

# Thorndon School Newsletter

17/2010

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10 June 2010  
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We do not learn for school, but for life.

Seneca

## Action List

- Are you coming to the National Standards session - July 16?  What are your thoughts on our ASC programme?
- Can you help with extension and enrichment activities?  Have you checked the netball draw? [www.nsnetball.co.nz](http://www.nsnetball.co.nz)

## Dear Parents

Kia ora. Not quite the penultimate week but not far from it. Two weeks to go till the end of term and a lot to pack in with meetings, discos, chess tournaments and the like. I have already mentioned that teachers are busy preparing the mid-year report we are now required to give parents on progress towards the National Standards. These will be posted at the end of the month. When you read them I hope that you will keep in mind some of the background information that we have already provided on the element of progress and the aspirational nature of the standards. Not all children will get there. Keep in mind too that this is a first attempt at these reports with minimal professional development or training, no inter-school moderation and little clarity about the standards themselves. I have no doubt that there will be a lot of tweaking to be done both by the school and by the MoE over the next year or two.

I have a feeling that the standards are on the minds of teachers more than they are on the minds of parents (and I think that is probably a good thing), as there has not been huge interest in the information meetings that we have proposed. We have one more coming up and then we will leave it for a while. It is possible that the reports that come home may spark a little more interest and if that is the case we will look at providing something else later in the year. In the meantime feel free to email us with any questions you might have.

As you will have seen in the newsletters through the year the roll has exploded somewhat this year and we now have 264 children. There are more new entrants expected in the next two terms so we are going to end the year with more children than we have had for many, many years. The way we have structured the school this year has worked particularly well with all classes at the moment having fewer than 30 pupils. This relies of course on the extra teaching staff funded by the board – through, among other sources of funds, your school donations which is one of the reasons I tend to harp on about them. The greatest roll growth has been in the junior school and in order to accommodate this we are going to have to do a re-shuffle among the juniors at the start of next term.

We have the prospect of the Football World Cup and the rugby tests coming up to distract us from the gloom of winter, National Standards, report writing, MPs spending – a long list of negatives - and a little success will warm us – emotionally at least. How many fine days have we had in the last three weeks? Two? And today is not helping.

Bill Sutton

## Library Book

Overdue slips will be coming out today and we ask that you get your children to have a good look for these books so we can get them back before the end of term.

Some of them have been out for a long time and of course other children cannot access them when they are sitting on someone's shelf at home, read but not returned.

## HOT LUNCH WHOLE SCHOOL BBQ

Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup>

We will be taking orders and collecting money on:

**MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

Sausages/sauce/bread/onion.

Fruit punch.

Sausage with bread \$2.00

Fruit punch \$1.00

**Term 2 Calendar**

The last couple of weeks of this term

Jun 11	Inter-school Chess Tournament in hall.
Jun 15	Inter-zone Cross Country
Jun 15	Lunchtime sausage sizzle
Jun 15	Wellington High visit to speak to Y8
Jun 16	Wellington Girls' College Open Morning
Jun 16	Onslow College Open Evening 5:00pm
Jun 16	National Standards evening – 5:30pm
Jun 17	Wellington East Open evening.
Jun 23	Maori/Pasifika parent evening.
Jun 24	Chess tournament – Newlands Primary.
Jun 25	Disco
Jun 29	BoT meeting
Jul 2	Term ends

**Feedback**

The feedback we have had on the Three Way Conferences has been fantastic. Thank you to everyone who has sent something in and thanks also to teachers who have been diligently reminding parents through their class emails. We have had over 20% of parents respond which is an almost unheard of response.

It has encouraged me to ask for feedback on another area of school life.

**After School Care.**

Following the piece in the newsletter last week signalling some changes to ASC charges I got some unsolicited feedback on After School Care – extremely positive – and it made me realise that it is some time since we have asked parents for any feedback on the programme.

I could send out a questionnaire but perhaps we will just try some email feedback first. I would be very interested in hearing from you what you think about ASC. Quality of care, interactions with parents, value for money, administrative efficiency, suggestions for improvement, any overall comments. I will leave it over to you. All feedback is useful.

**National Standards Meeting**

Don't forget the information evening for parents at 5:30 on **June 16** in the library.



We will arrange to take care of any children, feeding and entertaining them, and will provide you with a cup of soup and a glass of wine while we talk to you about the approach we are taking to the National Standards and try to answer any questions you might have. **Please though, do let us know if you are planning to attend.**

**Extension and Enrichment Programmes**

The school has an extensive extension and enrichment programme and we are proud of the initiatives we have taken in managing gifted and talented children as well as the processes and programmes we have put in place to promote leadership. We have taken an approach which goes somewhat beyond the more usual GATE programmes and try to cater for a broad range of children. We have a number of innovative programmes such as our Sports Squad and our Young Leaders Group which have high status in the school. Places in these groups are highly sought after. We also run a number of other groups like Tournaments of Mind, Future Problem Solving, Young Designers, Maths Problem Challenge, The BP Technology Challenge, a Writers' Group and our Enviro Group. These groups encourage creative and critical thinking, team work and self management - all things which are directly linked to the key competencies in the curriculum.

It has been possible to create these programmes and embed them into the school culture because we have employed a part-time teacher to organise and run them. Natasha Jackson has done this for the past two years either running groups herself or releasing others to take them. When Jay Smith begins a year's leave at the end of this term Tash will take over as the classroom teacher and we will not be employing a replacement part-time teacher. Instead we will try to run the activities within the staff allocation we have. This will probably mean staff sacrificing some of the release time they get and some of their lunch hour.

