

Monday 11 February 2008

Newsletter 2/08

Dear parents

Bought Lunches

Bought lunches started today, and are available every school day **except Tuesdays**. A reminder that lunch options and prices are listed on our new website. Have you checked it out yet?

PTA Meeting

The PTA is meeting **tonight** at 7.30pm in the library. All parents are very welcome indeed to come along and join us-we'd love to see you (see the message from the PTA at the end of this newsletter).

Parent Interviews

Our interviews are set down for **Wednesday 12 March (3.20pm-5.00pm)** and **Thursday 13 March (3.20pm-8.00pm)**. A separate notice will come home giving further information about parent interviews in a couple of weeks, but in the meantime you might like to make a note of the dates.

Music Lessons

Yes, we are once again offering private music lessons through our school. If you are interested in your children learning an instrument, please leave your name at the office or contact our music teacher directly.

For piano, keyboards, recorder and violin: Ring Jinny Jo (ph 021 205 5506 or 270 0664)

School Donations

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the Board of Trustees has set our school donation at \$180 per child for the year. This is reduced to **\$150** if paid before the end of the first term. The donation we request from every family continues to be one of the lowest in the Howick Pakuranga district, and very modest for a decile 10 school.

Donations may be paid by instalment if you wish, or by automatic deductions (speak to Tania in the office about this). We have Eftpos and credit card facilities at school for those who wish to pay in this manner. As the money raised from donations is spent for the benefit of all children, we do encourage all parents to contribute.

Coming Attractions

Tonight:	<i>PTA Meeting at 7.30pm</i>
Tuesday 12 February:	<i>Chinese lessons start after school (3.30pm in Room 11)</i>
Wednesday 13 February:	<i>School Assembly (2.15pm). National Bank staff talking school banking</i>
Monday 18 February:	<i>BOT meeting (7.30pm in the library)</i>
Friday 29 February:	<i>Junior School Aqua Fun afternoon</i>
Tuesday 4 March:	<i>Senior School Swimming Sports</i>
Wednesday 5 March:	<i>Juniors to Glenbrook Railway</i>
Friday 7 March:	<i>Middle School Swimming Carnival</i>
Wednesday 12 March:	<i>Parent Interviews 3.20pm-5.00pm</i>
Thursday 13 March:	<i>Parent Inter views 3.20pm-8.00pm</i>

Mandarin Lessons

These are starting up again **tomorrow**, 3.30pm-4.30pm in Room 11. Every Tuesday, 60 minute sessions, \$70 per term. Minimum 8 people per class. Ask Trish in the office for details.

New Pupils

Welcome to the many new children who have joined us this year. Once we have our final numbers we'll pop your names in the newsletter.

Stationery

Most children now have their stationery packs, although we know some packs were short of a couple of items. We're working on this!

I'd like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all those parents who so kindly helped staff issue packs last week. We really appreciated your assistance. 😊😊

School Road Patrol Crossing/Car Parking

Now that we are back into the swing of things we wish to remind everyone about the school crossing. The crossing is for **everyone**, to use, including parents, so ***please use the crossing!*** Last week we had instances of parents ignoring the road patrol and crossing the road wherever they wanted.

A reminder that **everyone** must stand behind the yellow line until the children holding the signs have checked that the road is safe and have called "Cross Now". Please do **not** attempt to cross the road at any time when the children have their arms up. This either means they have opened the signs and are checking the way is safe or they are about to close the signs. The road patrol is there for your safety, and all are expected to use the official crossing.

A reminder that there is no car parking on any yellow lines. Parking officers from the Manukau Council are now patrolling all schools in the area, and issuing on the spot tickets to cars parked illegally near schools.

Can you help? A message from your PTA.

At Botany Downs School we strongly encourage and value the support and involvement of parents and caregivers. One particularly rewarding and fun way to be involved is to join the **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**.

We are lucky in having a dedicated and enthusiastic group of parents and staff representatives who are involved in a range of activities that support the school and we are always on the lookout for more people to help out. If the idea of joining the committee and attending meetings doesn't excite you, you might like to be a 'friend of the PTA' assisting from time to time when extra help is needed.

Every contribution is valued, so if you would like to be involved in this active, friendly and effective group please enquire at the school office, contact a committee member or **come to our meeting tonight (Monday 11th February) 7.30pm in the Library** - you will be most welcome!

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Have a good week everyone

Mr T