

1 April 2010

Newsletter No 9

Dear Parents

Well this is it for term one I'm afraid – we have to wait 'til 19 April for the next round of action.

T'was great to see and chat with our ex-staff member Caleb Rosamond yesterday. Caleb is home for a week or two and shared some insights of education and life in Switzerland.

Teacher Only Day

Please put Monday 21 June in your diary, as a Teacher Only Day. That Monday is the only date we could secure the expertise of Michael Pohl, a renowned guru of Inquiry Learning.

Interviews

By all accounts the new format for what was the 6 week Report and Interview, now the (longer) 'Six Week Goal Setting Discussion', with parent, pupil and teacher, was very successful. As always, we welcome comment and feedback.

Hong Kong Trip

Three enquiries re this proposed trip, - a start. I would think this a unique opportunity and experience. If you can't recall the info from a couple of newsletters back, please call in and find out more. Basically, 6-8 students plus teacher, 10-12 days, some homestays some hotels, 3 schools, sightseeing, \$2,700 - \$3,000.

Telephone Directory - The 2010 directory has been completed by the PFA and accompanies today's newsletter. Apologies if there are any inaccuracies but please remember that, for privacy reasons, information in the book is not taken from office records but from the pink form filled out when a child enrolls. If you need to make changes for next year's book, please return the form on the last page of the directory – either now or as changes occur during the year.

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N.S.W. Preparatory Tests (Yrs 4-6)

I would like my child _____

of Rm _____ to sit the following N.S.W. Preparatory tests.

Science Maths English

I understand there will be a small charge for the actual exam and the preparation associated with it.

Signed _____ Name _____

New South Wales Uni Quizzes - Each year, children from our school participate in these Australian exams as part of our extension programme. The exams we participate in are Science, English, Writing and Maths. These tests are challenging and are seen as an extension exercise at our school. The exams are sent back to Australia for marking and collating of marks. Our children have consistently performed well in these, often difficult, papers.

As in 2009, there will be preparatory tests for Year 4, 5 and 6 children who are interested in taking part in Science, Maths and English this year. A benchmark of the 60th percentile will be set and children will need to score this to sit the actual quiz. The first prep test will be in Science and held later this month. While a number of children have been identified from 2009 results, if you would like your child to participate in any prep test, please complete the form below and return to the office by Wednesday 21 April.

Teachers will also identify pupils who are capable of sitting these tests. They will be asked to sit the prep test too. Teachers will select students to sit a writing prep exam. This will be based on writing ability shown during class time.

Please remember that these exams are often quite difficult and should be looked on as an extension activity. There will be a small charge for sitting the actual exam and the preparation associated with it.

Pumphouse Trip

The Year 1-3s enjoyed a fantastic production of 'The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate' at the Pumhouse this week.

Yay! We are going to a play called "The Man Whose Mother was a PIRATE". It was by Margaret Mahy and was at the Pumhouse. To get to the Pumhouse we went on a bendy bus. When we got off the bendy bus we had morning tea. We got called inside and we got a boat or a wave or a fish. My favourite part was when Mr Fat said "another cake". It was a long ride back to school on the bendy bus.

Arlo Wharton Rm 7

Today I went to the Pumhouse. When we got there we had morning tea then we saw "The Man whose Mother was a PIRATE!" My favourite part was when there was a teacher and a very naughty boy! Room 7 all had partners. My partner was Gina. I dressed up as a pirate. A man who worked there noticed me. He said "I hope those scars get better". I laughed. The man noticed me because he was sitting outside on a rock when we walked in.

