

Thorndon School Newsletter

15/2010

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No problem can be solved by the same consciousness that created it. We need to see the world anew.

Albert Einstein

Action List

Are you coming to a National Standards session?

Have you sent in feedback on three way conferences?

Have you ordered or sold an entertainment book?

Have you checked the netball draw? www.nsnetball.co.nz

Dear Parents

Well we didn't do as well as I had hoped in the budget but nor did we fare as badly as I feared we might. A 4% increase in the operations grant can't be bad though in the overall scheme of things it is not a huge amount of money – about the extra amount we would get if all school donations were paid!. Significant but not a “step change”! More importantly the rumoured \$50 million cut in salaries has not eventuated, something the school feels huge relief about particularly as we already pay for 1.5 extra staff from board funds. There will be some incentive to manage electricity, gas and water – yes, we are metered for water – more efficiently than we do at present as funding levels for this area of the ops grant have been frozen for the next two years. This is probably not a bad thing as I am sure we could develop some much better habits – like not having doors and windows wide open while the heater is pumping away in the corner. It happens. Certainly a budget that the primary education sector at least is not terribly unhappy about.

Last week I asked for feedback on the three way conferences and I am very grateful for the responses I have had so far – all positive with some useful comments and suggestions. One comment, received more than once, has been about the two different codes for accessing the booking site. The programme has been refined and next time we do this there will only be one school wide code which should make things easier. The online booking system itself has received a universal thumbs up, though there are a couple of changes we are going to ask for at our end. A really successful addition to the whole area of school communications.

Last year I put a link on the website to an address by Sir Ken Robinson titled “Do Schools Kill Creativity?” and urged everyone to take a look at what is a thought provoking and possibly somewhat challenging address. Every time I listen to this talk it reinforces some of the beliefs I have developed about education systems over many years. It could almost have been written as a brief for the development of the New Zealand Curriculum. This was the speech which first got me interested in the TED conferences and since then I have downloaded well over 150 pod casts from TED. Ken Robinson spoke again at this year's TED conference in California in February, giving an address which almost picked up from where he left off four years ago and I will attempt to put a link to this new talk on the website today. Again, it is only 20 minutes long and well worth listening to. He is a highly respected educator, researcher and thinker and has a particular interest in creativity which is the theme for the little research project I will be doing as part of my sabbatical next term so the timing of this release is serendipitous. Unfortunately it probably means that he won't be a speaker at the Oxford conference. He is however going to be a keynote speaker at a conference for teachers in January and we plan to take the whole staff to Palmerston North to hear him. Not Oxford but I'm sure that won't make any difference to the quality of the address. I hope he has a more positive experience in Palmerston North than John Cleese did many years ago when he famously said – among other things - that, “We had a thoroughly, bloody miserable time there and we were so happy to get out”. I hope it is more positive for us too!

I am almost at the point of counting how many sleeps I have before I leave for England and the TED conference with just over a month to go. It was 29⁰ in London the other day and that is starting to look pretty attractive.

Bill Sutton

Term 2 Calendar

Jun 1	Parent Information session re WGC
Jun 2	Whole school Art Workshop
Jun 2	National Standards Information evening
Jun 2	Onslow College visit Year 8
Jun 7	Queens Birthday – school closed
Jun 9	National Standards lunchtime session.
Jun 11	Inter-school Chess Tournament in hall.
Jun 15	Inter-zone Cross Country
Jun 16	Wellington Girls' College Open Morning
Jun 17	Wellington East Open evening.
Jul 2	Term ends

New Children

The roll continues to grow and we welcome two new children this week. In spite of this roll growth the slightly different school organisation we put in place this year has meant that, to date at least, we have been able to keep all classes below 30.

The new pupils are:

Madeline Ware	Y1	R 2 - Harakeke
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Madeline joins her older sister who has been with us for a little while now.

Keimarire Tibble-Brown	Y3	R1 - Nikau
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We welcome both girls to the school and welcome Keimarire's family to our school community.

Dawn till Dusk- Netball for World Vision

Don't forget the "Dawn till Dusk" non-stop netball game and fair, culminating in a concert to be held on Sunday 30th of May in Civic Square. The event will run from 6am to 6pm and players from secondary schools across Wellington will be joining the Wellington Girls' College students in what is sure to be a day of fun.

School in Action

Wellington Girls College holds an open day for Year 8 students and parents each year and will do so again this year.

**Wednesday 16th June
9:00 – 12:30**

The school would prefer to run three groups though the morning, one at 9:00, one at 10:30 and one at 11:30.

They have asked if Thorndon parents and girls could join the 11:30 session but please, join the one that best suits you.

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK
SALES CLOSE MONDAY 24 MAY

WELLINGTON
FATHERS'
BREAKFAST '10

Tuesday 1 June 2010
7.15 am to 8.30 am sharp
Wellington Town Hall,
111 Wakefield St
Wellington
\$55 per person
\$550 per table of 10
(includes cooked breakfast)

Opened by Her Worship the Mayor of Wellington, Kerry Prendergast, and chaired by Bruce Pilbrow, Parents Inc.'s CEO and Deputy Chief Families Commissioner, the Breakfast will include short inspirational talks on fatherhood by:



Hon John Key
Prime Minister, New Zealand



Pio Terei
entertainer/presenter



Ruben Wiki ONZM
rugby league legend



Ian Grant QSO
founder and director of Parents Inc.



John Cowan
senior writer/producer at Parents Inc.



Parents Inc.
Family is Everything

TO BOOK ONLINE CLICK HERE

Phone Parents Inc. on 0800 53 56 59

Email: fathers.breakfast@parentsinc.org.nz

Open Evening

Wellington East Girls' College

All prospective students, parents and caregivers welcome.

7:00, Thursday 17 June

Halogen Young Leaders Conference 2010

On Monday 24th May, 22 students from Thorndon School attended the 10th Halogen Young Leaders' Conference at the St James Theatre. The Halogen Foundation New Zealand is a non-profit organisation that was founded to assist schools develop student leaders and to inspire and influence a generation of young people to lead themselves and others well.

Throughout the day students listened to five speakers about leadership, about "plugging into your potential", and about making the most of your opportunities. They were also treated to a performance by the Laughing Samoans as well as dancing, singing and participating themselves.

Below are some key quotes from some of the speakers and thoughts from our students about how this advice will influence them to become our Young Leaders.

Be careful of your thought, because your thoughts become your words. Be careful of your words, because your words become your actions. Be careful of your actions, because your actions become habits. Be careful of your habits, because your habits become your character.

Nick Tuatasi

I will think about what I do and realise when I need to do it differently.

Emma Montague-Cripps Year 6

I will do this by thinking good thoughts about other people and by having good habits.

Georgina Lomax-Sawyers Year 8

Think before I act, say and do something, and that I have to be cautious and have empathy.

Jeremiah Paku Year 7

Good leaders don't dominate people, they build them up and release them.

Rob Harley

Know that leaders don't take control all the time, and that when you let others have a go, they can be leaders too.

Victoria Hunter Year 8

Talent gets you there, but it's character that will keep you there.

Nick Tuatasi

Even though I have leadership skills, my attitude needs to be positive to keep me there.

Sian Williams-Jones Year 8

Take risks and put yourself out there.

Dayna Vawdrey

It means to me that I need to challenge and extend myself a lot more.

Olivia Yeo Year 7