

Tuesday 2 February 2010

Newsletter 01/10

Dear parents

Welcome all of you to the new school year at Botany Downs, with a very special welcome to the lots of new children joining our community today. We hope your school days with us will be very happy and rewarding ones.

Our school newsletters come home at the start of *every* school week, with the eldest or only child. Newsletters are easily our most important way of communicating with you, so please look out for them. Newsletters are also posted on our school website (www.botanydowns.school.nz)

School Hours

Our classes begin at 8.55am, and finish at 3.00pm. Unless special arrangements have been made, children should not arrive before 8.30am please, as teachers are busy in their classrooms and there is no-one to supervise them. We ask that children be collected promptly after school (no later than 3.15pm).

Staff and School Organisation

Two new teachers are starting today. **Gareth Hayward** will be in Room 16 and **Keiko Giovanni** in Room 1. Welcome to both of you.

This year the school will be organised differently. There will be two syndicates, a Y1-3 syndicate led by Elizabeth Thomas, and a Y4-6 syndicate led by Su Price. Within these syndicates will be several smaller teams, each consisting of 3-4 classrooms, and each with a team leader, as follows:

Y1-3 Syndicate

Syndicate Leader: Elizabeth Thomas
Team Leaders: Amy Muir, Samantha du Plessis, Briar Wright

Teams:

Y1-2: Amy Muir (leader), Keiko Giovanni, Marie Highley, Margaret Cotman
Y1-2: Samantha du Plessis (leader), Anna Bradley, Jenny Blake, Louise Macro
Y3: Briar Wright (leader), Gareth Hayward, Rita Lala

Year 4-6 Syndicate

Syndicate Leader: Su Price
Team Leaders: Lyndal Lowans, Nicolette van Heerden

Teams:

Y4-6: Lyndal Lowans (leader), Sharlet Naidoo, Yasmine Fernandes, Amanda Foot
Y4-6: Nicolette van Heerden (leader), Grant Kibblewhite, Bridget Smith

Swimming Pool

Our swimming programme starts tomorrow, and as swimming is part of our curriculum *all children* need to bring their togs. Teachers will let the children know which days their class swimming sessions are on. It is a school expectation that, unless there is a genuine reason for not taking part, all children will participate in swimming. A note is required if your child is not swimming.

This year the BOT is employing an outside professional swimming coach to assist teachers with swimming lessons.

School Uniform

The uniform shop is open every Thursday morning at 8.30am. It is essential that all children wear our official summer school uniform please, including **black, flat sandals**. Sneakers are **not** permitted. Please name all clothing.

Sun Safety: All children must wear a *school sunhat* whenever they are outside. We realise that not all children will have an official school hat at this stage. For those children yet to purchase one, any appropriate sunhat will do for the next few days. (Everyone in school hats by 8th February please). While classes do have sunscreen lotion, parents are welcome to pop a small tube of sunscreen in their child's bag.

PTA

The first PTA meeting of the year is this coming Monday (8th February, at 7.30pm). **ALL WELCOME!**

School Assemblies

Our assemblies are a time for the whole school to get together to celebrate our achievements. Parents are *very welcome* to attend.

We have changed our assembly time from Wednesday afternoons to Friday mornings, starting at 9.10am. This is largely because we would like to have assemblies in the cooler part of the day (it can be very uncomfortable for children in the hall on hot afternoons).

School Stationery

Stationery is being sold in packs (\$33 each) from **today**. Children should bring the **correct** amount of money or a cheque made out to Botany Downs Primary School in a clearly labelled envelope, and give it to their class teacher. We have eftpos facilities in the office.

Every effort has been made by class teachers to keep prices down, as we are aware that this is a particularly expensive time of the year for everyone.

Bought Lunches

These will resume on 11th February. The menu choices are on our website. Please note that we only offer lunches on Thursdays and Fridays.

School Donations

The BOT has set the school donations at **\$190 per child** for the year. There will be a discount of **\$20** if donations are paid by the end of term 1 (reducing the amount to \$170 per child). Eftpos and credit card facilities are available at the school office. Different payment options by instalment are available-just contact Tania in the office.

Important Dates This Term

<i>Monday 8 February</i>	PTA 7.30pm
<i>Friday 12 February</i>	First school assembly at 9.10am
<i>Wednesday 17 February</i>	BOT 7.00pm
<i>Monday 1 March</i>	PTA 7.30pm
<i>Tuesday 2 March</i>	Year 4-6 Swimming Sports Religious Education starts
<i>Friday 12 March</i>	Year 1-3 Aqua Fun afternoon
<i>Tuesday 16 March</i>	Inter School Swimming Sports
<i>Wednesday 17 March</i>	Parent Interviews 3.20pm-5.00pm
<i>Thursday 18 March</i>	Parent Interviews 3.20pm-8.00pm
<i>Thursday 1 April</i>	Last Day of Term 1

Have a great start to the school year everyone.

Bruce Trezise
(Mr T)
Principal