

Thorndon School Newsletter

4/2010

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

25 February 2010
principal@thorndon.school.nz

The excitement of learning separates youth from old age. As long as you are learning you aren't old!
Rosalyn Sussman Yalow

Action List

Do we have your email address for the newsletter?

Have you sent in your child's internet agreement?

Have you looked at the class wikis and nings?

Does your child have an appropriate sunhat?

Dear Parents

Kia ora. It continues to be a fast and furious year. Only a few more days and we will be into March and then the term finishes on April 1. In the meantime we have a senior school camp, school swimming sports, a Ripa Rugby tournament, a Central Zone cricket tournament, a board election and various festival activities in amongst the more conventional curriculum. Our initial assessments using PA Tests and STAR reading are complete and teachers are analysing individual performance while I look at achievement across cohorts and across the school. This school wide information will be reported to the board and used to make decisions about where we direct resources.

Last Friday's Meet the Teacher barbecue was a really pleasant social occasion and I made it even less formal by not stopping everyone in full flow to introduce the whole staff. This was not really an oversight and as I looked around I could see teachers and parents talking with each other, parents talking to parents and lots of relaxed interaction. I was enjoying the conversations I was having and it seemed better to allow things as to continue. There will be other opportunities for classes to meet and discuss plans and programmes for the year and the wikis are another very good way of keeping up with what is happening with your child's class.

On the Sunday following the barbecue we had a good contingent of parents, pupils and staff turn out to take part in the Wellington Round the Bays Fun Run. Some ran, some walked, the weather was perfect and with so many of us wearing school T Shirts we were a visible presence, reinforcing our claim to be an Active School. At the moment we have classes out walking daily, groups playing netball after school, teams playing waterpolo and the seniors preparing for camp so I think that as a school we are as fit as we have ever been.

Yesterday the whole school went out to Maidstone for the school picnic, choosing just about the best day of the school year and leaving Hela and I to man the office. I would have gone with them but had an appointment here at school and as it was we had a hugely productive day in the office. No interruptions for anything at all - no injuries, no illnesses, no discipline - and it was 3:00 before we knew it. A day like that a term would work well! By all reports it was a great day and we managed to return with a full complement of undamaged children.

Coming home tomorrow or Monday will be invoices for this term and this will include this year's school fee – **which is a voluntary donation but is extremely important to the school's locally raised funds.** With these invoices will be a letter which will tell you what locally raised funds – whether from the fair, from the school fee or from some other source – are used for. We would ask you to read the letter carefully before making any decisions about not sending in this donation.

Bill Sutton



The Thorndon Team

The Kids

The Runners

Internet Agreements

So far we have agreements back from only 101 children which means that 145 children do not, at the moment, have permission to use computer equipment or have access to the internet. Access to these sorts of tools has become an integral part of teaching and learning so these children will be disadvantaged when it comes to things like Mathematics at school. Teachers have been reasonably relaxed to date but from next week children whose agreements have not been returned will **not** have access. The forms are on the school website and hard copies are available in the office.

<http://www.thorndon.school.nz/documents/JuniorInternetAgreement.pdf> for Years 1 - 4
<http://www.thorndon.school.nz/documents/SeniorInternetAgreement.pdf> for Years 5 - 8.

Fund Raising

I have already mentioned the school donation but another of our fund-raising activities is the Entertainment Book. Thorndon is one of the most successful sellers in Wellington, especially given the size of its roll so we look forward to another good year.

Entertainment Books are coming to Thorndon School



Thorndon School is pleased to be offering the new edition of the Entertainment book to members as part of our fundraising campaign for this year.

Entertainment Books contain hundreds of 25-50% off and two-for-one offers from popular restaurants,

cinemas, hotels, the arts, and leisure activities. The sale of each book will **raise \$12 for Thorndon School** and contribute much needed funds to our fundraising targets for this year. The books will be available from the end of March, but we will be taking pre-orders from the end of February. We have a limited amount of presale bonus offers worth over \$150 including offers from



- Lone Star (Tory St)
- Reading Cinemas
 - Sierra Café
 - Mondo Espresso
- La Marche Francois
- The Hurricanes

Please contact Hela at the School Office to place your order and snap up these bonus offers!
 Email office@thorndon.school.nz or Ph; 04 472 4267

Extension and Enrichment

Thank you to those parents who sent in nominations for the various enrichment groups. We have taken a look at all these nominations, the peer nominations, the self nominations and have talked with teachers.

