

Monday 19 May 2008

Newsletter 14/08

Dear parents

Special Terrific Persons Awards

Congratulations to all the following children, who will receive their certificates at Wednesday afternoon's assembly (starts at 2.15pm): **Siobhan Bishop, Akshay Edekar, Brad Elliott, Liam Hennessy, Megan McCormack, Nicole Meyer, Corinna Rahm, Mariam Sacranie, Connor Sharp, Matthew Yang, Joshua Zhu, Kyle Jonson, Munirah Mahadi, Harrison Matthews** and **Adhirai Prema Maninilavan**.

Room 11

Welcome back to **Colleen Richards**, who is rejoining us as a new entrant teacher. Colleen is starting up a class in Room 11.

Headlice

Yes, those little critters are back! Please check your children's hair tonight, and, if you discover nits are present, see your chemist for treatment before your children return to school.

Calling All Five Year Olds!

Don't forget to make sure that Trish in the office knows if you have a child who is turning five and starting school this year at Botany Downs.

Staff Professional Development

A reminder to parents that our main focus for staff professional development this year is upon ICT (Information and Communication Technology). We are also continuing working towards the introduction of the new NZ Curriculum, moving gradually towards more of an "inquiry learning" approach, and of course continuing our emphasis in recent years upon literacy-especially writing-and numeracy.

Our Strategic Plans

These were finalised at last week's Board of Trustees meeting.

An integral part of the plans are the six "Teaching and Learning Goals" we have set for 2008:

1. To continue to develop high quality writing programmes and expertise in the teaching of Writing across the school
2. For teachers and students at Botany Downs School to become active and confident participants in e-learning (this means ICT-computers, technology etc)
3. To develop consistently high standards of Mathematics teaching practice across all levels
4. To begin to develop a "Botany Downs Approach to Learning & Teaching", within an inquiry model
5. To promote effective staff performance, and high quality teaching and learning, through a strong senior management team, with a focus upon in-class support for teachers
6. To continue preparing for the full implementation of the new NZ Curriculum

Traffic Safety

We ask that all parents and children crossing Mirrabooka Avenue after school use our *Road Patrol* crossing please.

Everyone must wait until the road patrol monitors give the "Cross Now" signal.

Please don't park on the yellow lines, or attempt U turns right outside the school!

A reminder that there is no parking in the drop off zone.

Queen's Birthday

No school on **Monday 2 June** as it is a public holiday.

New Pupils

Welcome to the following new pupils at our school: **Ivan, Christine and Christiana Redondo**

Our Children are Superstars!

Congratulations to Cameron Jago and Brad Elliott, two budding BMX stars. Cameron came 2nd for the season at the prize giving for his club (Mountain Raiders) on Saturday, and Brad came 3rd. Both boys compete in the seven year old division.

More School Property Developments

- Thank you to the PTA for the wonderful data projector and screen in the library
- Our front fence should be completed next week
- We are in the process of converting our coal fired boiler (which heats the central block) to gas. This means there is no heating in some rooms just as it gets a little chillier! We're hopeful we will be ready to switch over by next week. In the meantime we're quite happy for the children in the affected classrooms to wear extra clothing if feeling a little cold.

Reporting to Parents

- *Maths books will be coming home on Monday 30 June*
- *Mid Year reports will be coming home on Friday 4 July*
- *Parent Interviews are being held early in term 3*

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 wonderful presents!*

Have a good week everyone

Regards

Mr T