

## NEWSLETTER NO 8 THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011

### **Descriptive Writing**

As you will have read in the last newsletter, our writing focus has been on descriptive writing. When marking these pieces of writing, teachers measure the student's work against progress indicators for punctuation, grammar, language resources, audience awareness, content, structure and spelling. The teacher then gives each child a level and a sub level (2b,2p,2a. 3b,3p,3a ....etc) for the piece of writing. These are AsTTle levels which I know you are all familiar with. Students are also very familiar with these Levels having worked with them for the last six years.

Staff have become proficient in marking writing as a result of whole staff moderation sessions where we discuss what a piece of Level 2, Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 writing should contain if it is to meet the success criteria for each Level.

After the marking has been completed by the teachers, Mrs Twomey one of our Literacy Leaders then checks a large sample of the writing to ensure that the teachers have got it right. Mrs Twomey then reports back to the staff on their level of accuracy in marking the writing.

Mrs Twomey reported that generally the teachers were very accurate with their marking which of course we are all pleased about. She also made a few comments about the student's work which I thought I would pass on to you. These included:

"The content of their writing, keeping to the topic and the use of paragraphs is very good."

"Many students are only using simple vocabulary and must start using more

sophisticated vocabulary. Reading a variety of texts at home will help with this".

"Many students are only writing simple sentences. In order for these students to attain higher levels they must start using complex sentences". Lots of independent reading will help with this."

"Students should take more care with their punctuation and punctuate as they write. Remember all nouns have capitals"

**"Our best writers read at home every night."**

Below is an excerpt from Brittany Moody-Tunbridge's (Room 5) excellent Descriptive Writing on our Librarian Mrs Walker:

"If everything starts to be happy that's when you will know Mrs Walker is in the room. When she is in the library it seems as if her happiness has made everyone else happy. It is as if she has been working in the library her whole life.

Mrs Walker is a likeable person; that she is! I couldn't imagine who wouldn't like her. If there was a contest for the best Librarian in the world it would definitely be Mrs Walker. Imagine the books are baby birds and the Mum bird is Mrs Walker: protecting them, picking them up when they're falling down and when they are hurt she will fix them.

I couldn't think what the library would be like at Naenae Intermediate without the awesome, cool Mrs Walker there organising it. She makes it a welcoming place for our learning.

### **Year 7 Immunisation**

This will take place next Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June for those students who have returned their permission slips. If the permission slip is not returned before this date, parents will need to make arrangements with their Doctors for this to be done

### **Naenae United Video**

A big thank you to the staff of Naenae United Video who have generously supplied us with certificates and free video vouchers to be given out at assembly and awarded to our basketball 'players of the day'. These have been gratefully received by all recipients.

### **Naenae College Open Day**

All Year 8 students will be visiting Naenae College next Wednesday. This will give them an opportunity to see the College in action and an idea of what to expect next year. For those students who will not be attending Naenae College next year this will still be a worthwhile experience.

### **Lateness**

As mentioned in an earlier Newsletter we have a number of students who are arriving late to school. Last week we sent out letters to parents of students who are late on a regular basis. Many of these parents, after receiving the letter, informed us that they had no idea that their children were late to school. They had naturally assumed that their children were getting to school on time because they were leaving home with enough time to do this. Please feel free to check with our school office on your child's lateness/attendance.

### **Inter school Cross Country**

Forty students represented our school at this event last week. Unfortunately none of our students finished in the first ten places. Our best finishers were

Robbie Hawkins and Ariel Hemara who finished a very creditable 26<sup>th</sup>. Coach Mr Brightwell said "I was very impressed with their behaviour and attitude in wanting to do their very best for themselves and the school".

### **Olivia T Shirt Orders**



Students who are in the Production choir are required to purchase a T shirt which will be worn during the Production. Order forms indicating the size required are available from the school office and must be returned by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

### **After School Care Programme**

The After School Care Programme operating here at school is going very well. Students have developed some very positive relationships and interact well with each other. Congratulations to both Tiana Tikimoe and Horowai Kereopa, who were the successful winners of the recent HYPER Challenges. These two students received a \$70 Westfield Voucher for completing a variety of physical and academic challenges. There are still 4 spaces available for the After School Care Programme. The Holiday Programme for the end of Term 2 is filling up quickly, so if you would like to make an enquiry, please contact Mike Brightwell on 0272754426 or [hyperinfo@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:hyperinfo@vodafone.co.nz)

"No one can cheat you out of ultimate success except yourself."

Ralph Walde Emerson

Thank you

Steve Black  
(Principal)