

Monday 17 November 2008

Newsletter 36/08

Dear parents

The last term is rushing past, and we are already into the last few hectic weeks of the school year. There is a lot happening, so please keep watching out for the newsletters, which come home on the first day of *every school week*, and are also posted on our school website, www.botanydowns.school.nz

We had a great day for our Senior School Athletic Sports last Wednesday. Thank you to all the parents who were able to come along and assist us, or just to watch the fun, and to the teachers and other staff involved in organising the day.

Junior Athletic Sports

The **Junior Athletics** (5-7 year olds) will be held this *Wednesday November 19th* from 9:15am to 12:30pm. If cancelled due to weather conditions, this event will be held on the first fine day the field is open and available following that.

Children will need to bring hats, drinks and sun block for their protection. Children will need to wear school uniform to school but may change into suitable sports clothing for the morning. At the conclusion of the morning the children will eat their lunch 'picnic style' on the grassy bank (weather permitting) and we hope parents will join us.

Important Dates

School Prize Giving Day is Thursday 11 December.

- Our Junior prize giving (for Years 1, 2 & 3) will start at **9.30am**, in the hall.
- The Senior prize giving (for Years 4, 5 & 6) will start at **1.00pm**, in the hall.

Our *Year 6 Graduation* is on Monday 15 December, starting at **1.40pm**.

Children's school reports come home on Wednesday 17 December.

The school year finishes at 12.00pm on Friday 19 December.

We start school again on Wednesday 4 February 2009.

Gardener Needed!

We have a vacancy here at school for a part time gardener, 5-6 hours per week, light duties only, mainly weeding. Earn some extra money before Christmas! Can anyone help us?

Please contact Mr T for more information (ph 534 9848, or email principal@botanydowns.school.nz).

School Camps

After a few years of not having school camps at Botany Downs, as many of you will be aware we have started them up again.

Best wishes to all our *Year 5 children*, who will be going on a one night camp at Sonshine Ranch this week (with teachers Grant Kibblewhite and Lyndal Lowans), and to the *Year 6 children* who are heading away for four nights next week for a camp at Camp Bentzon on Kawau Island, with teachers Amanda Foot, Lyndal Lowans, Nicolette van Heerden and Mr T. Have fun!

New Pupils

Welcome to *Isabel Martin, Sophie Sumner, Devarnya Govender* and *Billy Barrett*.

Special Terrific Persons Awards

Although several classes will be away, we are having a school assembly this Wednesday, at our usual 2.15pm starting time. Congratulations to the following children, who will be receiving certificates: *Hayley Anderson, Riley Brotherton, Trent Davis, Braden du Plessis, Nick Ha, Ryan Hennessy, Courtney Jonson, Duncan Lane, Callum Li, Thomas Paton, Anichem Prema Maninilavan, Winona Saptoe, Helen Wang, Chloe Wardle-Ramage* and *Meheer Zaveri*.

School Values

We have been talking about the importance of showing determination in our classes this term, and for the remainder of the year will be talking about the value of showing tolerance.

The following children have been selected by their teachers because they are demonstrating our current “Value”- Determination. They will be congratulated at this week’s assembly:

Sophie Hartnoll, Thomas Speed, Shaun Kirk, Keagan Rosseau, Demika Sookanatha, Jeff Gan, Yena Kim, Logan Kean, Rachael Swears, Phillip Kelidouris, Ryan Carroll, Emily Speed, Kian Tai.

Touch Results

Botany Crew won 6-1

Botany Bulldogs 4 Brown Bears 2.

PTA News

“Grocery Grab” Raffle

Raffle ticket sales are progressing really well so far. Thanks to everyone for the efforts they have already put in, and also to those who have helped with ticket sales outside Countdown the last two Saturdays. Our target is to completely sell all 5,000 tickets printed, which after deducting expenses, will raise **over \$8,000** for our school! In order to achieve this, **we need each family to sell at least one book**, but if you are able to sell more books through friends, family or work colleagues, then please use the re-order slip on the bottom of the original notice and **take as many as you can!** At just \$2 per ticket, and with great grocery prizes ‘up for grabs’ these tickets are proving very easy to sell!

Christmas Hams

Due to the popularity of these last year and the numerous requests to offer again this year, Christmas Hams from the Colonial Bacon & Ham Company are available through the PTA again this year. Please see **separate notice** for more details and order form. The last day for orders (with payment) is **Friday 5th December** and delivery will be Wednesday 17th December (if ordering, you must be available to collect your ham from the school at 3pm on this day).

Chipmunks “Kids Night Out” Friday 5th December

Parents, on Friday 5th December, enjoy a couple of hours to do a spot of Christmas shopping or have dinner out, while your children have fun at Chipmunks Pakuranga! A separate notice has been sent home today with more details and how to order tickets. It will be a fun night – we hope to see you there!

Fun Run/Walk Sunday 7th December

Have you returned your registration to participate in this fun event? If not, please complete and send to school, with your ‘gold coin donation’, as soon as possible. Spare registration forms are available from the office or at the bottom of the ‘Events’ page on the school website. Lots of staff have already registered, and we would like to encourage as many families as possible to participate – remember, the emphasis is firmly on ‘getting out and having a go’ – everyone will be a winner on the day!

Have a good week everyone

Mr T