Acasia O'Connell Rm 7

COATESVILLE SCRUFFS

Woof woof went the dogs....over 60 on the day! We found it very hard to hand out the two whoopsie prizes but instead awarded a staggering 70 prizes to the dogs and a further 30 prizes to the artistic doggie creations and fancy dressers. The variety of dogs was amazing from the tiniest purse sized miniature to a pony of a dog in the form of a St Bernard. Exotic breeds, such as a Maremma and a Spinoli graced us with their unusualness. Numerous dogs wagged their tails as hard as they could and the tape measure came out to record the longest ears. Hours of patience was rewarded by those with a 'special' trick. Well done to you all! Customs failed to find anything too dodgy in our children's pockets and the Dancing Dogs wowed us with their amazing agility and collection of tricks. Finally, Coatesville Dog Rescue offered a chance to adopt. The PFA pack and their merry bunch of helpers ensured the event was a huge success. Everything was set up on time with the muscular support from Tom Bowie and Jim Lindsay. Special thanks to local ladies, Angela Spooner and Beverley Powell who acted as judges all day. Thanks also to Susan and Phil Davidson who calmly dealt with a tangle of dogs and children in their roles of Assemble and Ring Stewards. Chrissie Dunn and Jacqui Cantell wrote up all the prize winning certificates (creatively designed by Rohan Stace). Rohan also took on the role of DJ with enthusiastic gusto amusing us with his wide knowledge of all things doggie! For example, describing a Bichon as a small white fluffy thing. Nicky Beckman and Sarah Bowden, calm under pressure, dealt with all those collecting registration numbers. Not forgetting the catering trio, of Anna-Fay Hinton, Joanne Geaney and Kirsty Dolan. The Hot Dogs raced way and the ham rolls...mmm. A big thanks to those mums who kindly donated the best thing to eat on the day, home baking. Sonia Connon's Dalmation kindly provided 392 spots for the children to count. Our local businesses provided most prizes but the biggest two Ultra Dog Foods donated a staggering \$500 of their product and Masterpet many hundreds of dollars of all things doggie. We would like to thank the following for their continued support in the way of donations and help. Albany Care Chemist, Factory Frames, RD1, AMI, Bakers Delight, Albany Animal Doctors, Dick Smith, Sky City Cinemas, Kodak Express, Soljans Winery, Pak N Save - Wairau and Albany, Albany Vets, Coatesville Chronicle, Woodbridge and Mincher Gardens and the Mittens family. *Mary Logan - Organiser*

PFA

The PFA would like to say a big thank you to Shona Jurlina, from Bayleys, who is continuing her financial support of our market stall this year.

We hope you all enjoyed **COATESVILLE SCRUFFS**. We would love to have your feedback on the event. We may look at running this event annually if there is enough interest. Drop a note to the PFA into the red letterbox outside the office.

The PFA has a new Chairperson, Sarah Bowden, who has a son in Year 1. Also thank you to the new parents who attended the meeting on Tuesday. It is great to see some new and enthusiastic faces around the table. All parents are welcome to join the PFA at any time during the year. Our next meeting is Tuesday 27 April.

Have a fantastic Easter holiday.

Other Upcoming Events

- * **19th April** Lunchtime sausage sizzle from 12:30
- * **27th April PFA Meeting** 7:30pm, Artec Room

Kind Regards

Auckland Regional Dental Service – Services are free to all pre-school, primary and intermediate school children. For details of the nearest School Dental Clinic open during the holiday period contact 0800 4 DENTAL or 0800 4336825. A list of clinics currently open is also available on our website: www.ards.co.nz

I AM FREE for Autumn at Auckland Museum – Aucklanders will receive free entry with proof of residence. Of course, kids are always free. School holiday activities include a BioBlitz, Crochet Sea Garden, *The Dangerous Museum for Boys and Girls* and more. Visit www.aucklandmuseum.com

Centrestage Theatre Company, Orewa – 'The White Rabbit' Mon 12-Thurs 15 April at 2pm and Fri 16 April at 7:30pm. Tickets \$8. Bookings from the Theatre Box Office or ph 094267282.

Fun, focused and real! High Five - A divorce and separation recovery programme for children aged 6 – 12 years old. For nine weeks starting Monday 26th April until Monday 28th June, 5.30 to 7.30pm. Cost: \$5/week to cover meal. Windsor Park Baptist Church, 550 East Coast Rd, Mairangi Bay. For further information, contact: 477 2000, or email Gayle at gayle.vanhoffen@windsorpark.org.nz

Little Red Riding Hood – at the Bruce Mason Centre. Tickets from www.ticketmaster.co.nz

The Man Whose Mother Was A Pirate – at the Pumphouse. As seen by the Year 1-3's this week. Visit www.pumphouse.co.nz for more info.