

Thorndon School Newsletter

8/2010

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

25 March 2010
principal@thorndon.school.nz

Where you are, be there.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Action List

Do we have your email address for the newsletter?

Is your child one of the 7 without an internet agreement?

Have you ordered or sold an entertainment book?

Have you made a donation? Paid your activity fees?

Dear Parents

This has been a funny term, short, fast and furious and the end seems to have arrived only 5 minutes after we started. While there has been a lot of action we can't help feeling that in some ways we have not really started the real business. The first term, especially when it is as short as this one, is one of assessment, establishing routines with new groups of children and setting up the year. This is all done now and we will, as I have already mentioned, begin our three way conferences early in the new term. These conferences give children the opportunity to share with you the things they have been doing, the things they will be doing, their strengths and weaknesses, the things they take pride in and the things they are less certain about. It is a daunting prospect for children as it requires them to take responsibility for and ownership of their learning reporting progress to you and discussing where they need to go next and what will help them make progress. The way parents react to what their children have to say can make or break the conference and we look for you to be positive, encouraging and supportive. Comments should be constructive and couched in positive terms. The three way conference is also a time for teachers to report to you on progress and to share the results of the assessment that has been carried out this term and, with your child and you, to set some simple and achievable goals for the rest of the year. You will get a written summary of what has been discussed and decided and this year there will be a brief statement of progress towards the achievement of the relevant National Standards.

I mentioned last week that we were planning an information evening for parents on the standards and this will be on **Wednesday 21 April**, the first week back at school. The meeting will be at 7:00 and there is a return slip at end of the newsletter. It would be very helpful if you could return this if you intend to come to the meeting. We will discuss the standards themselves, showing you what they are and talking about how we make decisions on achievement against the standards. We will talk about the reports and the written reporting we are required to do and what you can expect at the three way conference and again at the end of the year. You may have a specific question about the standards and there is space on the return slip for this. If you send something in we will do our best to answer it. At the moment, as I have already indicated, there has been no training for teachers in any of this so we will be developing an approach that works for this school and complies with the requirements of the guidelines.

On Tuesday we held another low key but successful swimming sports, managing to squeeze a fine day in between two rather unpleasant ones. One of the things that got rather overlooked in this fast and furious term was asking parents to form a relay team to swim against staff and children as we have done for the past few years. I was delighted to see that it has become embedded in the school culture with 3 parents arriving ready to swim. A team was formed with the addition of one of our Year 5 boys. I was less delighted to see the teachers' team left struggling in the wake of both the parents, who came first, and a team of Year 7/8 children which was narrowly beaten into second place. The Hind Cup will show that the pupils won in 2010 and perhaps we will have to consider expanding the competition for the Cup to reflect the participation of parents. Thank you to Will Neal, James Turner and John Hancock. The staff is already discussing strategy for next year!

The end of the term is nearly on us and I will make a final plea for this term. It would be wonderful if all the outstanding invoices for activities this term could be brought up to date before next Thursday we still have a lot to come in for the picnic (almost \$1000 outstanding), festival activities (\$1500 still to come), technology for the seniors (\$3500 owing), Athletics (\$3200 to be paid), swimming (\$3500 still owing) and the senior camp (\$8,000 to come). There are less significant amounts for one or two other activities. As you can see, there is a lot of money owing, much of it for things that have already taken place and paid for by the school. We are quite happy for people to set up automatic payments to spread the cost and you can get the necessary details by emailing Julie at accounts@thorndon.school.nz or by phoning her.

Bill Sutton

Internet Agreements

We now have only 7 children yet to return signed Internet agreements, 5 from Room 4 and 2 from Room 6. Nag, nag, nag! Please try to return them tomorrow!

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

Earth Hour

Hi, my name is Tabitha. I'm going to tell you about **EARTH HOUR**.

EARTH HOUR happens on Saturday 27 March from 8:30pm to 9:30pm.

It's when you turn off all your lights and everything that uses power.

I did it last year. It was a lot of fun. We put up candles and used torches.

So I'm encouraging you all to do it this year. You never know, you might enjoy it

So be supportive and turn off for Earth Hour.

Triathlon

Last week I mentioned the three girls who took part in the Wellington Schools Year 7 & 8 Triathlon Champs for 2010 and we have had the official results in.

Congratulations to:

Alex Gooch	3 rd Year 8 Girls
Brittany Antipas	4 th Year 8 Girls
Eliza Muldrock	3 rd Year 7 Girls

These are pretty stunning results when you consider the equipment and level of support many of the other competitors had with wetsuits and state of the art bicycles.

Craft and Baking Classes

Come join the fun for our weekly themed craft and baking classes at **Huckleberry Kids**, Huckleberry Cafe in Northland!

Term 2 classes begin the second week of term and run for 9 weeks: Tuesday 9.30-10.30 am for preschoolers and Thursday after school 3.30-4.30 for ages 4-8. \$12 per class. Sign up at the cafe or email Suzi Tait-Bradly at: huckleberrykids@huckleberrycafe.co.nz.

Get in quick - class size limited to 10 kids.

Storytimes: Tuesday/Thursday
10.30-11am weekly.



New Children

We have one new pupil this week. He is:

Antony Hughes	Y 1	Room 2 - Harakeke
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We welcome Antony and his family to the school community and hope that they enjoy their association with the school.

Chocolate Sales

Our senior pupils are busily fund raising for camp and one of the activities underway is the sale of Trade Aid organic chocolate – dark or milk.

