

Monday 15 September 2008

Newsletter 29/08

Dear parents

Teacher Only Day

At the start of this year, the Ministry of Education granted all schools a "Teacher Only Day" to carry out professional development relating to the new NZ Curriculum, which is being introduced in 2009. Most local schools and colleges have already held theirs.

Our Teacher Only Day is on **Tuesday 28 October**.

On this day our school will be closed. All teachers will be involved in a professional development course off-site. The office will also be closed.

More details in coming newsletters.

PTA News

- **FAMILY ICE SKATING NIGHT**

Wow, what a great turnout we had at our Family Ice Skating night at Paradise Ice last Thursday – 215 skaters, including 75 parents and some teachers! Everyone had a fabulous time, and the PTA would like to thank you all for your support. We look forward to repeating this fun event again next year!

- **SAUSAGE SIZZLE & MUFTI DAY – next Tuesday!**

Enjoy a sausage (or two) for lunch next Tuesday 23rd September, and remember to come dressed in mufti. Sausages need to be ordered in advance – a separate notice and order form has been sent home today. The PTA requires parent help between 9.00 – 10.30am and 11am – 1pm on this day, if you can assist please contact Maree (5376037) or email biland@xtra.co.nz.

- **CHOCOLATES FUNDRAISER**

Congratulations to *Braden du Plessis* of Room 17, who won last week's bike draw. The last bike draw will be at this week's assembly, so get your money in before then, to be in to win!

Our chocolates fundraiser is coming to an end now so we need your money back by the end of this term please (next Friday 26th September).

However, if you are able to keep selling your chocolates over the holidays or can take more chocolates to sell, we still have some in stock, and payment for these would need to be returned in the first week of term 4.

Thanks for your great efforts with this fundraiser. Any queries please phone *Gerry Boniface 534 6149*.

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 so many parents coming along to our school assemblies. They start at **2.15pm.**, and we really appreciate it if parents can attend:

Joshua Ealam, Serine Panossian, Leroy Tito, Jacinta Hanscamp, Callum Clark, Jessie Edmonds, Emily Speed, Katherina Chhour, Alysha Hardey, Jade Kirkham, Briana Sharp, Ben Tillson, Ryan Sargent, Jamie Rollason, Vincent Liu, Mohammed Alkhafagi, Ben Appleyard and Aiden Francis.

Inter School Cross Country

Best wishes to all our cross country representatives tomorrow. Thank you to **Grant Kibblewhite** for organizing the teams, running practices and so on.

Our Fabulous ERO Report

If you'd like to read more about our recent Education Review Office report, go to the ERO website (www.ero.govt.nz)

School Website

Speaking of websites, have you visited our own website, at www.botanydowns.school.nz? Our newsletters are published there each week in case you lose your hard copy, along with other snippets of news, plus photos.

I'd like to thank our ICT lead teacher **Lyndal Lowans**, who loads our website each week and keeps it ticking along really well.

Scholastic Books

Please note that the cut-off date is this *Thursday 18th September*.

Our Children are Superstars!

Congratulations to **Cory Woodford**, who received the Player of the Year award yesterday for his team at his Rugby League Club's prize giving. Cory plays for Howick Hornets Under 10's. Cory **also** won Mod Player of the Year for the Howick Hornets Club!! **WELL DONE CORY!**

Our Caretaker is a Superstar Too!

Did you know that our very own caretaker, **Bob Johnson**, was nominated for the "Watties Volunteer Coach of the Year Award 2008"? As you know Bob has given up many hours of his own time coaching Touch and more recently Ripper Rugby.

Eleven finalists were chosen from over 3,500 entries and were divided into three categories. At the function on 4th September Bob was a **finalist** in the 'Life-Time Volunteer Coach of the Year' along with four others. The event was run by Counties Manukau Sport and is held each year. **WELL DONE Bob!**

Coming Attractions

<i>Tuesday 16 September</i>	Interschool Cross Country. GO BOTANY DOWNS!
<i>Wednesday 17 September</i>	BOT at 7.30pm
<i>Monday 22 September</i>	Children's writing books coming home for parents to view
<i>Tuesday 23 September</i>	Sausage sizzle and Mufti Day
<i>Friday 26 September</i>	Last day of the term
<i>Monday 13 October</i>	Term 4 begins

Thank you...to lots of people!

I'd like to express a special vote of thanks to two of our Board of Trustees members, **Nick Biland** and **Steve Edmonds**, who have completed their three year term and have chosen not to stand again in the coming BOT elections. Nick and Steve have been great trustees and have worked hard for the school during their time on the Board. Thanks to both of you.

Thank you also to **Gerry Boniface**, who has once again been coordinating the PTA's chocolate fundraiser. This is a lot of work, and we all appreciate your efforts Gerry.

Thank you-once again-to **Maree Biland** and her PTA team. The ice skating night was a tremendous success, due largely to your enthusiasm, commitment and fantastic organisational skills. Thank you for all you do for the children and staff of our school.

Have a good week everyone. The sun is shining!

Mr T