



13 May 2010

Newsletter No.13

Dear Parents/Caregivers

There will be many relieved farmers and gardeners out there who have welcomed the rains we have had this week. Our own school grounds are looking fresher with soils now dampened and plants looking stronger. Our beautiful elm trees have had their autumn coloured leaves stripped by the strong winds giving us the clear signal that autumn will soon be turning into winter..... but what a summer we have enjoyed this year!

### ICT and Learning

ICT stands for Information and Communication Technology and refers to learning involving the use of computers and related digital tools and equipment. Over the years the school has built a strong base for ICT to be integrated into the learning process.

This year we are on a project contract with the Ministry of Education which provides us with the resourcing to develop wider knowledge and skills in how to use ICT to further enhance student achievement across the curriculum. This resourcing is enabling teachers to work collegially in discovering and using teaching strategies that bring ICT into learning opportunities for all students. Some classes have developed, and are communicating by means of these wikis and blogs. Others are involved in videoing themselves accomplishing learning so they can then view themselves afterwards and critically analyse how they can complete the learning to a higher level. There are classes that are using web based tools to further their learning and others who are using multi media.

A vital part of this type of learning is how to use computers, email and the internet safely. **Net Safe** is a website that is available to parents and children to understand the ways of computing safely. We do advise all parents to go to Net Safe and follow the links that take you to 'Hectors World'. Hector is a dolphin who has lots of sea creature friends who learn important safety rules when using the internet. It is a powerful learning programme that you will find helpful when establishing guidelines for your own children when they use the internet at home. The internet is a wonderful learning tool, but children must learn the safety rules needed before doing so. This web site will help you with this important part of your child's education. **Netsafe.org.nz**

### Achievement in Spelling:

The whole issue of spelling in this day and age is particularly controversial. On the one hand we expect our children to spell correctly as part of their developing writing knowledge and skills, whilst on the other hand we are becoming more and more surrounded by the shortened language of TXT.

The learning of the English language is a complicated process since we have so many words that do not fit the more common rules. Take the spelling of their and there, where and wear, fluff and enough, four ... for...paw, and so the list goes on.

When spelling is taught in school, students learn the common spelling rules such as 'i before e except after c', and then you get that tricky word **ceiling** which goes right against the rule!

We do teach spelling, with a focus on rules, chunks, blends of letters, suffixes, prefixes, phonological sounds, word families and so on. Learning of word lists is one aspect of building spelling knowledge but the real test of spelling is that which is done as a part of the daily writing process.

Each year we track the progress that all year groups of children make in spelling, using a spelling test that provides a spelling age. This gives teachers information about where a student is in comparison to the expectation but this is still quite a narrow type of assessment. Teacher knowledge about each student's learning achievement built up over the year through the whole writing process provides additional valuable information, but is harder to quantify.

The following is achievement made by each year group in spelling, by the end of last year.

The school expectation is that 80% of all students will achieve at or above their chronological age.

### **Percentage of Students Achieving At or Above Their Chronological Age in Spelling**

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
99%	77%	84%	85%	89%

This year we have collected beginning of year data in spelling, and will be comparing it to the end of year data to ascertain the amount of progress made.

# Forrest Hill School

## Writing in Room 9: Information Reports

Atatu's context for Term 2 is 'Amazing animals - disappearing fast'

We have been looking at different animals and learning about what is making some animals endangered.

In our writing we have been focussing on information reports. We choose a new animal each week to make our own reports on. We have to include: What it looks like, what it eats, where it lives and some dangers or enemies.

### Tigers

A tiger look's like a big cat. A tiger lives in Asia. Tiger's eat birds and they eat wild pigs. People kill them for coats and mats. I like tiger's because they are cute. Baby tiger's drink their mother's milk. When the baby is just born it can't see it will be able to see when it is 5 months old.

**By Aimee Euston**

### A Tiger



**By Jaxson Boyd**

## Conversational English for Speakers of other Languages (Adult Learners)

Fill in your free time while your children are at school! Courses are held at Forrest Hill School on Mondays from 1.45pm – 2.45pm Term 2. To find out more please contact Marianne (qualified English Language Assistant) on 444-1344 (evenings) or 021-2080584 or email: [Wriesnik@actrix.co.nz](mailto:Wriesnik@actrix.co.nz).

## Learning another Language (for Children)

A beginner's class in German is starting at school. The class will be held at lunchtime, one day a week, and will introduce children to German language. Marianne Wriesnik. The tutor is a qualified language teacher and has planned an enjoyable and interactive Term 2 programme. For more information please phone Marianne on 444-1344 or 021-2080-584.

## Dates for your Diary

14 May	Yr 5 & 6 visit to Stardome
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Transition to school Meeting 6.00pm
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Birthday
10 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Pizza Lunch
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Book Week
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Character Parade
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6's visit to Wairau Intermediate
24 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Disco
25 <sup>th</sup> June	BOT Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Akoranga Cultural Evening
1 <sup>st</sup> July	PTA Sausage Sizzle

## United Soccer 1 Primary Schools Soccer Clinics

US1 will be starting their soccer clinics at Forrest Hill School on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at lunchtimes for six weekly sessions.

All ages and ability levels welcome ranging from starter to competent.

For booking enquiries contact Malcolm McPherson US1 North Harbour Area Coach on 4143688 or [mmcpherson@unitedsoccer1.org.nz](mailto:mmcpherson@unitedsoccer1.org.nz).

**NEW CHEAPER PRICE \$45 per child and \$20 for other siblings.**

## Barnardos KidStart Childcare.

Home based care and learning for children from birth to five years is provided in the homes of our carefully selected and trained Educators. KidStart offers flexible hours, convenient locations and ratio of one Educator to a maximum of four children. WINZ subsidies and 20 Hours ECE also apply for those eligible. Please Call 481 1166.

## Guitar Tuition

Learn from guitar teacher and songwriter, performer with 20 years experience at home studio in Murrays Bay. Bookings taken now for 2010. Phone Peter 575-9228 or 021-479-182.

## "Need Before School/After School Childcare?"

NZ Nannies International has Au Pairs available to care for your children and help with housework for up to full time hours in exchange for free board and \$200-250 per week. The Au Pair can stay for 12-24 months as required. For more information please go to [www.nznannies.org.nz](http://www.nznannies.org.nz) or email [kristina@nznannies.org.nz](mailto:kristina@nznannies.org.nz)