

## NEWSLETTER NO 2

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010

#### Dear Parents/Caregivers

##### Picnic



As in previous years the annual picnic to Days Bay was a great success. Students took full advantage of the fine weather and enjoyed swimming, canoeing, jumping off the wharf, fishing jet boating and being pulled around the Bay on a 'doughnut'. Thank you to parents who transported students to and from Days Bay.

##### Meet the Teacher



We had a really good turnout for our meet the teacher evening last Tuesday and teachers were pleased to have the opportunity to speak to their student's parents about organisation and planning for the year. Our quest speaker Laughton King proved very popular and I hope parents have had success at putting some of his strategies into practice at home.

##### AsTTle and STAR Testing

The teachers have been busy administering AsTTle (Assessment tools for Teaching and Learning) and STAR (Supplementary Tests of Achievement in Reading) tests. These tests are used to determine individual student achievement levels in writing and reading. When completed teachers will analyze the data to identify individual student needs. Armed with this

information, they will then create learning programmes designed to meet these needs. Students will be grouped according to their needs and undertake instructional reading and writing lessons. Students will be tested again in June and November to determine their rate of progress.

##### Naenae Schools Literacy Project

As mentioned during the meet the teacher evening, our school is part of a combined schools initiative to improve writing and reading levels across all schools in the cluster. The project's objective is to ensure that students begin college at or above Level 4. Many are not at this level and our staff will be working hard with their students to ensure they make good progress at meeting this objective. The project's focus this year is on writing and teachers will receive lots of professional development on giving students effective feedback on the quality of their writing. We know that when students are informed of what they do well, where they need to improve and how to make that improvement, they will start to make real progress.

This year your child will receive two written progress reports and included in the report will be details of how well your child is progressing against national standards for reading, writing and maths. I'll give you more information at a later date about how teachers make these judgements.

## Goal Setting and Key Competencies

The key competencies were introduced in schools along with the implementation of the new curriculum. The Ministry of Education has stated that the key competencies are equally as important as the learning areas of the curriculum. The key competencies are:

- Managing self.
- Relating to others.
- Participating and contributing.
- Thinking.
- Using language, symbols and text.

People use these competencies to live, learn, work and contribute as active members of the community.

Our students will be assessed on these competencies as part of the mid year and end of year reports. However, we would like them to take some responsibility for using these competencies and teachers will be asking their students to select one competency and one learning goal to work on for the first part of the year. Hopefully these will come home next week for you to discuss with your child.

## Athletic Sports and being sunsmart



Next Tuesday (9.15am - 2.30pm) and Wednesday (11.00pm - 12.30pm) we will be holding our Athletic Sports on the school field. As

students will be outside for long periods of time, we are strongly recommending that your child wears the official school cap (\$10.00 each at the office) or a hat with a brim. If you have sunblock at home please make sure your child puts some on before coming to school. Sunblock will also be available at school. Parents are most welcome to join us.

## Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees meets on the third Monday of each month. The members are:

Paul Alcock - Chairperson  
Graeme Ross - Treasurer  
Rachael Slade - Staff Rep.  
Steve Black - Principal  
Megan Carrington - Minutes Secretary  
Sonny Kuti  
Shane Tapara  
Shirelle Moeau

Board of Trustees elections are held every three years and the next election will be held this year on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. Nomination forms will be sent home in a few weeks time so please give some thought to putting your name forward.

## Earthquake Safety Procedures

Each Term we are required to practice our emergency evacuation drill so students will know what to do in the event of an earthquake or fire. We had our first drill last week and it went very well. Should there be a large earthquake with considerable property damage where parents may have difficulty getting to school immediately; students will be kept at school until they are picked up by a designated caregiver. Details of designated caregivers should have been recorded by you on the enrolment form. If these details have changed or you wish to add other names then please see Ms Browne in the office.

## Public Health Nurse

Our Public Health Nurse is Lee Thoms. Lee visits our school every Monday. She offers advice and support for any health concerns or problems that may be affecting learning. If your child has any concerns they can make an appointment to see Lee through their teacher or Mrs Carrington at the office.

Steve Black  
Principal