



22 July 2010

Newsletter No.21

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to school for Term 3 and a very warm welcome to the ten new families whose children started school here on Monday. We hope that your association with the school is a positive one, we are sure that your children will settle into their new classes, and make new friends well. This is an opportunity to remind parents of our "open door" policy enabling you to come to us easily if you have any sort of concern about your child at school. In the first instance you need to chat to your child's teacher about your concern. It's a good idea to do this when the concern first arises and before it turns into a big worry. If after speaking to the teacher you do not feel satisfied then do see the syndicate leader and discuss your concerns with her. If you still feel your concern has not been addressed fully then you need to see the Principal. You can do this by coming into the reception area and making a suitable appointment time. The Principal may even be able to see you right there and then. If we are not aware of a concern, or something happening that you have noticed but we haven't, we cannot do anything about it. You can help us make a difference by talking to us about your concerns. We do love hearing positive feedback too!

### **A Pleasant Surprise**

This week a teacher was presented with a pile of books that a family had discovered at home: on bookshelves, under cushions, down behind the back of a chair, under beds... that all belonged to the school! This lovely family bundled them all up and made sure their child brought them to school. We were so delighted, we would like more surprises like this. We have lost hundreds of instructional readers over recent times, which may be are under your beds or under your sofa. Please will you look out for these, so we can pop them back into our instructional reading boxes. It is difficult doing instructional reading with a group of 8 children with only 3 readers to do it with. We have also lost a lot of library books which are in your homes... please look for us, we certainly need them back. Thanks for your anticipated help.

### **Change of clothes for wet days**

We have been inundated with children covered in mud after playing on the field or slipping over in the wet, muddy conditions. Please ensure your child has spare clothes in a plastic bag to change into after playing on the field. No change of clothes – no playing on the field.

### **Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP)**

PMP equipment sessions will continue during term 3 for our New Entrant classes. This involves small groups of children rotating around five stations of equipment set up in the hall. Each station needs an adult to supervise and help when necessary to ensure the safety of the students while using the equipment. PMP is proven to help prepare children for learning readiness. Teachers see a difference in children's concentration levels and their focus on learning.

**We cannot run this essential physical programme without parent help.**

**This is where you might be able to help us.**

**We really do need you!**

Can you help at a PMP session afternoon this term from 1.30pm to 2.45pm? The times are helpful since your child will be finishing school at 2.50pm and you will be at school ready to take your child home.

We do hope that you will commit to helping in Term 3. We will be holding an information afternoon explaining what PMP supervision involves, in the staffroom on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm. Meanwhile if you are able to commit to helping one or maybe two days a week please leave your name at the office.

### **Pita Pit Lunch**

This is a PTA fundraiser that we hope you will support. The Pita Pit lunch day is 5<sup>th</sup> August. Your child (with your guidance) can order a Pita pocket of their choice. Order forms will be coming home soon.

### **English lessons for Adults**

If you need extra support in speaking English then you might like to enrol in our English conversation class for adults programme. It is held on Fridays at Forrest Hill School from 1.45pm – 2.45pm. Please phone Marianne Wriesnik on 444-1344 or email [wriesnik@actrix.co.nz](mailto:wriesnik@actrix.co.nz) if you would like to join this class. There is a small charge for this programme. You may have some friends who might like to join as well.

## Student Led Conferences

These are next week on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

On Wednesday conferences start at 3.00pm so children will go home from school at the normal time of 2.50pm.

**On Thursday conferences start at 1.30pm so children will go home at 1.00pm. Please will you arrange for your child to come home at 1.00pm next Thursday.**

You will be receiving a notice tomorrow advising you of your conference time. Student Led Conferences give an opportunity for your child to tell you all about their learning, what their next steps are for Term 3 & 4 and how you at home can help them achieve their learning goals. The teacher will be there to support your child and will be happy to answer any questions you have. The children in Awatea and Atatu will be guided carefully by their teacher.

Today's education is all about students being in control of their learning and knowing about their learning. We have been using this type of reporting for several years now and when the ERO were reviewing the school last year, they commented very favourably on the way we did this, and on the strong level of knowledge that most students had about what they are learning, why it is important and where they were going next in their learning.

## ROAD PATROL

Are you often at the Bond Crescent school gate waiting for your children after school or dropping your children off in the morning?

Can you spare 20 minutes of your time supervising the Bond Crescent crossing one day a week? We really need your help to ensure the crossing is a safe place for our students to cross the street before and after school!

Please contact the school office 09 4108939 or email [aclaque@forresthill.school.nz](mailto:aclaque@forresthill.school.nz) if you can spare the time to supervise the Bond Crescent crossing for only 20 minutes in the morning and/or 20 minutes in the afternoon.

**We would like to give a special thanks to the parents who continually support our school and have been supervising the crossing this year during term 1 and term 2.**

Thank you.

## Room 11 News

**Ata Tu's inquiry focus last term was endangered animals and we wrote information reports about wild animals.**

### The Jaguar

Jaguars are known as 'the water cat.' They swim well. They have got whiskers and they have got tough teeth. Some are black. They live in the rainforest and they have spots all over them. They live in North America. They eat meat and fish. They are carnivores.

Their enemies are people. People hunt them for money. Wood cutters cut the trees and the farmers plant the palm oil trees. They have lost their homes.

By Adam Year 2

### Gorillas

A gorilla is the world's largest primate and a gorilla is a mammal. Gorillas are like humans. They have long legs, are hairy, fat and they have nails on their hands and feet. He is bigger than anybody. Adult males have silver hair on their backs and they are called Silverbacks.

They eat worms and bamboo stick. They need strong teeth to eat bamboo sticks. Some gorillas live in cold places and some live in hot places.

Young gorillas climb in trees and big gorillas don't climb in trees. The hunters hunt for money and to make a farm.

By Megan Year 2

### Kiwi

The kiwi is our national emblem. The kiwis are only found in New Zealand and they have furry feathers. The kiwi has a long beak. Kiwis have a yellow beak and the kiwi's nose is at end of their beak. The kiwi has a round body. The kiwis fight with their sharp claws and kiwis have two legs and kiwis can't fly. Kiwis don't have wings.

Kiwis eat beetles, cockroaches and centipedes, and kiwis live in dark places. The kiwis come out at night. Kiwis have a long beak and kiwis eat little kinds of bugs.

Kiwi's enemies are possums, cats, and rats and kiwis live in damp forests. Stoats, rats and possums eat kiwi's eggs. Stoats can attack a father kiwi. Kiwis are endangered because their enemies kill them. Forests have been chopped down to make farms.

Kiwi eggs take seventy-five days to hatch.

By Mikey Year 2

## Travelwise News

We are still running our Walking Ticket programme, so please sign your child's card EVERY time they walk to or from school. Last term the classes in each Syndicate who returned the most cards were ....

Awatea – Room19

Ata tu – Room 11

Akoranga – Room 16

Arataki – Room 7

Room 1 was the class who had the highest percentage of walkers for the term – winning Trekking Tuesday five times. Each of these classes will now negotiate a reward for their excellent efforts. **Congratulations** to all winners.