

Monday 15 March 2010

Newsletter 07/10

Dear parents

Swimming Pool Closing

Our swimming lessons finished last Friday. The pool will be open all this week for swimming, with the last day being on Friday. Pool key holders need to return their keys (and collect refunds) next week please.

Best wishes to our team competing in the interschool event tomorrow at Howick Intermediate. Mrs Fernandes will be accompanying the team.

Special Terrific Persons Awards

Congratulations to all the following children, who will receive their special certificates at this Friday morning's assembly, starting at 9.10am. Parents very welcome. This week's assembly is being organised and run by **Room 20**:

Caitlin Stewart, Amy Bonnington, Shaun Kirk, Amber Harrison, Kim Morris, Hayley Anderson, Steven Carroll, Madison McBreen, Samuel Warren, Shloka Parikh, Cade Davie, Sarah Harper, Jayden Fillet and Sayali Samant.

Staff News

Mrs van Heerden and her family are moving to Australia to live, and we are losing her as the Room 14 teacher. Nicolette's last day will be Thursday 25 March.

Since her arrival here Nicolette has contributed a great deal to our school, not only as a valued and capable teacher, but as a highly regarded staff member who has joined in everything in a positive, enthusiastic manner.

I know that you will join with me in wishing Nicolette and family all the best for their exciting new adventure.

Parent Interviews

Interviews are being held this week on **Wednesday 17 March** and **Thursday 18 March**. Please contact the office urgently if you haven't received your interview times.

Chess Teams

Last week a dozen of our children, across a range of year levels, competed very successfully in a chess tournament at Bucklands Beach Intermediate. Well done to all of you.

Values

Our new Value is "Respect" - respect for ourselves, and for others. The following children have been selected by their teachers because they have been "caught" demonstrating our school values. They will be congratulated at this week's assembly and their names will be added to our Botany Downs Values Tree in the corridor: *Megan de Kock, Jessica Berkeley, Mina Celik-Alvis, Rahil Patel, Joshua Dheda, Miyako Hutton, Logan Cardoza, Cadence Jowers-Wilding and Anish Edekar.*

Keeping Our Children Safe in the Playground

Our school has established an environment in which children should feel safe, secure and happy through an effective school-wide Behaviour Management Programme called "Chances." The plan specifies the behaviour we expect from our students and has clear guidelines and consequences for those in the minority who choose not to accept them. The programme allows misbehaving pupils to pass through seven stages ranging from a simple apology (Chance One) to suspension (Chance Seven). It fulfils all Ministry of Education requirements for the suspension process if needed.

The Chances Programme is cyclic and runs for a period of five weeks. At the end of this time, the slate is wiped clean. All children who are in the Chances Book begin afresh. Also at the end of the five week cycle, children not in the Chances Book twice, are offered a one hour "Happy Hour", a free choice supervised activity period.

Our Chances Programme works in with the **Peer Mediation Programme**. This involves selected children being given mediation skills by a trained adult mediator to take ownership of less serious issues that arise in the playground.

The Chances Book is a record of children who have offended in the playground. It records the date, offence, time and the duty teacher. From this book we are able to build up a very accurate picture of incidents. It also allows the school to see where our problem areas are, and when most of the offending is occurring. This in turn means we are better able to supervise our playground, and if necessary implement new activities for the children during their breaks.

Children respond very well to this programme. Teachers and children have a clear understanding of what constitutes acceptable playground behaviour. "Acceptable playground behaviour" is discussed within each class, so that children are clear in their own minds as to what they can and can't do. This really boils down to one simple word-"respect". Respect for other children and other people's property. To support the Chances Programme and the Peer Mediators, there are always at least three staff members on duty at playtimes and lunchtimes. These staff members are clearly identified to the children by a brightly coloured jacket and also carry a simple first aid kit to deal with minor scrapes immediately.

In addition the school runs a Values Programme focussing the children on the basic values of Courtesy and Manners, Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Consideration, Cooperation, Determination and Tolerance. Two values are focussed on per term throughout the school.

Coming Attractions

<i>Tomorrow:</i>	Inter School Swimming Sports Choir rehearsal at Pt View School
<i>Wednesday 17 March</i>	Parent Interviews 3.20pm-5.00pm Dental van at school (until Friday)
<i>Thursday 18 March</i>	Parent Interviews 3.20pm-8.00pm
<i>Tuesday 23-25 March</i>	Year 5s at Sonshine Ranch
<i>Wednesday 24 March</i>	BOT Meeting at 7.00pm
<i>Friday 26 March</i>	Happy Hour
<i>Monday 29 March</i>	Draft books home
<i>Wednesday 31 March</i>	Donut and Mufti Day
<i>Thursday 1 April</i>	School term finishes at 3.00pm
<i>Monday 19 April</i>	Term 2 begins

Have a good week everyone

Mr T

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