



Forrest Hill School

Community Contact

4 March 2010

Newsletter No.5

Dear Parents/Caregivers

It's "Walk to School" week. It is so good to see families getting into the spirit of walking to school – well done to all of you who are striding out in the sunshine before and after school.

Akoranga Out and About

This week the Year 3 and 4 students are experiencing an outdoor week. Monday and Tuesday was focused at the Sir Peter Blake MERC Centre at Long Bay. The Year 3's spent Monday at the MERC whilst the Year 4's stayed overnight and the whole of the following day. Students did kayaking, paddle boarding, rock wall climbing, archery and so much more.



On Monday night the children performed in a camp concert attended by some of the parents and played "Spotlight" in the dark. The camp was filled with laughter and happy children. It was once again a very successful activity. Yesterday the Year 3's went to the Waitakere Ranges where they rode the Rainforest Express, saw one of the Waitakere dams (for drinking water) and did some bush walking on the way. The Year 4's did orienteering activities around the school grounds. The Year 3's are having their overnight stay in the hall tonight, all adding to the life skills they are learning through the outdoor education programme.



Awatea – Safe on the path

The Police Education officer has been working with the Year 0 – 1 children this week. Students have been learning about being safe on the footpath, how to use a pedestrian crossing and watching out for cars backing out of driveways. Parents – you can all help with this kind of learning, by using the pedestrian crossing / Kea crossing yourselves instead of "nipping across the road" between the cars.

A reminder also to the drivers who persistently park on the yellow broken lines, who park in the P2 drop off area, stopping others from using the drop off area properly and who are still picking up their children inside the staff car park: Please park legally and safely.

Parent Teacher Student Interviews

In Week 8 on Tuesday 23rd March there will be "Learning Goal Setting" meetings. This is when your child will talk about their current learning goals and how they are going to achieve these goals. How you can help your child at home will also be discussed. More information will be coming out about this closer to the time.

PTA

The AGM for our school P.T.A. will be held next **Tuesday, March 9, at 7p.m.** in the Staffroom.

The P.T.A. is a group of parents who meet each month to support school events and organise fund raising activities to benefit our wonderful students. They work hard, but also become great friends and have a lot of fun. This is a very rewarding way to be involved in our school and part of your child's time at Forrest Hill School.

We need more people to support our team, so please consider attending next Tuesday and meeting us all, contributing your ideas and building new friendships. For more information speak to Heather Lister in Room 11.

Winter Netball

Netball begins again in Term 2 and we will be entering teams in the following competitions...

Netball North Harbour

Monday for Year 4 and 5 students

Wednesday for Year 6

Kidzplay

Saturday for Year 3 and 4 students.

Notices have been given to students who are interested in participating and additional information is available from Mrs. Lister in Room 11.

Boys are welcome to play also.

Student Achievement

Algebra

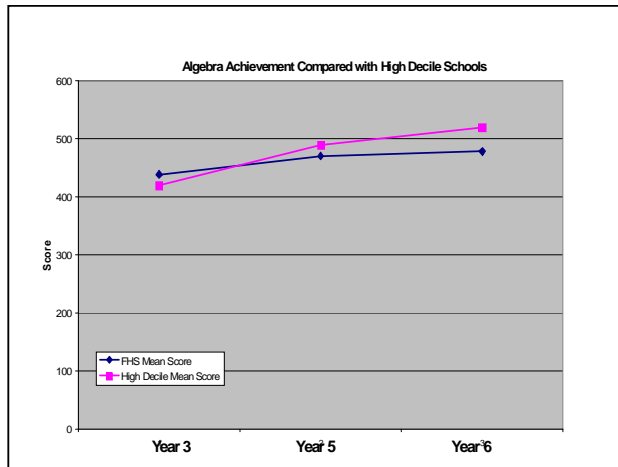
Last year the school had a focus on raising student achievement in Algebra. Algebra links closely to the area of numeracy. Algebra involves students engaging in deeper levels of thinking.

