

NEWSLETTER NO 6

Thursday 30th April 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the beginning of Term 2. I hope you had a relaxing holiday and managed to get outdoors to enjoy the beautiful weather. Unfortunately, this beautiful weather has deserted us and we have had a very wet start to the Term. Once again we have an event filled ten weeks ahead of us and shortly you should receive a newsletter from your child's syndicate leader informing you of classroom programmes planned for this Term. Events to take a note of this Term include:

Life Education	18 th May
Rugby 7s tournament	20 th May
Curriculum Day	27 th May
School cross country	29 th May
Queens Birthday	1 st June
Inter school Cross country	3 rd June
Open Day	12 th June
Boys Hockey tournament	17 th June
Student reports distributed	26 th June
Parent interviews	29 th & 30 th June
Information evening for 2010	30 th June
School finishes for Term 2:	3 rd July

Wet Weather

With all this wet weather it is important that students wear a coat to school. Many students are arriving in the morning without a coat and then spend the rest of the day sitting in wet clothes. This is not good for their health or their learning. Students are permitted to wear any type of coat, so please encourage them to wear one. Please remember that cotton hoodies are not coats and are not permitted to be worn to or from school. We would appreciate your support with this.

Life Education



A newsletter will be coming home in the near future informing you of a Life Education programme on "Substances" which our students will be undertaking. The Substances module is tailored to explore the effects of legal and illegal drugs on the human body, particularly during puberty. Apart from infancy, puberty is the time in the human life cycle of the greatest growth and change of the body and more particularly the brain so any substance abuse during this time could have **serious long term effects on the overall development of a young person.** In this strand social consequences of drug use are also explored as well as looking at peer pressure, decision making and strengthening self confidence.

Curriculum Day



You will notice in the list of events, we have planned a curriculum day for Wednesday 27th May. The Ministry of Education has granted all schools a Teacher Only Day to discuss the implementation of the new curriculum. We will be taking ours on Wednesday the 27th May. School will be closed for all students and parents are asked to keep their children at home. We apologise for the inconvenience and hope that you'll appreciate the importance of this day. Helen Jackman from Victoria University will be our facilitator.

Visit from Dyer Street School

Today we received a visit from Dyer Street School. The reason for their visit was to view and hear from Mr Rangiwhehu, the legend behind the wall carvings at the front of the school hall. For the Dyer Street students this is the beginning of an Inquiry Learning unit of study on "our community".

Inquiry Learning is an approach that many schools are using to their topic work. Traditional subjects such as social studies, science, technology, writing, reading and even maths are incorporated into the one main theme. Students are encouraged to develop their own area of enquiry within the theme and use many types of resources to find answers to their questions. Initially the inquiry learning is teacher directed, but over time students are responsible for their own enquiry. The teacher becomes the facilitator of the learning - guiding the student and monitoring progress. At Naenae Intermediate we have started using this approach and each Syndicate has their own theme for the Term.

Production



All but seventy of our students have opted into the Production this year. We are really pleased about this, as we are always encouraging them to make the most of the activities on offer and they only have one opportunity to take part in Production during the two years they are with us. So well done students, we hope you really enjoy the experience!

This year we are 'doing' Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. As you'll know this is a really popular show with lots of great costumes, songs and dancing. I'm sure we'll receive huge support from our community as we have done in the past. Although the

Production is not being performed until the end of Term 3, preparation is well underway and yesterday all those involved got together in the hall to start learning the songs.

Mrs Twomey, one of our Production directors (the other being Mrs Adam), would be very grateful for any donations of unwanted make up - lipstick, foundation, eye liner etc.

During the Production the choir sits on scaffolding which we pay to have installed. This is very expensive, so if you know of anyone who has a scaffolding business and would be prepared to install it for us at "mates rates" we would be most pleased to hear from you.

Venture Class

The first Venture Class for the year began on Monday with a meeting involving Mrs Adam and parents of students in the class. Thank you to those who attended. The theme for the Term will be 'The Living Museum' and students will be developing their own enquiry around this topic. In addition to this they will be earning their independence licence, attending a gym session once a week and receiving weekly lessons in German and Taiaha. Sounds like a lot of fun doesn't it?

'It's not the biggest, the brightest, or the best that will survive, but those who adapt the quickest'. Charles Darwin

Thank you.

Steve Black
(Principal)