



Forrest Hill School

Community Contact

11 February 2010

Newsletter No.2

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The past week has been a busy time for teachers getting to know their new class and children in new classes getting to know each other. Meanwhile teachers have been completing assessment in numeracy and literacy, establishing learning achievement levels in order to focus learning programmes for the term. The overarching learning context this year is "How things work". The context will cater for studies in Science, Technology, Social Studies and Health. These broader curriculum areas are taught through an inquiry process. This involves students learning about thinking, questioning, searching for information and thinking critically about that information. Central to this process is the practice of "reflecting" which involves critical thinking and self assessment. All of these skills when mastered become competencies that equip students in becoming life long learners. The school's vision statement is "Nurturing growth for a life time of learning" which is our commitment to shaping our students into "confident connected life long learners" (New Zealand Curriculum 2007).

The National Standards Debate

The media has been filled with the statements and opinions of people from all walks of life about the value of National Standards. The statements made by well regarded researchers in the field of education about the effects of National Standards in other countries of the world seem to have been discarded by our own policy makers, in the race to get National Standards, along with a set of rules and regulations, into all New Zealand schools. The concept of trialling the use of National Standards and the associated rules and regulations seems such a logical and sensible thing to do. After all, we don't go ahead and spend our hard earned cash on a new car without checking it out carefully first and putting it through a test drive! If you would like to support the case to have a two year pilot study of the National Standards and the resulting narrowing of the school curriculum, you may like to add your name to a petition sheet that is located in the school reception area.

Help Urgently Required

If you can help with supervising the Bond Crescent Kea Crossing we would love to hear from you. Supervision is just for 15 – 20 minutes. We urgently require parent help. Please contact the school office on Ph 410-8939.

The Forrest Hill School Parent Teacher Association

Have you thought of being a more active parent within the school, supporting school activities and fundraising? We are looking to develop a new PTA group this year to meet for 1 hour once a month in the staffroom. At meetings the parents share good ideas that can support the school in both fundraising activities and event activities. The group works as a team together, supporting the school and supporting each other, as well as having a lot of fun. This is such a great way to get to know more teachers, other parents and also finding out about how things work around here! If you would like to join us at our first PTA meeting this term then please let us know. Please phone Sue or Linda in the office and we will look forward to meeting with you. The first meeting for the year is on Tuesday 9th March at 7.30pm. The beginning of the year is a great time to join up as there will be lots of other new parents coming too. So please phone us, or just come along to the staffroom at 7.30pm.

Parking at the Gate

To our amazement we note that some parents are still using the staff carpark to drop children off at school. Some parents are using the drive way to complete a 2 or 3 point turn, causing traffic back up and causing our children to step off the footpath and onto the road to get past. Traffic infringement results in fines and caused dangerous situations for pedestrians and other drivers. Yesterday all the cars parked in the 2 minute parking area and along the yellow broken lines on Forrest Hill Road received infringement notices from a police officer.

PLEASE PARENTS.. respect the rules of the road. None of us want a child or adult pedestrian hurt outside our very own school gate. There is parking in local side streets as well as Bond Crescent – park and walk the short distance to the school gate. Give yourself some exercise on these lovely summer days and save yourself a parking fine.



Forrest Hill School

Forresthill.school.nz

Have you checked out the school's website lately? We invite you to get familiar with our site. Syndicate teams are now getting their syndicate pages set up for 2010 and there are other new items you may find interesting. The newsletter can be accessed through the website as well as the ERO Report. If you haven't checked out the school's latest ERO Report yet, we do urge you to do so.

Meet the Teacher Evening Tuesday 16th February

Just a reminder about the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and the teaching team of the syndicate. Guidelines will be given about syndicate routines, events and organisation.

Meeting times starting in the staffroom:

Awatea / Atatu	Yr 1 – 2	6.00pm
Akoranga	Yr 3 – 4	6.30pm
Arataki	Yr 5 – 6	7.00pm

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club issues brochures twice a term. Please take time to look through the brochures with your children and consider the books that are appropriate for your child's reading level and interests. Brochures are always issued on a Thursday and orders due back by the following Tuesday. **Please make cheques payable to Scholastic NZ Ltd.** Orders and payment should be in a named envelope. We earn valuable reward points for the purchase of library books and resources. Teacher in charge – Christine Smith.

School Banking

School banking has started again. Children are encouraged to save small amounts of pocket money regularly to encourage a good habit of saving money to help achieve personal goals. Representatives from the ASB will be coming to our assembly on Monday to talk to the children about school banking. If you would like your child to have a school banking information pack, please contact the school office.

Lunchroom Not Open

Please note the school lunchroom will not be open until Friday 19th February.

Recipe Books

There are a small number of recipe books still for sale if you would like to purchase a copy. They are \$15.00 each or 2 for \$25.00. Books are available through the school office.

Affordable Organix

Firstly thank-you to all the families who purchased their fruit & veg through Affordable Organix last year & over the holiday period. For those who missed the notices last year, Affordable Organix is donating 5% back to our school with every box that is purchased. It has been a bonus for the school to be "earning an income" over the holiday period - Thank-You. What a great time of year for all our families to try a box of fresh organic fruit & veggies delivered to your door, with delicious summer produce such as watermelons, strawberries & sweetcorn. You'll find that for an average household, \$36 (delivered) is all you will need to spend on your weekly fruit & veg. Call Affordable Organix now on 817-9318 & talk to Tania or Gerry about ordering a box.

WYNRS (Wynton Rufer Soccer School of Excellence)

WYNRS after school soccer programme.

Learn the beautiful game of soccer while enjoying fun games and skills.

AGE: 5-7 Start 3:30 - 4:30

AGE: 8-12 Start 4:30 - 5:30

Mondays at Forrest Hill Primary School. Cost \$120 per term.

There are opportunities for children (8-12) who show talent to join the academy group.

For more information: <http://www.wynrs.co.nz/>

North Harbour Rhythmic Gymnastics

Enrol your daughter in a fun and physically developing class with experienced coaches at the biggest gymnastics club on the North Shore. Classes are available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 3.45pm – 4.45pm, ages 4 – 10 years, Phone 443-2570 for more information.

Music Education Centre

Music lessons are available at Forrest Hill School where students can have one to one instruction or group lessons each week. There are specialist instrumental teachers and the lessons are suitable for all students over the age of 7 ½ years. For more information phone the Music Education Centre on 444-5654.