

NEWSLETTER NO 9

Thursday 11th June 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers



With the current outbreak of Swine Flu in Australia (634 cases) the Ministry of Education is advising schools to review their pandemic preparedness plans. We have a pandemic plan which was developed three years ago when there was a threat of Bird Flu affecting people in New Zealand. As you'll know, these plans were not implemented as Bird Flu did not reach our shores. However, with the increasing number of swine flu cases in New Zealand we will be reviewing our pandemic preparedness plan.

If your child is exhibiting any flu like symptoms such as headache, fever, runny nose etc could you please keep them at home until all symptoms are gone.

Community Survey

Attached to this Newsletter is a community survey we would like you to complete. We feel it is important to consult with you on what you believe your child should be learning at school, how successful we are at educating your child and identifying those areas where we need to improve. Please take the time to fill this in, as information gleaned from this survey will be used to target our professional programmes and make changes for the future. As an incentive, students who return the completed survey to the office will be given a canteen voucher to the value of \$3.50.

Open Day

Tomorrow we are holding our Open Day between 9.00am and 12.30pm. If you have a child in Year 6, you are invited to meet in the school foyer and receive a tour of the school from Mr Papas or myself.

School Cross Country

Congratulations to the following students who finished in the top five places:

Year 7 Boys

Asafo Aumua	Room 6
Bonventure Remijo Thomas	Room 9
Bradley Ebert	Room 12
Jack Morrissey	Room 11
Nicholas Mallender	Room 20

Year 7 Girls

Shannon Eijgenraam	Room 19
Renee Jensen	Room 11
Tema Havea	Room 12
Emma Standeven	Room 11
Jesshay Burrowes	Room 18

Year 8 Boys

Thomas Mallender	Room 11
Caleb Hill	Room 6
Joshua Munezero	Room 15
Isaako Sopoaga	Room 18
Malaki Peseta	Room 20

Year 8 Girls

Jordyn Smith	Room 5
Emma Cropp	Room 21
Ashlee Smith	Room 9
Monica Doan	Room 19
Shontika Orr	Room 18

Congratulations also to the students who represented our school at the Inter school cross country held at Trentham Memorial Park last week. Although not threatening the trophy table, all runners competed to the best of their ability.

Persuasive Writing

Over recent weeks students have been learning how to write persuasively. This involves taking one side of an issue and backing it up with opinion that is clear and convincing. Last week all students were asked to write a piece of persuasive writing to the Principal stating whether they agreed or disagreed with either of the following statements.:

"Should students be allowed to use their MP3 players during class time?"

Or

"Should students be allowed to use their cell phones during class time?"

The following is a very good example of persuasive writing written by Leah Agustin in Room 11.

Is there really any reason for students to be allowed to use their cell phones during class time? No, though there are plenty of reasons why they shouldn't. Having cell phones in class can cause major problems such as text bullying and cheating during tests. Some students get pressured by their friends into getting new versions of cell phones, which will then cause problems for the family, due to the cost of the phone. Cell phones can also cause a lack of concentration since it distracts you from your work. It is hard enough for students to concentrate on their school work so why would you add more problems for them?

Firstly, cell phones can cause a distraction to all students. Instead of concentrating on their school work, they will be constantly texting other people or possibly playing games. It would really be distracting not only for yourself, but you would also be distracting other people around who are trying to listen to the discussion. Sometimes it's very hard to do two things at the same time so you wouldn't be able to keep up with the class

discussion. This will then cause poor grades in your report which may affect your learning.

Technology is slowly upgrading and nowadays you can connect to the internet by the use of your cell phone. If cell phones are used in class during tests, it would be easier for students to cheat. Yes, this will result in students having high marks, but all this is doing is making students lazy. Students aren't really learning. They are just becoming dependent on technology to do all the thinking when it's students who should be the ones who are working.

A major problem for most students is peer pressure. Nowadays, cell phones are not only used for communicating, they are also used as a "fashion statement". Children get pressured easily by their friends or other people into getting something that may be worth a lot of money. This will then cause problems to the family since the cost is very expensive, not only for the cell phone itself, but also for "top ups" and "downloads". If some won't be able to get it, this may result in them taking drastic measures/do stupid things like stealing.

Over the years, text bullying has been a big problem for many students. This has caused innocent people to cut themselves or commit suicide. We should not let this action continue. If students are constantly on their phones texting, the problem would only get worse.

There is no reason for students to use cell phones in class, but a lot on why they shouldn't. Would you want all these problems to happen? Then don't pursue this action. It's as simple as that.

Well done Leah!

Steve Black
Principal