



18 March 2010

Newsletter No.7

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Last Friday was 'Happy Feet' day. So many children got into the swing of it parading around the courts in their decorated shoes. Thank you to the parents who helped their children get prepared for this simple yet fun activity all in the name of getting out and walking to school or part of the way to school.

Parent Teacher Students Conferences

Conferences are due to be held at the end of this term and at the beginning of next term. The conferences will focus on the learning goals that your child is working on and some clarification about how your child is going to further work towards achieving these. The students in Akoranga (year 3 – 4 classes) and Arataki (year 5- 6 classes) will lead the conference but still enabling you to talk to the teacher. This will also apply to the students in Atatu (Rooms 9 – 12), though there will be more support by the teacher. The students in Awatea (new entrant year 1 classes) need to attend the conference but the teacher will lead the conference, reporting on achievement to date and future learning goals.

The following is the schedule of dates for the conferences – Please note these on your calendar.

Awatea Classes:

Room 18:	Tuesday	23rd March
Room 19	Wednesday	31st March
Room 6	Wednesday	31st March.

Atatu; Akoranga; Arataki Classes:

Thursday 22nd April (Week 1 Term 2)

Letters advising parents about the conferences being held with their child/ren's teachers will be coming home on Monday of next week (22nd March). We need these to be returned by Wednesday of next week please (24th March) identifying your preferred conference time. Soon after this you will receive your appointment time. We ask you to note the conference dates so you can mark them into your diary as it is important that you come to these.

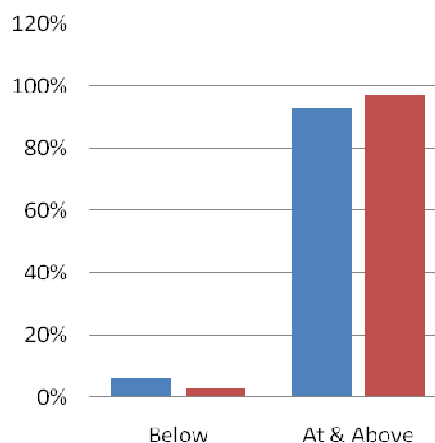
School Donations:

A very big note of appreciation to the parents who have already chosen to make their donation to the school. Your donation will go towards paying for a range of programmes for a wide range of students at all year levels. If you make your donation before 31st March you are able to claim for a tax rebate on that donation amount. This means less tax that you pay as a total, for the 2009 and 2010 year. Donations can be made by cash, cheque or Eftpos.

Reading Progress 2009

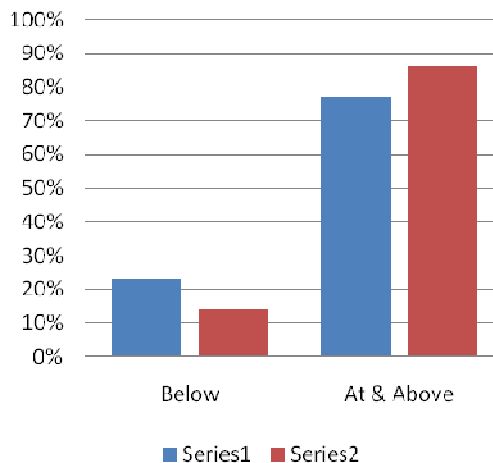
(continued from last week)

Yr 3 Progress 2009



By the end of the year 97% of year three students are reading at or above their chronological age

Yr 4 Reading Progress 2009



By the end of the year 86% of Year four students were reading at or above their chronological age. Both Year 3 and Year 4 graphs demonstrate high levels of achievement at the beginning of the year and even higher levels of achievement by the end of the year.

Watersliding

This week Atatu decided to go Watersliding for their Oracy Experience.

We had a fantastic time sliding and wrote some wonderfully descriptive stories, recounting the event afterwards.

Here are some photos from Rooms 9 and 10



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS 2010

Nomination forms have been sent out to all eligible Parents and Caregivers of the school. If you have not received one, please call the school office and we will organise for one to be sent to you. Alternatively pop into the school office for a copy.

If you would like any information about becoming a Trustee, check out the web site www.trustee-election.co.nz, pick up a brochure at the office, or have a chat with one of our current BOT members:

Enid Watson (Principal)
Anna Smythe (Teacher Representative)
Grant Green
Jacquette Barrington
Bryan Agnew
Stephen MacKisack
Dennis Ng

Please seriously consider nominating yourself, or encouraging someone you know, to put their name forward. This is an opportunity to have input into the continuing success and the future direction of our school in a governance role.

Nomination forms must be sent to the school office no later than 23rd April

Jacquette Barrington
Returning Officer



Year 3 and 4 Outdoor Education Week

Last week the Year 4 students from Forrest Hill went to the Upper Nihotipu Dam in the Waitakere Ranges.

This photo was taken by the driver of the Rain Forest Express Train.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the parents who helped during our week of outdoor experiences. We really appreciate the time and support you gave us at MERC and on the Rain Forest Express, keeping us safe and helping us with the activities and challenges.

Help We Need You!

We urgently need volunteers for our PMP Programme. An afternoon tea will be on Thursday 25th March at 2.00pm in the staffroom and there will be two training sessions on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st March starting at 1.30pm in the school hall. Please contact the school office and leave a message for an available timeslot for PMP sessions.

Appeal for Books for the 'Book Boat' Library travelling the Mekong River in Laos

HOW CAN I HELP?

Would you or your children like to donate a *new* copy of their favourite book (not too thick to cut down on freight) to be sent to Laos to be read by impoverished village children on the Book Boat Library?

Mrs. Chantha, the Programme Coordinator of Luang Prabang Library has sent out an appeal for donated books to restock the Library Boat.

In many villages in Laos there are no books at all. Even in the schools – if the village is lucky enough to have a school. Laos is still a rural community with many people engaged in subsistence farming. People are extremely poor. Books are an unaffordable luxury. CLI (www.communitylearninginternational.org) operates the Lao Children's Library Boats, the only two in Laos. It brings books to children and others in 75 Mekong and Ou River villages, as well as giving book bags of 100 books to other villages. Go on the website to see the journey the library boat takes!!

Please drop off your books in the office before the 1st April.