It is possible that some of you may have skills, knowledge and contacts that could help us keep these programmes going through this term and next with some teacher assistance. We have already had some parent involvement with the Sports Squad for example on at least two occasions.

If you think that you might be able to offer us some time, expertise, skills, knowledge or useful contacts for any of these groups we would love to hear from you. Natasha Jackson will continue to have overall responsibility for these programmes and activities and can be contacted at: [natasha@thorndon.school.nz](mailto:natasha@thorndon.school.nz)

## THORNDON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

<p><b><i>Holiday Programmes</i></b></p> <p><b><i>School Holiday Programme</i></b></p> <p>Jess from After School Care will be running a school holiday programme during the July holidays.</p> <p>The programme will run out of the school hall this time and places will be limited.</p> <p>Enrolment forms are available from After School Care and because this is not a school activity payment should be made directly to Jess.</p>	<p><b><i>Part-time Work</i></b></p> <p>Office Administrator St Luke's Anglican Church Wadestown,</p> <p>We are seeking a suitable person to fill this position</p> <p>10—12 hours a week on Tues, Wed &amp; Thurs mornings</p> <p>Please contact Tric Malcolm <a href="mailto:vicar@slw.org.nz">vicar@slw.org.nz</a> or 473 6472 on Tues, Wed or Thurs mornings.</p> <p>(Hours are flexible during school holidays). Position available from late July</p>
<p><b><u>Children's Pottery Classes</u></b></p> <p>4 mornings (10-12 pm) or afternoons (1-3 pm)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> July Wellington Potters Rooms Grant Road Thorndon.</p> <p>4 x 2 hour sessions.</p> <p>\$75.00 includes clay and firing. Maximum 9 students, ages 7 to 14 years Phone 233-0003 Rosemary O'Hara, Potter and Registered Teacher</p>	<p><b><i>Competition</i></b></p> <p>This might be old news now but a couple of weeks ago I put something in the newsletter about a Radio Live competition one of our families was involved in which depended on votes.</p> <p>There were enough votes and the Angleseys will be enjoying a winter holiday in Wanaka later in the year.</p> <p>Well done. If we have to go through winter Wanaka might be a more pleasant place to do it than Wellington! For a while at least.</p>
<p><b><u>Wellington School of Cricket (WSC) July Holiday Programmes</u></b></p> <p>Week One 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July Standard Holiday Programme (SHP) for children between the ages 6 to 10 years</p> <p>Intermediate Cricket Clinics (ICC) for children between the ages 11 to 14</p> <p>Advance Skill Development Clinics (ASDC) for children over the ages 12</p> <p>For more information and on line registration visit our website <a href="http://www.cricketwellington.co.nz">www.cricketwellington.co.nz</a> Or contact one of us Mana: Glenn Pocknall on 021 409 864 Hutt and Basin: Ivan Tissera on 021 894 338</p>	<p><b><i>Open Evening</i></b></p> <p>It never rains but it pours. Another open evening. This one for the parents of Year 8 children considering enrolling at Onslow College.</p> <p>Wednesday 16 June 5:00 – 7:30</p> <p>Classroom visits at 5:00 Welcome and Principal's presentation at 6:30.</p> <p><b><i>Newtown Movie School</i></b></p> <p>Two holiday programmes to choose from: July 5 to 7 – stop motion special July 12 to 16 – short film and stop motion</p> <p>Be part of making a short film and create your own stop motion movies A full-on time of creativity and movies</p> <p><b>12 places only and filling fast</b></p> <p>You can view previous movies and get contact and registration details from <a href="http://www.acumen.net.nz/pages/MovieSchool.html">www.acumen.net.nz/pages/MovieSchool.html</a></p>

The little ad below feels a little like running a promotion for TelstraClear and in a way that is what it is but we have no interest in promoting Telstra over any other provider and the school has no connection with Telstra. All we really want is to get people who have a TelstraClear account to nominate the school to get the points generated by your bills. Anyone who is with TelstraClear is able to do this regardless of where they live and they don't need to have any connection with the school.

## Support Your School with TelstraClear and *intelligent rewards*<sup>TM</sup>



Here's your chance to help support **Thorndon School** and it's as simple as being a **TelstraClear** customer.

**Thorndon** can receive 1.5 reward points for every dollar TelstraClear residential customers spend, which we can then use to get fantastic rewards, e.g. computers, school trips, sports gear, musical instruments, and almost anything.

To make a **no obligation** enquiry about services and savings TelstraClear can offer, simply visit [www.intelligentrewards.co.nz](http://www.intelligentrewards.co.nz) and complete the online enquiry form "**I am interested in becoming a TelstraClear customer**".

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**Maximum Speed Broadband**  
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**Unlimited International Calls (28 Countries)**  
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**Bills You Can Predict**

**FREE Modem**  
**Free standard connection**  
**Your first two months' package charges for FREE! (worth up to \$290)\***

Other TelstraClear Services available:  
**GSM/3G mobile service**  
**Digital TV service (Wellington, Kapiti, Christchurch)**

As an existing TelstraClear customer you can support **Thorndon School** by completing the "**I am an existing TelstraClear customer**" nomination form online at [www.intelligentrewards.co.nz](http://www.intelligentrewards.co.nz).

Alternatively, simply call **TelstraClear** toll free on **0508 011 737** or ask at the school office.



\*Conditions apply – please go to [www.telstraclear.co.nz](http://www.telstraclear.co.nz) to read. Offer is for 24 month sign up and ends 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.