

Monday 29 June 2009

Newsletter 20/09

Dear parents

Last week of term! We finish this *Friday 3 July*, and reopen for business on **Monday 20 July**. Again we have had a particularly busy term, and I would like to thank everyone-parents, staff and children-for your efforts.

Term Certificates

Congratulations to the following children, recipients of our very special "Term Certificates". These are awarded one per class, and will be given out at Wednesday's assembly. Parents, you are invited to attend. We would love to see you. Our final assembly for this term will start at 2.15pm as usual. *Shloka Parikh, Logan Cardoza, Yvette Redondo, Sarah Swears, Haseena Abdulla, Nurhuda Mahadi, Lang Coxen, Sarah Harper, Iris Wu, Jordan Dudley-Smith, Jessica Berkeley, Harry Fritsch, Briana Sharp, Lori Wolfson, Joshua Dheda, Larissa Melville, Miyako Hutton, Cameron Jago and Samuel Wat.*

Our Children are Superstars!

Recently the New Zealand Modern School of Music competitions were held. **Congratulations** to our piano teacher, Jinny Jo (McNae), and to all the children who took part.

Michael Li won a trophy

Ish Kadakia also received a trophy

Niraant Trilokekar received two silver medals, and a "Highly Commended"

Tia Warwick won a bronze medal

Victoria Hardey was awarded a "Very Highly Commended"

Congratulations also to *Erika Whiteley* (Room 4), who yesterday competed in the Central North Island Region Karate tournament in Hamilton, winning the gold medal for the girls under 7 year old Kata division. She has been training for 10 hours a week! This is her first tournament in Karate and she has worked hard for this competition. WELL DONE!

Music Festival

Best wishes to the choir for their performances at the Music Festival this week.

School Office Hours

During the holidays, the office will be open during the second week, on Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th and Friday 17th July, from 9.30am until 1.30pm.

Values Programme

Congratulations to the following, who will be acknowledged at Wednesday afternoon's assembly: *Brooke McGregor, Sarah Harper, Abigail Fritsch, Thomas Speed, Jessica Gibson, Sophie Hartnoll, Victor Li, Kyle Jonson, Charlotte Mason, Amanda Sua, Daniel Muir.*

Touch Rugby

Every year Botany Downs Primary School has a number of touch teams entered in the Eastern Junior Touch Competition. This competition is held in the 4th term, on a Sunday afternoon at Lloyd Elsmore Park. Last year we had two Under 7 teams (mixed boys and girls), three Under 9 boys, one Under 9 girls, two Under 11 boys and one under 11 girls team. A number of dedicated parents helped as coaches and managers.

This year we would like to enter as many teams as possible again into this competition, including the Under 13 age group. For this we need a number of COACHES and MANAGERS! If you are interested in either coaching or managing a team this year, please can you contact Birgit Rahm birgit@orcon.net.nz, (Tel: 535 3552 or 021 104 0951) before 1st August 2009. This is a great opportunity for parents to get involved in their children's sport. No experience necessary! Please note that this is NOT a call to enrol children at this stage. Enrolments will take place during term 3.

Cross Country

Our School Cross Country Day is set down for **Tuesday 1st September**, and next term all classes will be training from the first week (when the weather permits). The expectations of each team regarding cross country training are:

Junior School (Years 0-2):

At the beginning of term 3, weather permitting, we will begin to practise for our annual cross country races. We will practise every day at 1:30pm. If the field is too wet to use, we will be taking a brisk walk around the block to begin to build fitness. The children will be closely supervised and no roads are crossed on this circuit. When we are able to run on the field, the children will need to bring old shoes to run in please. (Elizabeth Thomas, team leader)

Middle School (Years 3-4):

Next term we will be training for cross country on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We would like all children to bring running shoes, shorts and a t-shirt (school sports uniform - green shorts and t-shirt) to every practice. We would like every child to participate in every training session as this gives children the best opportunity to improve their fitness. (Liz Sudfeldt, team leader)

Senior School (Years 5-6):

The Senior School cross country practices begin on the first day of Term 3. Students must bring a change of clothes to run in (PE kit with shorts, T shirt and proper running shoes) as they may get wet or muddy. Practices will take place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10.10 until morning tea. Any students not able to take part need a letter from parents. (Su Price, team leader)

Staffing

Best wishes to **Nicolette van Heerden**, who is expecting her first child and will be on maternity leave next term, and welcome to **Tracey Hazleman**, joining us as the new entrant teacher in Room 1 after the holidays.

The Magic Box

I will put in the box
An egg left behind by a dragon in battle
The last words written by William Shakespeare
Ashes from the leftovers of a phoenix sent up in flames

I will put in the box
The heartbeat of a tortured prisoner
The teardrop of a dying centaur
The blink of a rejected tribe member

I will put in the box
An icicle from the coldest place on earth
A hair from the last sabre tooth that lived
The death note from a vicious Ichigo

My box is fashioned from pieces of heaven and hell
With feathers of angels on the lid and halos in the corners
Its hinges are the horns from the tyrant devil

I shall watch the sunset in my box on the highest point on Hawaii
Then pick sunflowers in the richest fields on earth

(By **Kurt Ibalio** Room 12)