

28 May 2010

Newsletter No 15

Dear Parents

The end of the protracted autumn is certainly over now – along with the drought. Believe it or not, we are also halfway through this term!

From the Board

The old and new boards met together this Tuesday to officially affect the changeover. The new board duly elected members to their board positions as follows:

<i>Chair</i>	Jacqui Cantell
<i>Secretary & PFA Rep</i>	Anna-Fay Hinton
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andrew Couch
<i>Property & CHARAC</i>	Steve Applegath
<i>Policy</i>	Colin Mitten

Paul Greenstreet as Principal & Chris Boulden as Teachers Rep also complete the Board. We look forward to a great 3 years working together in partnership for you all and most importantly, for the kids.

We would like to extend a **massive THANKYOU** to the outgoing Board who achieved some significant projects during their term. JD Glover as Chair and Property Officer, project managed the new classroom (3A) which was a monumental task and was completed to a fantastic standard. He also spent many hours behind the scenes, working with Paul progressing many issues. Rohan Stace added a lot of structure and great advice in his role as secretary. Warren Haigh, in 3 terms (9years!), contributed beyond this space in his capacity as Board member and Property officer. Richard Manthel started getting his teeth into the communication portfolio and managed a huge coup by getting the Prime Minister John Key to open our new classroom. I had the Treasurer's portfolio and am pleased to tell you all the school is in a strong financial position.

Thank-you guys. JD will continue to assist for the next few meetings as there are a few outstanding property issues needing completion.

As always, the Board is accessible to you all, via the office, should you want to enquire or chat about a matter. Our meetings are public meetings so you are invited to come along and see what we do – maybe give us a couple of meetings to settle in.

Best,
Jacqui Cantell
Chair

BOARD MEETING DATES:

Tuesday 15th June 7:15pm - Staffroom

Tuesday 20th July 7:15pm - Staffroom

... and from the Principal

On behalf of our staff, welcome to our new Board members - and as Jacqui as said, we look forward to building a team whose efforts ultimately benefit our children.

To the past Board', my sincere thanks for your time and effort over the last three years, J.D., Jacqui, Rohan, Richard – and in Warren's case – **9 years!** We have again achieved a great deal, both as a team and with noteworthy contributions from individuals within it. So many facets need to be and are dealt with, ranging from perhaps the more obvious such as property and finances, but a raft of others including curriculum, personnel, reporting, safety, legislative, policies, compliance, and within these, aspects are often many and varied. Great work – **Thank you!**

Principal's Sabbatical

I have been awarded a 10 week sabbatical by the Ministry of Education in conjunction with the New Zealand Principals' Federation. The Ministry funds my release and associated internal staffing upgrades. Richard Johnson will be Acting Principal while I am away next term.

I intend researching 'The Key Elements of Positive Relationships Between Principal and Staff in a Primary Schools', in New Zealand, Australia and England.

Buses Next Term

Ritchies have been given the new contract from the beginning of next term. Hopefully there will not be too many changes though it looks likely we will be returning to the three morning buses from the current two. When we receive final details we will notify you via the newsletter.

In the meantime, it is important that you know about bus eligibility. Interestingly, there are currently less than 30 of our pupils who are actually eligible for a free bus service. Eligibility is determined by your address (within the Coatesville Transport Entitlement Zone or TEZ) and the distance from your nearest school (more than 3.2km for under 10 years or more than 4.8km for those 10 and over). Please note that the school zone and the TEZ are not the same!

Not being eligible for the free service doesn't mean your child can't catch a bus if it suits but you may be required to pay the bus company if they request it.

If you are not sure whether you are one of the eligible bus users please phone or send a note to the school office and we'll let you know

Footwear and Spare Clothes

During Terms 2 and 3 children are required to wear footwear while outside the classroom. They then remove this to enter rooms thereby ensuring flooring remains clean and dry. We also encourage children to have a change of clothing in their bags over winter. We don't carry enough spare clothing to cover every eventuality.

Interschool Cross Country

We were very lucky that this event slotted neatly between the many cloud bursts this week. Considering the amount of rain we have had, the course on the reserve was in very good shape. Well done to all competitors and thank you to Phil Hancock, Shelley Ross and parent helpers for ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

Top three place-getters were:

8 yr girls	<i>Georgia Green</i>	<i>1st</i>
9 yr girls	<i>Nicola West</i>	<i>1st</i>
	<i>Amanda West</i>	<i>2nd</i>
	<i>Madison Hiskens</i>	<i>3rd</i>
9 yr boys	<i>Daniel Mitten</i>	<i>1st</i>

Scratch Day 2010



Last Saturday several of the **SCRATCH** 'Boys in School' boys and their families attended Scratch Day at Forrest Hill School. Logan Beckman was a student helper for Scratch Day. He was joined by his big brother Sam, a past member of the Boys in School group. Mack and Ross worked on their own games. Ross worked in Room 1, the more advanced projects room with other boys from Forrest Hill School. Oscar D, Oscar T, John and Felix worked alongside their dads with the Scratch card challenge.

Scratch is a computer programming language for kids of all ages. Scratch makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art -- and share your creations on the web. The software was developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab. Scratch Day is an international event held in over 30 countries.

It was a fun day and we had a great turn out of parents and children from Coatesville School and Forrest Hill School. I'd like to thank Phil Patton, National Sales Manager IBM for providing IBM lanyards for our helpers and spot prizes to give away. Our student helpers did a fantastic job! It was great to see the Mums, Dads, Nanas and Granddads all giving Scratch a go.

James Robson – Boys in School Teacher

PFA

Saturday 29th May TOMORROW is The **Mad Hatters Quiz Night!!!** Tickets are selling fast so be quick (only \$20 each from **Nichole – Please call 021 582107**) to be in. Door sales will be available. There will be spot prizes, a table prize, a coin toss and raffle.

Thanks to all those who joined us on Sunday for the Ag Day ribbon printing. This was really well supported and the muffins and scones went down a treat ... The next session will be on Sunday 20th June 10-12 in the ARTEC room.

The next PFA meeting is next **Tuesday 29th June at 7.30pm** in the ARTEC room. Please come and join us and see how you can get involved to help support the school. We would love to see some new faces.

Dates for the diary:

- **29th May** – Mad Hatters Quiz Night
- **6th June** – Coatesville Market (Room 7)
- **2nd July** – School disco

The Big Bash

A school fundraiser for the Big children (adults). Keep 28th August free for a "Heroes and Villains" fun filled evening.

For this fundraiser we need:

A spit roast machine and a kind parent to donate one fat lamb to a grateful organizing committee. Please phone Chrissie 4150072.

Monday Sausage Sizzle

We need more helpers for next terms Monday Sausage Sizzle. It is for approx 1 hour from 11.45, one lunchtime a term. You do it in pairs and I would match you with an experienced sausage sizzler until you got the hang of it. It is one of the easiest ways to help out the school. Please contact me if you are able to set aside a Monday lunchtime once a term. Thanks to all the helpers many of whom have been doing this for years. *Kirsty 4445497*

Scholastic Book Orders - The latest order is due back before school next Wednesday. It's a quick turnaround as the organizer is having a holiday. It is fine to make one credit card payment or one cheque for an entire family order. Cheques payable to Scholastic NZ.

Available following the Book Fair

One copy of 'The Wonky Donkey' – book and CD – \$25. Call Chrissie Dunn 4150072.

Kind Regards