Group memberships have been decided and we will tell the children tomorrow. Some will be disappointed – which is part of the learning process – but they can all take comfort in knowing that membership ebbs and flows depending on the response of the people who have been selected initially. If they do not show the attitude we expect and perform to the level we require some children may find themselves dropped from a group, freeing up a position for another child. In a case where this happens, children can, and are expected to, work their way back into the group.

Harbour City Junior Hockey

Would you like to play hockey over winter...or give it a go?

Harbourcity Hockey is an established Club which last year had 13 junior teams in the local competitions. The junior Club caters for all children between the ages of 5 and 13.

Games are on Saturdays in Terms 2 and 3 and are very rarely cancelled. Practices are once a week after school.

Registration date is on the 28th of February at 11.30am at the National Hockey Stadium in Newtown.

Alternatively children can be registered through accessing the registration forms on the website:

www.harbourcityhockey.org.nz

If you have any queries feel free to contact Fiona on 3836947 or email

fiona.morgan@paradise.net.nz

THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

World Maths Day

To celebrate 'World Maths day' on Wednesday 3rd of March, all classes will be participating in fun practical maths activities. Check with your child and/or their teacher as to what they have planned for the day. You are welcome to come at any time throughout the day.

Zeeta Andrew

Maybe a good excuse to keep an eye on your child's class wiki or ning to see what is planned and what has been done.

Camp

I have already mentioned the invoices that will be coming home but there are some that have gone out already, those for the Year 7/8 camp. Please pay these as soon as possible. The school has already paid a substantial deposit and we will have other up front costs too so the sooner these are paid the easier life will be.

If anyone is having any difficulty with the amount of this payment please get in touch with me – 472 4267 or bill@thorndon.school.nz.

No child should be prevented from going on camp because cost is a problem.

Term 1 Calendar

Feb 26	Nominations for Board elections open.
Mar 2	Rippa Rugby Y5/6
Mar 3	World Maths Day
Mar 4	Year 5/6 to Arts Festival
Mar 8	Year 5/6 to Arts Festival
Mar 12	Nominations close
Mar 12	Y 5/6 to Arts Festival
Mar 15	Year 7/8 camp (to be confirmed)
Mar 16	Central Zone Cricket
Mar 19	Year 5/6 to Arts Festival
Mar 22	Stadium Sports – Year 5/6
Mar 23	School Swimming Sports
Mar 25	BoT Meeting - 6:30 staff room.
Mar 26	Voting closes for BoT elections
Apr 1	Election results declared.
Apr 1	Term ends – 3:00
Apr 19	Term 2 begins

Please note the change of date for the BoT meeting.

Permission Slip

Thorndon School has a wonderful location which allows us to make use of a wide range of facilities and activities that occur in the Central City area. Our children can – and do – walk to Te Papa, the public library, The City Gallery, the Waterfront, Oriental Bay, Parliament amongst other places. We are able to take advantage of events spontaneously where other schools further away might miss out. Most parents are generally happy with this and it is a feature of the school. These 'excursions' take place as class or group outings with a teacher or responsible adult though there are times when small groups of Year 7/8 children may leave the grounds for a specific purpose. Our practice is to ask parents to return a slip early in the year if they are **not** happy for their child to leave the school grounds without specific written permission from the parent. The slip is below and if we do not get it back we will assume that you are happy for your child to be able to take advantage of these - occasional - opportunities.

Permission Slip

My child is not to leave the school grounds for any reason without specific written permission from his or her parents.

Child _____

Room

Signed _____

Email Newsletter

Please put me on the email list for the newsletter.

Name

Child's Name

Email address