



10 June 2010

Newsletter No.17

Dear Parents/Caregivers

We have a small group of Year 5 / 6 students who have been selected for their talent in visual arts to complete three large sized murals which will be placed on the Room 4 external walls where the new library entrance is. The murals represent the environment including the land, the sea and the air. We intend for these murals to be completed by the end of this term. Mrs Vicki Wood who is a part time teacher at our school is taking the special programme.



Information Reports

As part of the writing process students have been learning how to write information reports, and as part of the broader curriculum science focus they have been looking at ways to present their new found understandings and knowledge in interesting ways to an audience. This group of Year 6 students have used a variety of skills in presenting their new learning using written and visual forms.



A Big Library Concern

It has been noticed that there is an increasing number of library books being returned wet and / or damaged. This is not acceptable. The school prides itself in having well maintained, clean and attractive books for students to borrow. Parents, please ensure your child does not eat or drink when reading library books, and that the books are kept out of reach from younger members of the family.

The Art of Printing

Some Atatu students have been learning how to build printing blocks out of cardboard, covering them with layers of different coloured inks and then using a roller to print the image onto paper. These prints are from Room 10 students, Yuzu and Josh.



Book Week

Next week is Book Week. Students across the school are going to be involved in many different literacy activities. Some of these include teachers reading books to a variety of different classes not just their own, the reading of selected stories across the school by means of the intercom, studies of authors and characters, many varied art/literacy activities and then on Friday a whole school Character parade which will be on the netball courts to which you are warmly invited to attend. On Thursday night there is the school disco which has the theme of "Book Characters". We hope you are going to get well and truly involved in helping your child with the dressing up for this special occasion.

School Disco

As usual there will be two sessions:
Year 1 – 3 students will start their session at 4.30pm and finish at 5.45pm and the Year 4 – 6 students will start their session at 6.00pm and finish at 7.30pm. Entry fee is \$2.50 for years 1 – 3 and \$3.00 for year's 4 – 6 payable at the door. Treat food and drinks will be on sale and also the sausage sizzle will be running. Perhaps on this occasion you will let your child have a sausage from the sausage sizzle as part of their dinner this disco night. Funds raised are going to the PTA fundraising goal: New computers for the ICT Suite. The outcome of this goal will benefit every child in the school, as all classes have 1 hour a week in the ICT Suite doing computer studies with Mr Robson for two terms each year. In addition to this, classes also use the ICT Suite with their own classroom teacher. We do hope you will support this very worthy goal.

National Standards

Our teachers have attended many workshops about National Standards to upskill ourselves and help us to quickly understand the levels of the standards in comparison with the NZ Curriculum levels.

A Parliamentary Research Paper has been written about the National Standards outlining the history of the development of the NZ Curriculum levels and some of the perceived reasons for setting the current standards we are getting used to. The paper also examines potential issues with the standards. These include the speed of the writing of the standards and bringing them into school to use this year. This is causing schools across NZ great concern as teachers are required to implement their use and at the same time develop their knowledge and understanding of them. The paper identifies clearly that the standards alone do nothing to raise student achievement. It is the follow up quality teaching that has the potential to lift achievement. Due to the speed of introduction there is insufficient support for schools to get better at supporting children who have barriers to their learning. The paper also identifies the concern for the damage that the standards potentially will have for students who are not meeting the expected levels. Internationally it has been documented that lower achiever's self esteem has been compromised when students continuously see themselves as failures.

All of these items do point to the National Standards either having had a trial period so that challenges are identified and sorted before all schools take part, or introduced more gradually so schools can develop knowledge and skills about them before having to implement them. If you have a point of view then you may like to email us on ewtason@forresthill.school.nz



Travelwise News

Use the crossing provided....

Children will copy your example, good or bad. Set an example by always using safe crossing areas. Always respect the school patrol and traffic wardens.

We have patrolled school crossings in Forrest Hill Road and Bond Crescent – PLEASE use these as they are the safest place to cross.

TENNIS at Mairangi Bay Tennis Club

Term 3 Winter Coaching Program

Fun, technique, tactics, fitness, team games, match play, tournaments and prizes

A great time to start for the coming season – for those wanting to play interclub and/or to try and move up an interclub grade

To enrol or for more info contact Leo 02102445554

Inquiry Learning from Room 13

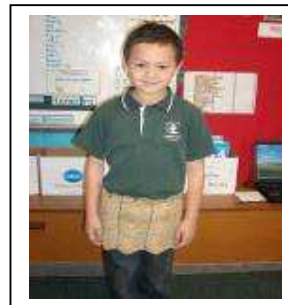
As part of our inquiry learning, students in Room 13 have been learning about the connections they have to other parts of the world. Here are some objects that have come from other countries that some Room 13 students brought to school.



This plate is from India. The peacock that is in the middle of the plate is their national bird. It came from my family. It hangs on our wall.
Hana



This is a picture of a Chinese dragon printed onto a piece of wood and it's for good luck. It came from China.
James



This is a taovala. It comes from Tonga. It is worn over a tupenu for church or special occasions.
Caleb T

Sharks Sports Holiday Programme

Join our fabulous Fun sports programme organized for kids aged 5 - 13yrs. Focus is on active participation & team building in a safe positive environment whilst children are taught a range of sports and activities. Representative coaches used for specialized sessions. Giveaways and prizes each day. Full day: 8:30 - 3pm. Costs: \$30 per child per day (\$25 for more than 1 child per family per day) Dates : Week 1 : July 5 - 9 and Week 2 : July 12 - 16 Venues : Orewa Primary, Hato Petera College and Northcross Intermediate.

For more information Contact: Jan Mills 09 4272967 or Hm 09 424 3395 or 0212742757