Using the Ministry of Education's AsTTle assessment package we can compare the achievement of our students with the expected achievement levels of students from other high decile Auckland schools.

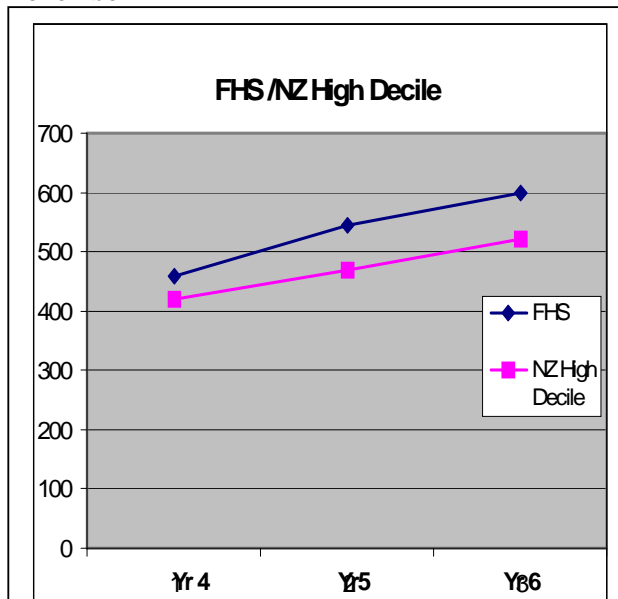
FHS Students compared with students of other high decile schools.

March achievement & November achievement.

March



November



Strong learning gains have been made in Algebra. By the end of 2009 year 4, 5 and 6 students were achieving significantly higher than students in other high decile Auckland schools. This is excellent achievement.

Room 2 - Waterwise

The start of Term One saw Year 6 children in Room Two going to Lake Pupuke to do their capsizing of an optimist and fifty metre swim in a buoyancy aid. This is a necessary safety measure in preparation for the start of the Waterwise Programme which takes place at Lake Pupuke in Milford.

After the Waterwise instructors modelled how to capsize an optimist sailing dinghy in a controlled manner, the children were taken out to the moored boats in the rescue boats. One by one they jumped in the water, swam to the optimist, boarded it and capsized it.

The next stage was difficult for some as they had to dive under the submerged boat and rap on the hull or sing out to show they were safe. Once out from under the optimist it was a long swim back to the boat ramps at the Waterwise facility.

Now they have experienced the worst that can happen they can approach the rest of the programme with confidence. The students have the opportunity to learn to sail and kayak, skills they can use for the rest of their lives.

If you want to come and help at Waterwise you are most welcome. See Robert Free in Room 2 or e-mail using the school website. Just make sure you come wearing clothing suitable for boating. You don't have to know how to sail or paddle a kayak because our instructors teach the children these skills.

Story Writing Competition

Room 2 has entered a story writing competition sponsored by Barfoot and Thompson. This involves submitting an outline for a fiction story containing details of the main characters, the setting and the plot. If we win then a professional writer and an illustrator will assist the class to publish the story.

The children have been developing story outlines individually or in groups which are being presented to the class. A vote will decide which one the class will submit for consideration.

World Maths Day

The children have been practising their number skills on a website called WorldMathsDay.Com. This was in preparation for World Maths Day on 3 March. This site allows our children to compete against children from all around the world. Speed and good number knowledge and skills are the keys to success.

Shore to Shore Fun Run / Walk

Have you sent in your registration for this Event? Registrations **MUST** be received at the office by next **Wednesday, March 10** if you wish to take advantage of the reduced fee offered to schools. Remember for every entry placed through school, we are allocated 'Award Points' to use for purchasing Sports equipment.

This is a fun activity to enter as a family and with friends. The P.T.A. will be running a Sausage Sizzle at the end of the run and order forms for this will be sent home once all registrations are received.