

**Monday 17 March 2008**

**Newsletter 7/08**

Dear parents

### **Easter Break**

Please note that our school will be **closed for the Easter break** on the following dates:

*Friday 21 March*

*Monday 24 March*

*Tuesday 25 March*

### **Parent Interviews**

*Thank you* for the great turnout at parent interviews last week. Don't forget that if you feel there are still matters needing clarification all you need to do is contact your child's teacher, who will be only too happy to arrange another meeting time with you.

### **Special Terrific Persons Awards**

Congratulations to the following children, who will be awarded their certificates at this week's assembly (starting at 2.15pm): *Sophie Bell, Cameron Biland, Amy Bonnington, Alexia Brown, Amy Harrison, Blake Padmore, Liam Salt, Thomas Speed, Michael Spring, Nancy Tang, Helen Duckworth, Vicki Fan, Steven Matthews, Renee Page, Amanda Sua, Jane Xu and India Yarrow.*

### **Juniors Aqua Fun day**

Well what can we say – we feel this event is somewhat fated! The Juniors were having so much fun with their water fun afternoon until the real “aqua” decided, once again this year, to fall from the sky. The children didn't mind a bit, they were wet already, but the adult spectators weren't quite so keen to continue and we had to abandon the fun. Our thanks to the parents who were able to come along and support us and also a huge thank you to Mr J who spent a lot of time organising many of the events for us.

*Elizabeth Thomas (AP)*

### **Middle School Visit to Historical Village**

Last week the Middle School visited the Howick Historical Village to learn more about life in the 1800's. We had a fabulous time exploring the village, looking inside the houses and walking around the gardens. We learned more about toys in the 1800's and compared them to our toys today. The highlight of our visit was a lesson in the school house and learning what a Thunder Box was.... Thanks to those parents and caregivers who came with us on our visit.

*Liz Sudfeldt (Team Leader)*

### **New Pupils**

Welcome to *Ciara Smith* and *Francois Van Jaarsveld*.

### **Board of Trustees**

The Board is meeting on Wednesday, at 7.30pm in the library. Parents are welcome to attend these meetings, and are reminded that minutes of meetings, and copies of financial and other reports from each month's meeting, are available from the office upon request.

# Botany Downs School Community Weekend

## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April

Parents, are you able to take part in our giant community working weekend on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April?

We will be:

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

**We are anticipating that many of our school parents, friends and relations will join us on this weekend to help effect what will be tremendous improvements to our school.**

Work will be carried out in shifts, so parents you can choose which block(s) of time you can assist us in. Please seriously consider giving up even an hour of that weekend to help our school.

### HOW TO TAKE PART

To **register** your intention to take part in this special occasion, go to [www.botanylife.org.nz](http://www.botanylife.org.nz) and click on the *Community Projects* link.

Alternatively, just fill in the form coming home today, and return it to your child's teacher.

## 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 make **fabulous** presents!*

Don't forget, no school on Friday this week, nor on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> **and** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> next week.

Have a good week everyone ☺

Regards

Mr T