside: love, feeling, intuition, art and philosophy.

Peter Block

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. The term has started with a hiss and a roar and we are already ahead of ourselves in some areas. Our formal assessment programme using PATs and STAR tests has started and will be completed well before our initial target of March 5. The results of these tests will give teachers some very precise information which will, when aligned with the information we already have, allow some precise planning to be undertaken to provide the next steps for individuals and groups.

I asked last week for email addresses for the newsletter and Room 10 has responded impressively. All newsletters to Room 10 will now be emailed, the first time we have had this happen. Our aim is to get this to happen for all rooms. It represents a considerable saving in time, a saving in paper and printing costs, and also allows more time for writing and preparation as the 2:30 deadline disappears. The more email addresses we can get the better and they will also be used for class email contact. Just send an email back to give us your address if you have not already signed up.

We have been part of the Active Schools programme over the last two years and while our time is up as far as getting particular support goes we are still committed to the concept and you will see some mention of this further into the newsletter. Our children are equally committed and a group of them took part in the Weetbix Tryathlon recently as you can see in the photos below. With the Round the Bays coming up, netball training having started today for the summer league, swimming sports, cross country runs and a very active school camp for the seniors we look forward to being able to publish more of these photos of children actively involved in sports and physical recreation.

Each year, as part of our efforts to make internet use safe we ask all children and parents to read and sign an internet agreement before the children are "licensed" to use the internet at school. This agreement can be found on the website at the following addresses –

<http://www.thorndon.school.nz/documents/JuniorInternetAgreement.pdf> for Years 1 - 4

<http://www.thorndon.school.nz/documents/SeniorInternetAgreement.pdf> for Years 5 - 8.

If you are unable to access these please let us know and we will send home a hard copy.

Those who care about these things will know that the Super 14 is about to begin and that strenuous efforts are being made to ensure that we really are watching the game they play in heaven. We also have the Phoenix to support and for a traditionalist summer becomes quite confusing with cricket against Australia still to come this summer.

Bill Sutton



Round the Bays

A letter was sent home yesterday suggesting that children and adults might like to join us as a Thorndon School group for the Round the Bays Fun Run/Walk on Sunday 21. Online registrations have now closed but it is not too late.

Please try join us. **We need the slips back to us with your registration fee tomorrow. We need a list of names, event (walk, run etc). It would be nice to have a really large group participate as part of our commitment to being an “Active School”.**

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.

Enviro Group Update

We are gearing up for another exciting year of activities and work towards sustainability with our **Earth Nuts**. As in 2009, we would like a representative from each class in the group. Everyone will have to reapply, so as to give new people a chance. We are looking for enthusiastic people who are passionate about our environment, with lots of great ideas to bring to the group. Application forms will be given out in the next few weeks and if you would like to make a nomination yourselves please email us.

Meta, Becca & Bex

meta@thorndon.school.nz
rebecca@thorndon.school.nz
rebeccan@thorndon.school.nz (Becca)

Piano Lessons in Thorndon

Classes include:

- Learning to read music
- Performance techniques
- General theory
- Listening Skills
- Composition

Lessons are for 30 minutes and cost \$28.

Call Kate on 021 156 1804.

Extension and Enrichment

We have a comprehensive extension and enrichment programme which is organised and overseen by Natasha Jackson. Selection for various activities is made in a number of ways and in some instances we ask for parents to nominate children.

At the moment we are sorting out membership of our Sports Squad and our Young Leaders group.

Sports Squad.

The Sports Squad is a group of children who will meet once or twice a week through the year to take part in a range of sports related activities. These may include specific coaching sessions, observing and talking with professional or top level athletes in training, learning about physiology, psychology and nutrition, and experiencing new sports.

The group will be limited to about 12 pupils, all in the senior school and most in Year 8, and the people selected will have to demonstrate commitment and consistency throughout the year if they are to stay in the group. This commitment and consistency will have to apply to all areas of school life, not just to sport and PE. We will also be looking for people whose behaviour and attitude are consistently positive, who are prepared to help and support others, and who are able to show some leadership in the school.

Young Leaders

The aim of the Young Leaders Group is to provide opportunities for students to identify, develop and reflect on leadership skills and qualities. They then put these skills into practise by helping co-ordinate school wide activities and integrating them into their daily classroom situations and their wider life. The qualities and skills students nominated should display are, perseverance, supportiveness, acceptance of others, positive social interactions, initiative, independence and good co-operative skills.

If you would like to nominate someone for either of these two groups please send an email to Natasha Jackson at natasha@thorndon.school.nz giving the reasons that you think the nominee should be in the group.

There will be further opportunities for children as the term goes on.

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

New Children

Two more children have started since last Thursday and there are two more to come at the beginning of next week.

The new pupils are:

Milo Crispin	Y4	R 7 - Karaka
Talya Conradie	Y6	R8 - Kowhai

We welcome Talya and Milo to the school community.

Swimming Timetable

We are extraordinarily lucky in having a pool as such a close neighbour. While we would like to be able to make even more use of it than we do it is a wonderful resource. It is however, not free and we need everyone to pay the \$20 per year that we ask for. This is a straight reflection of the cost to us for taking the children swimming.

Swimming is part of the school curriculum and in a country with such a long coastline it is important that all children learn to swim. We expect that everyone will participate and the class swimming days are detailed below so you know when children need to bring their togs.

Monday	Room 9 – Jay Smith
	Room 11 – Bex Brown
	Waterpolo training
Tuesday	Room 2 - Beth Huntington
Wednesday	Room 7 - Alistair du Chatenier
	Room 5 – Becca Nicholls
	Room 1 – Sue Holman
Thursday	Room 10 – Jane Stocker
	Room 3 – Zeeta Andrew
Friday	Room 6 - Niamh King
	Room 8 – Meta Beyers
	Room 4 – Krista Huber

Term 1 Calendar

Feb 19	Meet the Teacher – barbecue.
Feb 22	PAT assessments begin.
Feb 23	Year 3/4 Rippa 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.

Email Newsletter

Please put me on the email list for the newsletter.

Name Child's Name

Email address