

Monday 25 February 2008

Newsletter 4/08

Dear parents

Well, it was a noisy old time in our temporary office last week as the staff room and administration block were smashed down, but very entertaining for the children to watch. From now on, the building project is all go!

Special Terrific Persons Awards

Congratulations to the following hard working students, who will receive their special certificates at Wednesday afternoon's assembly (2.15pm start): *Tanvi Naik, Samuel Wat, Serine Panossian, Yu Jing Wang, Abhimanyu Khanna, Jordan Tane, Georgia Hardman, Kye Wood, Kieran Govender, Byron Lam, Tara Rawson, Cameron Clark, Rosie Salt, Jeff Gan, Gabriel Weon, Mekellan Naidoo, David Kim* and *Luke Holmes*.

Botany Downs School Community Weekend

5th and 6th April

Late last year the school was approached by *Mark van Wijk*, a Pastor at **Botany Life Community Church**.

Mark put forward an amazing proposal-that more than 150 members of his church come and spend a whole weekend at *our* school early in 2008 working on (and funding) projects to help improve the environment of our school.

As you can imagine, it didn't take long for us to say **"YES PLEASE"!!**

Plans are now well advanced, staff, Board and PTA are fully supportive, and we are all looking forward to the weekend of **5th and 6th April** when we hope to have a huge turnout of both church members and members of our school community carrying out the following projects:

- Developing the school frontage (new path, plants, fence)
- Improving the swimming pool surrounds and changing rooms
- Constructing a cricket pitch
- Painting the swimming pool and Eastern boundary fences
- Completing the paths in our native tree area
- Gardening

We are hoping that many of our school parents, friends and relations will join church and staff members on this weekend to help effect what will be tremendous improvements to our school. Work will be carried out in shifts-four on each day-so parents will be able to choose which block of time you can assist us in. Childcare and yummy food will be available, and the whole weekend will wrap up on the Sunday afternoon with a massive get together around 4.00pm to celebrate a wonderful community event.

Please make a note of the dates, and seriously consider giving up even an hour of that weekend to help our school. **MORE INFORMATION AS IT COMES TO HAND!**

To find out about previous church community projects, go to www.botanylife.org.nz and click on the **Community Projects** link.

Senior School Swimming Sports

Next Tuesday 4th March. Offers of parental assistance to Grant Kibblewhite please.

Coming Attractions

- Progressive Achievement Tests (PATs) have started for middle and senior school children (Tests are held in Listening, Mathematics and Reading).
- The next meeting of the PTA is on **Monday 3 March**
- The senior school swimming sports will be held next **Tuesday 4 March**
- On **Wednesday 5 March** the junior classes are heading out to my neck of the woods and visiting the Glenbrook Vintage Railway
- The middle school syndicate is holding their annual swimming carnival on **Friday 7 March**
- Our Family Fun Afternoon is on **Sunday 9 March** (see below)

Parent Interviews

Our term 1 parent interviews are being held on **Wednesday 12 March** and **Thursday 13 March**. A parent interview request form is coming home today. Please return this by **Thursday**. Thank you.

PTA News

Healthy Apple Fundraising – The PTA is pleased to be able to offer this new fundraising initiative, selling NZ grown *export quality* gala apples, direct from the grower. A separate notice came home last week detailing this fundraiser, the benefits to you and also to our school. All orders, with payment, must be sent to school no later than **Wednesday this week**. Spare order forms are available at the office.

Family Fun Day – Sunday 9th March (2pm – 4pm). Featuring a water slide, assault course, family fun races, bike obstacle course and lots more! Sausage sizzle, drinks and ice blocks will be available to purchase on the day. Mark this date on your calendar now and plan to bring the whole family to school for a fun afternoon!

New PTA Members – It was great to see some new faces at our first PTA meeting of the year. We welcome new members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and becoming involved in this effective group is a great way to meet other parents and staff, as well as feeling you are making a real contribution! If you are interested in knowing more about our PTA, please call Maree Biland - 5376037.

Calling All Five Year Olds!

Please let the office know *as soon as you can* if you have a child who is turning five and will be starting school at Botany Downs this year. It is really helpful for our planning if we have a good idea of how many to expect, and when.

Phone and Communication Problems

We have had intermittent problems with phones, faxes, eftpos and computers since school began, and once again this morning we find ourselves cut off from the outside world. The odd cable being cut through by the digger hasn't helped. Our apologies for the inconvenience this is causing.

Helping Your Child to Read

*Read to your child every day
Vary the type of books read
When reading to your child, stop sometimes and ask
“What do you think might happen next?”
Talk to your child about books read by them, or to them, at school
Visit the excellent local public library
Yes! Books still make excellent presents!*

Have a good week everyone

Mr T