

**Monday 1 September 2008**

**Newsletter 27/08**

Dear parents

### **Official Opening of New Buildings**

We had a very, very successful opening of our new buildings by *Prime Minister Helen Clark* on Friday morning. **Thank you** to the many parents and friends of the school who turned up, and to all those parents who helped supervise children while the staff had a cuppa with the Prime Minister. Congratulations to three of our senior pupils, *Aishwarya Gopalakrishnan, James Kim* and *Meheer Zaveri* who helped to run the ceremony.

The PM had many positive things to say about our school, repeatedly commenting on the superb behaviour of the children during the “ceremony”, and the quality of the singing, especially by our choir. A huge vote of thanks to our Building Project Committee of *Mark Bason, Birgit Rahm* and *Graeme Brown*, who have done a wonderful job, to architects *John Rehm* and *Christine Drinnan*, Project Manager *Paul Styles*, and to *Greg Chapman Builders*.

### **New Pupils**

Welcome to *Michael Willetts, Jake Clements, Oliver Caldwell, Amber Heald, Chloe Wardle-Ramage, Tamara Malone, Marnus Loots, Josh and Mina Celik-Alvis*

**Scholastic Books:** Please note that **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September** is the closing date for book orders.

### **ERO REPORT**

As I mentioned at Friday’s Opening, our final ERO Report has arrived. It makes very pleasing reading indeed, with comments such as:

- *The school continues to provide high quality education*
- *Classes are positive learning environments in which students interact well with each other*
- *Attractive displays on classroom walls*
- *High quality teaching is evident across the school*
- *Classrooms are focused learning environments that support and encourage student achievement*
- *Students are polite, friendly and respectful*
- *There is a strong focus upon literacy and numeracy*
- *Students enjoy a rich language environment in which their writing is respected and valued*
- *Planning for the delivery of literacy and numeracy across the school is consistent and comprehensive*
- *The school has a positive professional learning culture/teachers are open to new ways of teaching*

### **Special Terrific Persons Awards**

*Congratulations* to all the following children, who will receive their special certificates at **Wednesday** afternoon’s assembly. It’s been great to see lots of parents coming along to our school assemblies. They start at **2.15pm.**, and we really appreciate it if parents can attend:

*Emily Chan, Brent Deetlefs, Nicola Elia, Cailin Farquhar, Louise Franks, Abbie Godkin-Wilson, Tomas Johnston-Oldham, Logan Kean, Corey Lindon, Yasmine Mustafa, Aaron Nguyen, Sloane Perkins, Bradley Robinson, Sobijan Selvachandran, Hamish Singleton, Ciara Smith, Farah Soltani, Samuel Whitehead*

### **Board of Trustees Elections**

We have SIX nominations for the three available positions on our Board of Trustees: *Steve Edmonds, Edward Kanon, Debbie Muir, Jacques Du Plessis, Birgit Rahm* and *Lance Tan*. You will be receiving your voting papers shortly in the mail. Please take the time to vote and return your voting paper, in the envelope provided, to the school by noon on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

## CROSS COUNTRY TOMORROW

A reminder that our annual cross country races are to be held tomorrow Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, weather permitting. All children take part in these races, unless there is a valid written reason from home. Juniors – Years 0 – 3 will race from 11:10 am. There will be a break for lunch at the conclusion of these races and then Seniors – Years 4 – 6 will race from 1pm. We are unable to give exact times for races as this is dependent on factors on the day. All children must run in suitable footwear, shorts and if possible, a t-shirt the colour of their house. (Blake – red, Hillary – yellow, Batten – green, Sheppard – blue).

We would appreciate some parent help at the finish line and on the course, please let us know, at the start of the day, if you are able to help. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow, if you are able to come and share some of the day with your children.

*Elizabeth Thomas and Grant Kibblewhite*



**Daffodil Day:** Thank you everybody for your support of Daffodil Day. We raised \$792 for the Cancer Society. Thank you to *Amy Muir* for running the occasion once again.

### From Your PTA

(Meeting tonight in the staff room at 7.30pm...ALL WELCOME!)

#### CHOCOLATES FUNDRAISER – ICT Equipment

Thank you to everyone who has sold their chocolates and returned the money already – Great Effort!! It is helpful if you can send notes or cheques as it is easier than handling large amounts of coin. Please keep the money coming in - remember you have to send your money back to go in the lucky draw to win a bike. Congratulations to **Jeff Gan** (Room 21) who won the first bike at last Wednesday's assembly. We no longer need you to return your empty carry boxes to the school as we have enough. Thanks to those of you who did return your boxes to be reused. Feel free to put your empty carry boxes in your recycling bin at home from now on.

We do still have more chocolate available for those who are able to sell it easily. Remember we issue more chocolate on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Thanks for your support. Any queries please phone **Gerry Boniface** on 534-6149.

#### FAMILY NIGHT AT PARADICE ICE SKATING – LAST DAYS TO ORDER TICKETS!!!

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September (6.30pm – 8.00pm). Whether you have skated a **little**, a **lot** or **not at all**, we hope you are planning on joining us! With 100 or more skaters we will enjoy exclusive use of the rink on this night, so it will be an ideal opportunity to 'give it a try'!! **Friends and family are welcome** to join us, so get a group together and come and join the fun. **Tickets must be pre-ordered**. If you have misplaced your notice, download the Term 3 PTA Newsletter from the school website [www.botanydowns.school.nz/community.asp](http://www.botanydowns.school.nz/community.asp), complete the slip at the bottom of the newsletter and return with payment by the end of this week (Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September). Join us for a fun night and support the PTA's fundraising efforts at the same time. Any queries regarding this event, please phone **Maree Biland** (537-6037).

### MIMIO DEMONSTRATION TONIGHT

As you are aware, the PTA is pleased to be committing the profits from this year's chocolate fundraising towards the purchase of more **Mimios & Data Projectors** for classrooms. This technology is perfect for front-of-class teaching and opens up a huge number of **interactive learning opportunities** for children. If you would like to understand more about how this exciting technology works and the benefits to your children, please **JOIN US FOR A DEMONSTRATION TONIGHT** ... **MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM** in the **STAFFROOM**. See you there!

#### DISCOUNT MOVIE TICKETS!

Don't forget to nominate Botany Downs Primary School when purchasing your tickets at **SKYCITY Cinemas Highland Park** and 10% of your ticket price will come back to us!

Even better news, for a **LIMITED TIME** tickets are **JUST \$10 PER ADULT** and **\$6 PER CHILD!!** NOW is a great time to catch that movie you've been wanting to see, and support our school at the same time!

Mr T