

NEWSLETTER NO 8

Thursday 28th May 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Thank you very much for keeping your child home from school yesterday in order for the teachers to meet and discuss the implementation of the new school curriculum. I can understand that this may have been an inconvenience, but it was very beneficial in terms of the education we can offer our students in the future.

National Standards

You may have heard/read that the Government is planning to introduce National Standards for reading, writing and maths for students in years 1 - 8 from 2010. The Government is concerned that one in five students leave school without gaining the basic skills that they need to succeed in education, work and their daily lives. Each standard will clearly state the expected level of achievement of each child compared with others at that age and level across New Zealand. The Ministry has worked with education experts to develop draft reading, writing and maths standards which reflect what they believe is important for teachers to focus on, and what parents need to know to support the progress of their children. The draft standards have been posted to schools and consultation meetings have been organised nation-wide for educators to meet and discuss these standards and how they can best be implemented. A separate consultation process is seeking views of parents, families and whanau on the most helpful type of reporting for them. One of the aspects of interest to

us, is what assessment tools are we going to be required to use to measure students progress against the national standards. At present, we use STAR and AsTTle tests to measure progress in reading and writing. I'll keep you up to date with developments.

Life Education



We have the Life Education van parked in our school grounds at present and classes are enjoying working with Life Ed. Educator Jo Manks. Students are learning about the dangers of taking drugs and alcohol and the harm it can do to the body.

Reporting to the School Office

Please remember that if you wish to talk to your child, collect him/her for an appointment or drop off a lunch, you must report to the school office. A Receptionist will be sent to your child's class to collect them. Please also remember that all students must be signed out at the office if they are leaving school before 2.50pm.

Dropping students off in the morning.



We understand that it can be easier to drive into the school grounds to drop your child off in the mornings rather than trying to find a park in a very congested Walters Street. However, we ask that you do not do this, as staff and delivery vehicles are having difficulties getting in to the school.

Year 6 visits

I have completed my visits to our contributing schools to drop off the 2010 prospectus and talk to the Year 6 students. The Year 7 students who came with me did a marvellous job of promoting our school and spoke very well. Our next event is Open Day and parents of prospective enrolments are invited to come and see the school in action on Friday 12th June. Parents are invited to meet in the school foyer between 9.00am and 12.30pm and receive a tour of the school from either myself or Mr Papas.

Production



Production rehearsals are well underway and students are enjoying learning the new songs. At the end of the third rehearsal, students were given the opportunity to drop out if they felt that Production was not really their 'thing'. Out of the 301 students involved in the Production only 12 asked to be excused.

Thank you to those parents who donated make up. Mrs Twomey is now looking for striped sheets to make into costumes. If you have any unwanted sheets, could you please drop them off at the school office.

Persuasive Writing



Over recent weeks students have been learning how to write a good piece of persuasive writing. This includes structuring and presenting an argument by giving their opinion and supporting it with details. Next week all students will receive an AsTTle persuasive writing test to determine how much they have learnt. Results of this test will be compared with the test administered in February to determine how much progress students have made.

Shoes

If you are about to purchase a new pair of shoes for your child, please ensure that they are either black sport shoes or black school shoes. The shoes **must be plain black with black laces**. Please don't listen to your child when they ask for shoes that have white laces or are not totally black.

Mufti Day

Students are invited to wear mufti and bring \$2.00 to school on Friday 5th June to raise money for the production of the 2009 Year Book.

Upcoming dates

School cross country 29th May
Inter-school cross country 3rd June
Inter school girls hockey 10th June
Open Day 12th June
Inter school boys hockey 17th June
Year 8s visiting Naenae College 17th June
School reports home 26th June
Parent interviews 29th/30th June
Information Evening 30th June.

Notices



If your daughter would like to join the Girl Guides, based at the Scout Den in Colson Street, on Thursday nights from 6.00pm - 8.00pm, please pick up a pamphlet from the school office.

Enthusiasm is the match that lights the candle of achievement.

William Arthur Boyd

Thank you

Steve Black
(Principal)