The bars sell for \$2:50 and there may be some of you who could sell or take orders at your work places or who could arrange for pupils to come across and sell bars in canteens or offices. If you are able to help could you please contact Rebecca Brown, Jay Smith or Jane Stocker.

Drama Classes

Aro Valley Theatre Club – Kids Drama Classes – Ages 5-12

Professional and fun classes for kids to investigate the ins and outs of acting and creating theatre. At AVTC each child gets to explore and develop their creative potential, individuality, and ability to work effectively as a group. In this dynamic process we develop confidence, spontaneity, coordination and movement skills, and improve self awareness and communication. As classes progress we create a special scene to share at the end of term with friends and family at our club headquarters. AVTC headquarters, Aro Valley Community Centres, 48 Aro St

8 week term commencing Term Two Week Two, Wednesdays from April 28

3.45 - 4. 40pm - Ages 5-8

4.45 - 5.45pm - Ages 8-12

Term Fee: \$80

Registrations essential.

Contact Sophie Dingemans

Email: sophie.dingemans@gmail.com

Ph: 021 332780

Holiday Programme

**Mad Hatters fun at the Museum - 10am to 1pm
Mon 5, Tues 6, Wed 7 & Mon 12, Tues 13, Wed 14 April**

Make a Mad Hat!

Come to the Museum of Wellington City & Sea these school holidays and make your very own 'mad hat'. For just \$2 kids can get creative and decorate their hat and go into the draw to win one of 10 children's passes to SkyCity cinemas. You may even want to bring a picnic and have your very own Mad Hatters Tea Party!

Cost: \$2

www.museumswellington.org.nz

ph: 472 8904

Museum of Wellington City & Sea

Queens Wharf

Term 1 Calendar

Mar 25	BoT Meeting - 6:00 staff room.
Mar 26	Voting closes for BoT elections
Mar 30	Junior School to Wairarapa. (R 1-4)
Apr 1	Election results declared.
Apr 1	Term ends – 3:00

Term 2 Calendar

Apr 19	Term 2 begins
Apr 21	Parent Evening – National Standards
Apr 26	Year 7/8 Camp
Apr 26	3 way conferences begin.
Apr 27	Y 4/5/6 Football tournament
Apr 30	New Parents evening TBC
May 4	Y 7/8 Football tournament
May 4	BoT Meeting
May 5	School Cross Country
May 6	Maori/Pasifika parent evening
May 18	Central Zone Cross Country
May 24	Young Leaders Conference
May 25	Central Zone Cross Country
Jun 7	Queens Birthday – school closed
Jun 15	Inter-zone Cross Country
Jul 2	Term ends

Please note that there are a number of changed dates since last week.

Water

There is still plenty of water available if any of you are interested in buying a case.

There are 24 500 ml bottles in each case and we are selling these at \$30 per case which works out at \$1:25 per bottle.

If you are interested please give Hela a call.

Whitireia Youth Theatre School (WYTS)

After school Drama/Dance programme for Ages 7-16 years

WYTS has something for everyone, whether your child is looking for intensive theatre training or a fun class with play based learning. Registrations for Term 2 and beyond are open for all **WYTS** classes. To find out more information click the link below.

http://www.wpac.org.nz/Performing_Arts/Class_Descriptions/wyts

Kiwi Kids Learn

A new educational magazine has been launched for parents and caregivers to support their children to be all they can be. Kiwi Kids Learn is a fantastic resource and full of useful information to use with school age or preschool children. Kiwi Kids Learn also includes two sections specifically for kids. There is a dedicated 8-page lift-out for the kids with activities and games. There is also a section within the magazine for students to 'showcase' their work to the rest of New Zealand. To find out more or to order a copy go to: www.kiwikidslearn.volasite.com

School Holiday Programme

The holidays are only 1 week away! So if you have kids aged 7-12yrs looking for something to entertain them over the holiday break then our School Holiday Programme is just the ticket.

Join Adam Donald (Whitireia Youth Theatre School Tutor) for 5 days of adventure, drama, creatively and fun with '**Atlantis**'. Discover the wonders of the deep, exploring stories and characters, and perform a show!

'**Atlantis**' runs 9am-3pm, Monday to Friday (with the show on at 3-3:45pm Friday) on the 12th-16th of April.

Cost is \$200 per child. To register click this link:

[http://www.wpac.org.nz/Performing_Arts/WPA C Information/Holiday Programme.htm](http://www.wpac.org.nz/Performing_Arts/WPA_C_Information/Holiday_Programme.htm)



Laserforce has moved to 133 Tory Street at the end of the Warehouse in the Tory Street Complex. We have the same phone number and email so get in quick to book the amazing \$10 per player sessions every week day of the school holidays. Session times are 10am-12.30pm or 1pm-3.30pm. That's 2 ½ hours of entertainment for the crazy price of \$10 per player! We have a new custom built Laserforce maze and new targets to find. Also plenty of video and arcade games to play inclusive of the \$10 price! AMAZING VALUE! Bring in a group of friends or your family for some fun at the New and Improved Laserforce. Look forward to hearing from you to book your session. Phone 3844 622. www.laserforce.co.nz

Three Simple Steps...

...to help fight influenza

1. Protect yourself
 - Get immunized – see your family doctor
2. Protect your colleagues
 - Wash and dry hands often
 - Cover mouth and nose when you sneeze
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth
3. Protect the school community
 - Keep your child home if he or she is unwell

Regional Public Health

National Standards

Yes, we would like to attend the parent information evening on National Standards to be held on Wednesday 21 April.

Name(s) _____

Child(ren) _____

Room(s) _____

My question is: _____
