

Monday 9 November 2009

Newsletter 35/09

Dear parents

Special Terrific Persons Awards

Congratulations to all the following children, who will receive their special certificates at this Wednesday afternoon's assembly, starting at 2.10pm. Parents, it would be great to have your company: **Emily Chan, Callum Clark, Jenna de Wild, Georgia Gibson, Yiwen Lin, Tamara Malone, Joshua McGowan, Cory Melville, Quinn Malone, Ayusha Salgaonkar, Sobijan Selvachandran, Balpreet Singh, Sian Singh, Caitlin Stewart, Jazmine Thlang, Jenny Truong, Kye Wood, Stevie Wood, Kevin Zhang and Yasaman Zolghadri.**

Best Wishes to Mrs Sudfeldt

Liz Sudfeldt is going on maternity leave from this Friday, and will be on extended leave next year. Liz has done a great job over the last almost five years, both as a highly regarded class teacher in Room 16, and as the leader of the middle team. Best wishes to both Liz and Andrew as they look forward to becoming parents in the very near future.

Our School Song

Hopefully all parents are aware that we are only too happy to have you come along to our school assemblies-usually held on **Wednesday afternoons** at 2.15pm-to join in the fun and help us celebrate your children's achievements.

At our assemblies, many of you will have heard us sing *Ma te Mahi Ka Ora*, which we adopted last year as our school song.

*“Rise and shine, it's a brand new day
Ma te mahi ka ora
We've set our goals and we're on our way
Ma te mahi ka ora”*

We chose this song for several reasons. Not only does it have a catchy tune, and strong chorus line, but the Maori phrase “ma te mahi ka ora” means “through hard work comes fulfilment”. This of course ties in really well with our school motto “**Our Best Always**” (see logo above), and also with our “Values”-especially our current one of showing determination.

Year 5 Camps: All the best to our Year 5 students, who are having a one night camp at Sonshine Ranch this week.

Values

Our “value” being focused upon in classes at present is “**determination**”. Congratulations to all the following children, who will be acknowledged at this week's assembly: **Michael Spring, Jordan Joyce, Connor Sharp, Akshay Edekar, Jayde Rousseau, Natalie Lowe, Leesa Johnson, Teagan Hack, Nicole Meyer, Charlie Schwalger, Amanda Sua, Jayden Holmes, Gary Toleafoa, Matthew Barker and Elizabeth Manson**

Junior Athletic Sports

The Junior Athletics (5-7 year olds) morning will be held on **Friday November 13th** from 9:15am to 12:30pm. If cancelled due to weather conditions, this event will be held on the first fine day the field is open and available following that. Children will need to bring hats, drinks and sunblock for their protection. Children will need to wear school uniform to school but may change into suitable sports clothing for the morning.

At the conclusion of the morning the children will eat their lunch ‘picnic style’ on the grassy bank (weather permitting) or in the juniors eating area and we hope parents will join us.

For this day to be a success we need help from parents to supervise groups and move around with children and help with carrying drinks etc. All teachers will be involved in the activities and would appreciate offers at some activities. If you are able help at an event, please let Elizabeth Thomas know through your child's class teacher

From the PTA

CHRISTMAS HAMS

Advance notice that the PTA will be selling Christmas Hams again this year, due to popular demand from previous years. More details will be sent home towards the end of November. Orders will be due back by Friday 11th December, with delivery on Wednesday 16th December.

'KIDS NIGHT OUT' at CHIPMUNKS

On **Thursday 10th December**, drop your kids off at Chipmunks Pakuranga and take a couple of hours to do a spot of Christmas shopping, have dinner out or just put your feet up and enjoy some quiet time at home! A notice will be sent home on the 23rd November, with more information and registration details.

BOTANY TWILIGHT FAIR

5pm – 8pm

Friday 20th November

Just **11 MORE SLEEPS** until our Twilight Fair and hopefully you have all put aside the evening of next **Friday 20 November** to come along and join in the fun. Bring all your **FRIENDS & RELATIVES** too!

VOLUNTEERS

We are okay for helpers to set-up, but we are still **need more volunteers to help with stalls/activities on the day**. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who can help for an hour, between 5pm -8pm – please download the 'volunteer slip' from the 'events' page of the school website – www.botanydowns.school.nz – fill in and return to school asap, or contact Maree 5376037 or biland@xtra.co.nz. Information will be sent home next Monday to all volunteers – please check your child's bag for an envelope and if you have any queries contact Maree.

PLATE OF BAKING

A plate will be sent home to all families this Friday 13th. We ask that you return your plate with your item of baking (cake, muffin, loaf, homemade sweets etc) to Room 9 on the morning of the Fair. Baking needs to be carefully covered with gladwrap and labelled with name/type of baking. Baking will be available for sale from our Cake Stall from 5pm onwards.

OTHER DONATED ITEMS - GROCERY ITEM & BOTTLES

We are still **in need of many more** of these two items, which we are asking each family to donate. If you haven't already done so, please send these to school **by the end of this week** – thank you!

SECONDHAND BOOKS, PUZZLES, DVD'S & CD'S

You don't have much time left to sort through your bookshelves and cupboards – donations of these items must be sent to school **by the end of this week** to allow us time to organise and sort. Please bag or box these up and leave them at the school office.

PLANTS

If you require pots for potting up your cuttings/seedlings for our plant stall, please contact Maree 5376037 or biland@xtra.co.nz. We would prefer that all plants be bought to school on the morning of the Fair, as we do not have space to store them beforehand.

ADVERTISING FLYERS

If you can deliver advertising flyers to letterboxes this coming weekend (Friday 13th – Sunday 15th) please contact Sally 5344463 or sally.paul@xtra.co.nz and she will allocate a delivery area near your home. Bundles of flyers will be available for collection at the office or can be sent home with your child. In addition, 10 flyers have been sent home today with the eldest child in each family. We ask that you **deliver these to letterboxes near to you** over the coming weekend to help 'spread the word'!

Have a good week everyone

Mr T