

Monday 23 March 2009

Newsletter 08/09

Dear parents

THANK YOU TO OUR PTA!

Grateful thanks from all of us to all who were in any way associated with our wonderfully successful Garage Sale on Saturday. We really do appreciate your efforts.

Botany Downs Book Week

In the last week of this term (6th - 9th of April), Botany Downs is having a Book Week. We have many exciting things planned for this week, including Bring Wonder the Story Teller coming share some stories with us, and take story telling workshops. If you haven't paid your activity fee, please send \$3 to school with your child to cover the cost of the Story Teller. Thank you.

(Liz Sudfeldt, Literacy Leader)

Translator Needed

Are there any parents that could help translate letters, notices or homework into the different languages that we have in our ESOL (English as a Second Language) classes? At the moment we need a Mandarin translator. Please contact the school office.

(Lynette Williams, ESOL Teacher)

New Pupils

A big welcome to all the following new students who have arrived this year: *Michael Chudleigh, Carlina Barnett-Slade, Samantha & Jessica Berkeley, Valeria & Dmitry Nesterenko, Chase & Dylan Taylor, Corey Thorpe, Jaxon Perkins, Stevie Woods, Caitlin Perkins, Caleb Moorman-Brooke, Gurtaj Bhullar, Jacob Sprague, Ronin Tainui, Jack Cowan, Jennifer Kong, Janice & Jacky Jiang, Ashlin Naidu, Ryna Karani, Mason Jury, Isabelle White, Heather & William Bryant, Nurhuda Mahadi, Phoenix Hunt, Zach Stadler, Clive Clark, Sophie Hurley, Tanna Clegg, Lara Sadek, Kaitlyn Grinder, YuXi Wang, Austin Chapman, Ethan Harvett and Sarah Harper.*

And of course welcome back to *Wing Kei Tang, Briana and Lauren Price.*

Swimming

Our swimming season has finished, and the pool is closed. Please return all keys as soon as possible to our school office. Don't forget to collect your refund.

Music Lessons

A reminder that we offer piano, keyboard, recorder and violin lessons through our music teacher Jinny Jo right here at school. Contact the school office if you are interested in your children learning one of these instruments.

From next term, Jinny will also be taking class music lessons on the recorder, throughout the middle and upper school.

We are now also in the position of being able to offer a guitar teacher. Please contact the school office if you are interested in your child having private lessons during school time on the guitar.

Special Terrific Persons Awards

Congratulations to all the following children, who will receive their special certificates at **Wednesday** afternoon's assembly. Assemblies start at **2.15pm.**, and we appreciate it if parents can attend. The children really look forward to seeing you: *Helitha Dharmadasa, Georgia Gibson, Nathan Leggatt, Natalie Corrigan, Caitlin Rarity, Hamish Singleton, Nilofar Zolghadri, Jaxon Crowther, Sophie Sumner, Courtney Behm, Ish Kadakia, Marnus Loots, Joshua Ealam, Janice Jiang, Jayden Holmes, Jacob Bunn and Vinny Lambly.*

Parent Interviews

With our first round of parent interviews behind us, it's a good time to find out whether parents find them useful, or have suggestions that we could have a look at.

These first interviews are the first step in our formal four step "procedure" of liaising with parents, sharing information, and reporting to you on the progress of your child, as follows:

1. Term 1	Initial parent interviews	Week 6
2. Term 2	Written mid year report	Week 10
3. Term 3	Follow up parent interviews	Week 2-3
4. Term 4	Final written report	Week 10

Last year, we introduced "three way interviews", for children in Y4, Y5 and Y6, with the children encouraged to take part in the interview and talk about their goals for the year.

If you would like to comment upon our parent interviews, or any aspect of our procedures for reporting to you on the progress of your children, it would be great to get your feedback. Let me know if you're happy with the current set up, or have suggestions you'd like to make, by sending me a note, ringing me 534 9848 or by emailing.

For example:

- Do you find our interviews useful?
- Is the timing right?
- Would you like to see some other way of meeting with your child's teacher introduced?
- If you are a parent of a more senior child, does having your child present at the interview work for you? Or would you prefer for interviews to return to being just parents and teacher?

Please send me your thoughts.

principal@botanydowns.school.nz

(Mr T)

Values

At present we are emphasizing the value of "Respect". The following children have been selected by their teachers because they are demonstrating our current Value. They will be congratulated at this week's assembly and their names will be added to our Botany Downs Values Tree in the corridor: *Chelsea Prince, Ashleigh Jones, Ciara Smith, Gurjot Bhullar, Michael Spring, Cailin Farquhar, Samantha Morton, Paige Fenning, Kiana Hania, Quinn Malone, Samantha Cooper, Isabella White.*

From the PTA

GARAGE SALE SUCCESS!!

WOW, what a fantastic success the PTA Garage Sale fundraiser was on the weekend, with over **\$4000 profit** made for our school! Our **SINCERE THANKS** to all of our families who donated goods and provided us with some wonderful baking to sell, and also to the many people who helped prior to the sale with receiving and sorting goods, the day before the sale with setting up and of course on the actual day with the selling and packing up afterwards – you all did a fantastic job! A special thanks also to parent Dave Slessor (Total Focus Property) who donated all of the sausages.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE HERE THIS WEEK ...

The **2009/10 Entertainment Book** is being released this week and **Botany Downs Primary School** will again be raising funds by selling this book. These fantastic books contain hundreds of **25-50% off** and **two-for-one offers** from popular restaurants, cinemas, attractions, hotel accommodation, arts and sporting events. There truly is something for everyone and the great thing is that you also benefit with **great savings** to be made – use 2-3 vouchers and you will have re-couped the cost of the book, and you will go on to enjoy **significant savings** from there!

Each family will be issued with one book on Wednesday this week. If you would like to purchase the book, return **\$65** and the book is yours to keep and use until May 2010! **Show the book to family and friends** also, as additional copies can be ordered using the order form which will be sent home with your book. The best part of course is that for **EVERY BOOK SOLD our school keeps \$13!**

More information will be sent home on Wednesday with your book. If you have any queries, please contact **Aroha Bishop** on **537-4799** or bishops5@xtra.co.nz.

ICEBLOCK & MUFTI DAY – FRIDAY 3rd APRIL

Wear mufti (ie: non-uniform) clothes and enjoy an ice block for morning tea next Friday 3rd April. Watch for a notice and order form coming home next Monday – please return orders with payment by the Thursday prior (2nd April).