



Forrest Hill School

Community Contact

29 July 2010

Newsletter No.22

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Yesterday and today are the Student Led Conference times which are part of the mid year reporting to parents. The mid year written report, in line with the National Standards, has given you information about your child's learning and achievement in reading, writing and maths. Although not required by the Ministry of Education (MOE) we included insight into your child's work habits and attitudes towards learning at school. The conference you will have, (or may already have had) this week, goes deeper than this. Your child will reflect on their achievements in reading, writing and maths and will identify their new learning goals to be worked towards in Term 3 & 4.

Very importantly you will be advised on ways you can help your child achieve their goals at home. In addition to this your child will be talking about learning areas from the wider curriculum, describing their own strengths along with their accomplishments. This depth of reporting is not specified by the Ministry of Education mid year, only essential reporting in literacy and numeracy is required. We believe, however, the wider curriculum and all the associated knowledge and skills are of great importance as well.

We may not all be high achievers in reading, writing and maths, but we all do have personal strengths and interests in other areas of learning. It is important that children are encouraged to find their strengths and interests, know their strengths and be proud of their accomplishments in these. A child's self esteem has a huge effect on their willingness to take risks in their learning. Parents still have the opportunity to ask the teacher questions, and if your appointment time runs out you can continue discussions with the teacher at another meeting scheduled for next week.

We will be seeking your feedback on this year's reporting process so far, and hope that you respond to this request.

Teacher Only Day: Monday 16th August

This year the Board of Trustees has approved a day when teachers will meet and take part in professional development on the use of National Standards. This means that the school will be closed on this day and there will be no classes. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause you and your family.

Yummy Apple Stickers

Don't forget to keep collecting your yummy stickers and bar codes off the apple bags. We can receive sports equipment from this fundraising effort.



An invitation to our

Korean Community

We are holding an information meeting on Tuesday 10th August 7.00pm – 8.00pm for parents of our Korean community. Some of you will remember the meeting we had last year and the meeting this year will be the same. We will talk about what happens at school, how you can help your child at home, the ESOL class, and hopefully answer any questions you might have. This meeting will be particularly helpful for new Korean parents to the school and those who have just a small understanding of the English language. We hope to have an interpreter at the meeting. This meeting is **not** for children. Please complete the slip below and return to school if you will be coming.

What do you know about learning to read?

At your Student Led Conference the teacher will hand you a survey form to fill in about the learning area of Reading. We ask that you either complete the form before you leave the classroom or take it home to complete and return it to school tomorrow Friday 30th July. Your feedback will help us to know how to make our teaching in reading even better.

Policies for Viewing

The Board of Trustees has reviewed 2 policies:

- Police Vetting of Employees
- International Students

These are now available for viewing in the school office for any feedback you may like to make.

Korean Information Meeting

Tuesday 10th August 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Yes, I will come to the Korean Information Evening.

Number attending _____

Name: _____

My Child's Name: _____

Forrest Hill School

Road Safety

A reminder please about not using the staff car park to drop your children off before school, or collect them after school. It is such a small number of parents persisting in doing this. Please support our safety requests. There are an increasing number of parents who regularly park on broken yellow lines. This reduces our view of traffic when supervising the pedestrian crossing on Forrest Hill Road. Please use side street parking and walk up to the school gate like so many of our parents do every day. A very big thank you to those of you who now park and walk! It is also great to say "Hi" and "Bye" to you each day at the crossing!

Whole School Assembly

Our next school assembly is Monday 2nd August. It is being hosted by the children of Rooms 11 & 17. At this assembly we will be presenting the OSSA Award. OSSA stands for "Outstanding School Spirit Award". The person selected will have been noted for demonstrating the values and intent of the Character Wheel.

School Donations

We are now halfway through the school year and ALL students have had the advantage of attending special programmes that are available through the means of locally raised funds – essentially the school donation. ALL children attend computer studies 1 hour a week for 2 terms and ALL children attend the specialist music dance and drama programmes for the same amount of time. Students involved in programmes for the gifted and talented and special programmes for students who need extra support in their learning, have all benefited. All these programmes in addition to normal class programmes come at a significant cost. The government grant on what we have to run the school does not cover these programmes we have in place to give an advantage to our students – your children. If you have not made your \$160.00 per year (\$4.00 a school week), donation then please consider doing this now. Automatic weekly payments can be organised very simply. Our office people will help you with this. School donations are tax deductible. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Looking to replace your computer?

If you are in a business or work for a company that is looking to update their computers, we would love to take their redundant computers off their hands. Please suggest to your boss that Forrest Hill School would be pleased to receive any donated computers (that still work).

Family Portraits for the Entire School by NZ Top Photographer

Michael Overend Photography is a top NZ photographer who is providing an outstanding opportunity for our families to have a professional photo sitting along with a selection of photo prints as part of a special Forrest Hill School family package. The details of this will come to you next week. Michael Overend Photography is supporting the school very generously indeed with this offer, whilst making the total package value of \$785 for just \$75.00 for our families. Do watch out for further information next week.

Some writing from Room 12 Year 2 Students

Room 12 has been learning about adjectives. Look at the fantastic adjectives used in these stories:

In the holidays I drove to Mt Wellington. Mt Wellington was over the long bridge. I met Kyle at the food court at Sylvia Park. She was eating a tasty pack of chicken nuggets with a frozen coke. My Dad bought me a meal from McDonalds. Finally we were finished with our yummy food. It was time to walk to the great cinema. Me, my Dad, Kyle, her dad and her mum were at the cinema. My Mum was at the cinema first because she had a short time shopping. My Mum gave all of us our 3D glasses because we were going to watch Toy Story 3 in 3D. My Dad took loads of pictures with me and Kyle. The movie was great! The 3D was so eye-popping! Finally the movie was done. When we got out of the cinema we walked straight to a toy shop.
By Julia Ortanez.

In the holidays it was my brother's sweet 14th birthday. We stayed at home. We had our delicious lunch in a bowl. Then we went to the mall to buy a cool, awesome and fun PS2. Me and my sister got a free balloon. We saw a show and we sat down and watched the show. After the show we went home. Then my brother went straight to his sweet PS2. I had a wonderful time because I played PS2.
By Ellisa Sanicas.

McCain's School Veggie Patch

McCain's are offering schools the chance to exchange barcodes for equipment to build a school veggie patch. Please cut out the barcodes from all McCain's Frozen Veggies and Purely Potato packs. Send the barcodes to Room 1 with your child and they will receive House Points to say THANK YOU. The equipment will be used to establish and maintain a school vegetable garden.

Thank you for your support.