

3 September 2010

Newsletter No 27

Dear Parents

Spring is now upon us. It is a great time to start looking forward to the many enjoyable things spring (and summer) bring. But before I get a chance to do that I will take a moment from my schedule to reflect on what has been a very full and rewarding week.

*It started well on Monday evening with Jacqui (our BOT Chairperson) and I attending a presentation for schools having an **ERO visit** next term. We are definitely one of those schools and they deemed us worthy of being visited very early in the term! Starting on Day 1 of Term 4 actually! We look forward to their visit.*

*The Yr 5-6 **Speech Competition** was keenly contested in the library on Tuesday night. The winner was Hayden Banks who concluded that "There is too much homework at high school".*

Congratulations to Hayden, who also represented our school admirably in the Inter-School competition yesterday, coming 4th. Well done!

Our runner-up was Zoe Fifield who shared her ideas on "Horse Riding" extremely well. The other five finalists – Lachlan Davidson, Harrison Gannon, Cameron Nicolson, Sophie Nuttall, and Jessica Ye – shared their speeches with plenty of skill and enthusiasm. Well done to all of you for your achievements.

Many 'thank yous' to Ms Blackmore who co-ordinated the event, to all of the Totara Team teachers who helped students complete their speeches for 2010, and to the students who wrote, practised and presented their speeches.

The library was again the scene for the 'New Parent morning tea' on Wednesday. There was an excellent attendance, with the PFA providing the morning tea (thank you very much for your very welcoming efforts) and Margaret Read and Helen Barlow (teacher of our Reception class) who gave a very informative presentation and answered many questions that our eager bunch of parents had. Thank you very much to Margaret & Helen for their input - it was a very worthwhile session (the parents even got to see the whole school Jump Jamming).

*And finally, with a subject very close to my heart, we had the **final Rugby Tournament Day** yesterday in Riverhead. Once again our teams performed extremely well, with our tackle team unbeaten (and qualifying for the NH finals) and our rippa teams winning 2 out of their 3 games with some brilliant play along the way.*

It has been another very successful season (even though we lost one of the days to bad weather) with great support on the sidelines, many offers of transport, excellent behavior and play by our children, and very positive input and encouragement from our coaches James Hicks, Shelley Ross, Jon Green (and myself).

Thank you – and we'll do it again next season!

AFTER SCHOOL SAFETY

Staff are proactive regarding the safety of our students. As such, we have identified a few aspects that we'd like to share with students and parents to ensure we are looking after our students in the best possible way **after 3pm**.

To maintain the safety of our children we would like full support for the following please (some of which are already school rules/procedures):

- * Children playing on the playground after 3pm must be supervised by parents/caregivers.
- * Yr 4-6 children only are able to play on the senior fitness trail.
- * Children waiting to be picked up are to wait in a designated area by the 'friendship' seat.
- * At 3.15 the bus duty teacher will request that children still waiting must report to the court area. Having children unsupervised by the gate/road is something we do not feel comfortable with.
- * Parents/caregivers can then collect their children from there.

Your support with these actions will help to promote safety in and around our school after 3pm. Thank you for your support.

Daffodil Day

Thank you for your support of this worthy cause. Our student leaders took your donations in return for a daffodil and raised \$373.90 which has been sent to the NZ Cancer Society.



PFA

Welcome to Spring!!!

The PFA would like to thank Colin Mitten and his team for coordinating the Heroes and Villains do last weekend. Sounds like it was a great event, enjoyed by all. Many thanks.

- **Sponsorship** – We are looking for a few sponsors for various Ag Day activities ranging in amounts from \$100 upward. Contact Nichole 021582107 for more info.
- **Ag Day Collections** – The items for collection over the next couple of weeks are **clean, good quality books and anything in a bottle**. There are boxes in each classroom for donations. Don't forget to check the expiry date is after 20th October 2010. We will still happily accept **hamper items and lollies and items for the auction or lucky dip** so continue with the good work and many thanks to those who have already made some donations. Remember that the success of the day depends on these donations. When we get back from the school holidays we will be looking for plant donations for the plant stall.
- **Ag Day Registration Packs** – These should be returned by next Friday 10th September. If you need any more copies they can be downloaded from the school website.
- **Newsletter Advertisements** – The advertisements on the back of our newsletter covers will be coming up for renewal towards the end of the year and we're seeking registrations of interest for the next print run. This is an extremely effective way of advertising your business to the school and local community. Please email Sarah Bowden, PFA Chairperson, and register your interest by **Friday 10th September** sarahbowden@xtra.co.nz
- **Coatesville Market Sausage Sizzle** – The September sausage sizzle will be run by volunteers from Room 10 this **Sunday 5th September 10am-2pm** so remember to take your dad out for a sausage sizzle on Fathers Day.
- **Icy Slicey** – The next Icy Slicey will be on Thursday September 23rd – gold coin donation.
- **PFA Meeting** – The next PFA meeting is on Tuesday 14th September. All welcome. Nibbles and drinks provided from 7:30pm in the Artec Room.

Scholastic Book Orders

The latest order is due in before school on Monday. Please make cheques payable to Scholastic NZ.

Good luck to Rimu team for their production next week – we are looking forward to seeing it. Have a very enjoyable 'spring' weekend everyone – and Happy Fathers' Day for Sunday!

Kind Regards

East Coast Bays Cricket Club: Junior Registrations

– Wed 8th & Thurs 9th Sept, 4-7pm at clubrooms 496 East Coast Rd, Mairangi Bay. 50% discount for girls and 10% discount for families. For more info contact club manager Aurelie on 021618761 or ecbayscricket@gmail.com

Small Farmers Market – each Wednesday afternoon 2-5pm in the Windmill Orchard car park. On site there is NZ Cheeseman, Farm Gate Produce (Aged Beef and true free range pork, homemade pies and pates), Cake Concepts and Dave Nash (smoked mussels and salmon).

Artz on Show presents our Grease Workshop. Spend the week with us at Westlake Boys High School from 4th - 8th October to learn dance, drama, art and vocals skills to perform in our Show on Friday 8th October. Phone us on 0800 ONSHOW to enrol or enquire or for more information see www.onshow.net.nz

Tennis – School Holiday Camps – 9am-3pm, 27-29 Sept at Mairangi Bay Tennis Club. All ages and standards welcome. \$125 for 3 days, \$50 per day, \$30 per half day. Fun, technique, tactics, ball skills, fitness, team games, match play, tournaments and prizes. To enrol or for more info ph Leo 02102445554, lingleson@gmail.com or visit www.visiontennis.co.nz

Lakes Golf Course Holiday Program – 29th Sept or 1st Oct. Includes lesson clinic with PGA Pro, bucket of balls, light meal & drink, game play, competition and prizes. Contact Paul Holmes to book your sport. Ph 094269814.

Swimming Lessons The Millennium Swim School is running week long intensive swimming lessons over the holidays for \$62.50 for 5 days. Suitable for 7 years and up. Please ph 4772074 for more info or to make a booking.

Bad Jelly The Witch – a Tim Bray Production at The Pumphouse from 27 Sept – 9 Oct. Bookings on 4898360 or www.pumphouse.co.nz

Holiday Art Classes – at Faculty of Education, Epsom. 27-30 Sept – am painting, pm clay. 4-7 Oct – am mixed media, pm painting. For a brochure or more info email c.gunnell@auckland.ac.nz or ph 623-8858.

Puss n Boots – a Phineas Phrog Production at the Bruce Mason Centre 4-9 Oct (no show 5 Oct), 10am and noon daily. Tickets \$12. Book now from Ticketmaster 9709700 or www.ticketmaster.co.nz (service fee applies).