



27 May 2010

Newsletter No.15

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Thank you to the parents who attended the Keeping Ourselves Safe parent information meeting on Tuesday afternoon. The statistics of the varying kinds of abuse that is happening to children across New Zealand is quite concerning, which certainly makes the Keeping Ourselves Safe education programme through schools most important. The programme involves activities that need to be done at home which will give you good insight into the actual programme being led in your child's class. If you feel you need to know more, then do contact your child's teacher. Our school has run the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme every alternate year for 8 years now, with positive feedback about the programme from parents.

New Computers for School **Every child will get the benefit of this goal**

The goal for the 2010 PTA is to replace and update the computers in the computer suite. We have had a good start to our fundraising efforts and would like to thank all the families that have supported the entertainment books fundraiser. We have raised about \$845.

Thank you to the families who take a break from making school lunches and support our various lunch fundraisers. A note will come home on Friday about our next lunch fundraiser, Hell's Pizzas. This will take place on Thursday 11 June and all orders need to be returned to school by Thursday, 3rd June at the latest.

Another exciting event on the school calendar is the disco planned for the 17th of June. We will be sending notes home nearer the time and will be asking parents to help out with various duties on the night. Thank you for your support.

Alison Ottenhof – PTA Chairperson

Book Week Ahead

Week 9 is Book Week. This is when we have a variety of activities across the school that focus students on reading. We will be having a character parade on the Friday and the PTA is holding a disco on Thursday 17th June after school with the dress up theme being "book characters". The PTA are looking out for some helpers – you may consider helping whilst your child is dancing away in the hall.

Reporting to Parents

At the end of this term you will receive your child's written mid term report. The report will identify your child's learning goals in reading, writing and maths that were set at the conference meeting at the beginning of this term. The progress with these will be described. An achievement rating will be made for each learning area in relation to the NZ Curriculum level appropriate to your child's year group.

The NZ Curriculum levels have been in use across the country now for many years and we have been reporting student achievement against these levels for many years also. The National Standards describe stages of expectations within the curriculum levels.

Mid year reporting has 2 parts. Part 1 is the written report and Part 2 is the follow up student led conference. At this conference your child, with the teacher, will identify their new learning goals in reading, writing and maths to be worked on during the second part of the year. You will also be given some information about how you can help your child's learning when at home.

Teachers are now in the process of writing a mid year report for each child in their class. Each report takes quite some time to write as all individual assessment outcomes and teacher observations need to be referred to in order to get an accurate report description. Each child's report is read by the syndicate leader, when assessment again is thought carefully about. Each report is finally read by the Principal. Report writing is certainly a long process with the goal being to provide you with clear information of your child's progress through primary school.

Whole School Assembly

Our next assembly is on Monday 31st May at 2.00pm. The students from Rooms 8 and 13 are hosting the assembly. Parents are always welcome to attend all whole school assemblies.

Kelly Sports

Still want to join Kelly Sports? For only \$40 you can join your child for the last 4 weeks and let them experience Basketball, Soccer, Rippa Rugby and Hockey. Email jeremyb@kellysports.co.nz for more information. Or call 09 443 0254 and as for Jeremy.

Forrest Hill School

Board of Trustees Meeting

This week was the first formal meeting of the new Board of Trustees. The group of mums and dads who have put up their hand to be actively involved in supporting their child's school has the potential to gel into a strong and effective board of governors. We examined property projects, policies that were due for review and became familiar with the NZ Education Goals and the subsequent Administration Guidelines. What a big learning curve for each Trustee! All this growing knowledge will equip these mums and dads with the ability to make sound recommendations for the benefit of each student in the school.

Some writing from Room 10

Year 2 children from Room 10 are learning about endangered animals. They have been writing information reports as they learn about each animal.

A panda is black and white. It is big and soft. It has thick fur. It lives in China in a snowy mountain forest. A panda eats bamboo leaves and roots. Black bears and wild dogs are its enemies. It sleeps in the bushes. When the babies get born they are blind. Pandas climb trees. If someone wakes it, the panda gets angry.

By Edrich Gerber

Travelwise News

Be prepared on rainy days!

Wet days mean more traffic and less visibility. Extra care and patience is needed when driving... and parking.

Use your lights, bring an umbrella **and** be prepared to walk to pick up your child.

Better to catch a few raindrops than collect a car.

Park safe, and keep our children safe.

Book Week

As part of our Book Week we will be having a Wheelers Book Fair. The fair will be open from 8.30am – 9.30am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm for parents to purchase books and stationery. We require parent help during these times to assist with sales. If you are available for a morning or afternoon, please phone the school office. Thank you.

Disco Help Required

We have had an offer from somebody willing to assist with the Disco music but have lost the contact details. If you know of that person can you please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Scratch Day 2010 @ Forrest Hill School

Scratch is a computer programming language for kids of all ages. Scratch makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art -- and share your creations on the web. The software was developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab. On Saturday 22nd May Forrest Hill School hosted Scratch Day.

Scratch Day is an international event held in over 40 countries and we were one of two places to host Scratch Day in New Zealand. It was a fun day and we had a great turn out of parents and children from Forrest Hill School and Coatesville School. I'd like to thank Phil Patton, National Sales Manager IBM for providing IBM lanyards and some spot prizes. Our student helpers did a fantastic job! It was great to see the Mums, Dads, Nanas and Granddads all giving Scratch a go.



Chinese Language Class for any home language students NZ Champion teacher

- Students have achieved all New Zealand & all Auckland Chinese language competition champion in 2010, 2009 and 2007. A student represented New Zealand in the world competition in 2009. A student granted scholarship in Beijing Language University of China in 2006.
- NZQA approved qualification

For more information, please contact
Ms. Jin Wen Qing 4892188 0275892188
Takapuna - Newmarket