



20 May 2010

Newsletter No.14

Dear Parents/Caregivers

This lovely autumn weather has extended itself into classroom programmes. Many classes have gone for autumn walks around the school. The Elm trees of course create a carpet of brown and gold leaves fresh every day, providing a fascinating environmental playground. Here is some poetic writing created by two boys from the ESOL classroom:

A dancing day for crunchy leaves
A time of change
Squirrels racing for their delicious nuts
A time of change
A freezing wind coming from cold South
A time of change

By Kevin Lee – Year 6

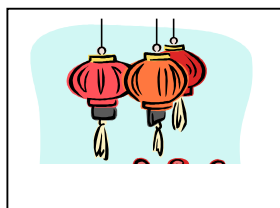
Crispy and crunchy leaves
A time of change
Leaves dancing on the ground
A time of change
Leaves sounding like ripped paper
A time of change

By John Lee – Year 6

What else is going on at school?

➤ Cultural New Zealand :

The Year 3 & 4 students in Akoranga are involved in a study called “Bicultural Heritage and Multicultural Communities”. Each Friday for the full day students focus their learning on an aspect of a particular culture. Over the term they will have been taught by each Akoranga teacher covering 5 topics. These include: global communities world wide, country wide, city wide and Forrest Hill wide; The Chinese Lantern Festival; Kiwiana; Tangrams; poi and rakau (Maori). This programme is providing rich learning and a heightened awareness of the differences that cultural communities have, leading to our students having understanding and acceptance of the changing face of New Zealand.



➤ Sun, Moon and Stars

Last week Arataki students visited Stardome as part of their inquiry into the links between the Universe and natural events on Earth. From this students will be identifying questions that they want to find explanations and answers for, and so begin their enquiries.

➤ The Shakey Earth

The visit to Mangere Mountain several weeks ago has led Awatea students into enquiring about volcanoes. Models have been made with chemical eruptions happening, some groups have made models of molten lava out of chocolate and sweets and others are learning about diagrams and labelling as a science skill.

Parenting Tip No. 1

We have been noticing with increasing concern, a high number of children who are actually quite tired in the mornings at school. We are also surprised at some of the bed times that children tell us they have. The following is meant as a guide that you may like to consider for your child/children, so they get the hours of sleep that children need in order to be fresh and attentive at school.

A guide to bed times:

5 – 6 year olds	7.00pm – 7.30pm
7 – 8 year olds	7.30pm – 8.00pm
9 – 10 year olds	8.00pm – 8.30pm

Regular routine is vitally important with special extensions to bedtimes at weekend.

PE Focus: Gymnastics

For the next three weeks all students will be participating in a gymnastics programme. The hall is set up each morning with the school's gymnastic equipment and each class has a set time slot every week. Over the period of a year students are involved in swimming, large and small ball handling, athletics, gymnastics and cross country. The Year 5 and 6 students are also involved in the Waterwise sailing and kayaking programme.

A request from Room 17

Room 17 would like any donations of red, white or black wool, newspaper and plastic bags for their context project – making poi. If you can help

KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE PROGRAMME

Over the next few weeks FHS will be taking part in the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme (KOS).

KOS is designed to provide children with the skills to cope in situations that might involve abuse. It has 3 main aims:

- To develop and strengthen skills children need to keep themselves safe;
- To support and encourage abused children to get help from caring adults;
- To make parents and teachers more aware of the need to keep children from being abused by adults or older children.

KOS is a programme that has been developed by the New Zealand Police. It will be taught by your child's teacher with the help of a Police Education Officer when required.

Please contact the school if you would like any more information about the programme.

A piece of writing from Room 18 New Entrant Class

On Saturday I went to the beach. I saw some baby mermaids and I saw some little fish and some little turtles with my Mum and me and my little baby sister and my Dad.

By Katelyn Lyford

Policies for Viewing

The following policies are available for public viewing in the school office:

- Students with Special Needs
- Fraud Prevention
- Financial Management Policy
- Intruder Policy
- Teaching English to English Language Learners
- Teacher Induction Programme for Beginning Teachers
- School Uniform Policy
- Equity Policy

Travelwise Corner What children would like motorists to know:

We are not little adults, so don't expect us to act as you do. We are small and often can't see over parked vehicles. This also means you can't see us.

Please don't park on the yellow lines - you are stopping other drivers from seeing us on the crossing. We can freeze when we find ourselves in danger, instead of taking quick action as you might. Walk with us or join a Walking School Bus with us. Help to keep us safe around schools.



Netball



We know winter sport is definitely under way when we have to play in the rain! Well done to our Saturday teams, and parents, who have endured two wet weeks so far, primary netball is only cancelled if there is thunder and lightning or continual torrential rain. Auckland weather is so changeable and differs across the region, so please do not assume netball is cancelled but check the websites before you leave...

www.kidzplaynetball.co.nz
www.netballnorthharbour.co.nz

Our uniforms are looking great and I heard a spectator comment, last week, on how smart they looked. Please **hang the skirts** and a **quick press each week, especially if they have been wet, will help keep the pleats in place.** Dry Cleaners charge \$25 per skirt to press pleats back in!

Wairau Intermediate School Open Days / Evening

Wairau Intermediate will be holding open days during school hours on Wednesday 26 May and Thursday 27 May and open evening on 27 May from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Current Year 6 children and their parents / caregivers are invited to visit the school during these times. For further information phone the school on 410-7805.