

Monday 14 April 2008

Newsletter 11/08

Dear parents

Last week of term! We finish this Friday (18th), and the second term begins on **Monday 5 May**.

Again we have had a particularly busy term, and I would like to thank everyone-parents, staff and children-for your efforts.

We are in the middle of a time of significant change and progress here at Botany Downs. Perhaps the most obvious, of course, are the new administration block and staffroom, which are now really starting to take shape.

But in *addition* to our major building programme, over the past few weeks developments have included:

- Installing a wireless network throughout the school
- Acquiring pods of laptops for children to use
- Tremendous environment advancements (revamped front entrance, new gardens and paths, pool fence murals and pool surrounds, further planting in our native tree area)
- Curtains in the school library
- Whiteboards in nine classrooms (thank you PTA!)
- Installation of the latest phone system technology (hmmm...not without the odd problem, it must be admitted!)
- Purchasing of data projectors
- A concrete cricket pitch between the soccer and rugby fields

And, in the next few weeks, look out for:

- A brand new front fence
- Additions to the senior playground (thank you again, PTA)

Term Certificates

Congratulations to the following children, recipients of our very special "Term Certificates". These are awarded one per class, and will be given out at this Wednesday's assembly, starting at 2.15pm. Parents, you are invited to attend. We would love to see you.

Luke Holmes, Jessie Edmonds, Erika Whiteley, Amber Harrison, Kelly Liang, Vinny Lambly, Farah Soltani, Jessica Davies, Jessy-Leigh Harvett, Michael Li, Vicki Mosheim, Jayden Kean, Samuel Wat, Danielle Bason, Lucas Lee, Rhea Patel, Claudia Gibson and Winona Saptoe.

Congratulations to all of you!!

Farewell Mrs Taft

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, Mrs Taft is retiring this Friday. On behalf of everyone, I'd like to thank Yvonne for all her efforts as a dedicated and conscientious class teacher, and much valued staff member, over the last three years. We will miss you!

BOT Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees is on Wednesday, starting at 7.30pm. All welcome.

New Pupils: Welcome to *Grace Adams, Tristan Andrews* and *Nathan Leggatt*.

Jump Rope...TOMORROW

A reminder that our Jump Rope Day is **tomorrow**, weather permitting. Between **11.00am** and **12.30pm** the whole school will be participating in a circuit of activities involving skipping. Children will need to bring a t-shirt (preferably in their house team colour), shorts and appropriate footwear i.e. sand-shoes/sneakers. An extra drink will be needed. Children can bring their own skipping ropes to use if they wish, but *please ensure that these are clearly named*. Parents, you are *very welcome* to come along and watch the fun. (*Amy Muir*)

School Donations

Parents, you are in luck! It's not too late! All school donations (\$180 per child) paid by the end of this term are discounted by \$30! But this only applies until Friday. Eftpos and credit card facilities are available.

Annual Report

At this time Boards of Trustees are busy wrapping up their previous year's annual reports, and finalising strategic plans for the coming year (due in to the Ministry of Education by the end of May). The 2007 Curriculum Reviews presented by curriculum leaders to our Board of Trustees showed that we continue to achieve the academic targets we have set for ourselves, notably:

- *The great majority of children at every year level are "reading with good understanding" at or above their chronological age*
- *The majority of children at every year level are writing at or above the appropriate MOE (Ministry of Education) level*
- *In mathematics, 71% of our Y2 children, 96% of our Y4 children, and 78% of our Y6 children are achieving at or above MOE expectation*
- *Our BOT funded special needs programmes (such as Reading Recovery and Rainbow Reading) are making a significant difference in improving learning outcomes for children*

PTA News

(1) Have fun at Snowplanet these April school holidays: Snowplanet, offering a winter wonderland experience just 20 minutes north of the Bridge, is proud to support our school and offers great deals for families and kids during the April school holidays. The popular 5-day kids school holiday programme comes with one lesson a day including rental equipment and a kids meal voucher and is a great way to learn new snow sport skills in a fun and active environment. To book in your child, call Snowplanet on 09 427 0044 and the first 100 bookings even get a FREE family pass, valued at \$129! Families also get a BONUS hour for FREE when having fun in the snow with the \$99 family pass (2 adults and up to 2 kids), only these April school holidays. Visit Snowplanet's website www.snowplanet.co.nz for more.

(2) Movies Making Money: When you go to the movies these holidays, choose SKYCITY CINEMAS at HIGHLAND PARK and 10% of your ticket price will be donated to our school! When paying for your tickets make sure you nominate our school - **Botany Downs Primary School!** Last year we received over \$400 from this scheme, so keep enjoying your movie experience knowing that you are supporting our school at the same time.

(3) Fun Events in Term 2: Mark these dates on your calendar, and watch future newsletters for more details:

Donut & Mufti Day – Friday 16th May
Sausage Sizzle – Tuesday 24th June
Disco – Friday 27th June

(4) Healthy Apple Fundraising: Remember to collect your order from the hall on Thursday this week between 2.45pm and 3.15pm, as apples will not be fresh after the 2 week holiday period! The final delivery of this first cycle will be on the first Thursday of the new term (Thursday 8th May). Due to the positive feedback we have received from everyone, we are pleased to be able to continue offering apples each week, for as long as the apple season continues. Order forms will be available in the first week of Term 2. If you didn't order initially, speak with someone who did and hear first hand how delicious the apples are – order this time, we guarantee you will NOT be disappointed!

Mr T