

**Monday 29 March 2010**

**Newsletter 09/10**

Dear parents

**End of Term**

A reminder that term 1 finishes this Thursday at 3.00pm.

The second term begins on Monday 19 April.

**Final Assembly**

Our final assembly of the term will be on **Thursday morning**, starting at **9.10am**.

*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 Thursday's assembly.

Parents, you are invited to attend. We would love to see you.

*Alexander Buys, Peita Houkamau, Bryan Mosheim, Nicholas Barker, Selina Gee, Nathan Sprague, Chase Farrington, Chloe Leung, Regan O'Neill, Hanako Hutton, Ryan Hennessy, Josh Ellwood, Jessica Drummond, Sophie Hartnoll, India Yarrow, Jordan Tane, Rogan Long, Rebecca Barlow and Ivan Redondo.*

**Well done all of you!**

**School Donations**

The BOT has set the school donations at **\$190 per child** for the year.  
It's not too late to receive your **\$20** discount, if donations are paid by this Thursday.  
This reduces the amount to \$170 per child.

**Values**

The following children have been selected by their teachers because they have been 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: *Pauline Pechorina, Ryan Fletcher, Jessica Scott, Natalie Beach, Natalie Lowe, Jessie Du Preez, Jerry Jiang.*

*Thank You PTA*

Last week a ceiling mounted data projector and electric drop down screen were installed in the hall. Once again, the purchase of these items was only made possible because of the fantastic fund raising efforts of our PTA, so capably led by Maree Biland.

Other recent purchases resulting from PTA funding include a further three mimios, "easispeak" dictaphones, flipminos (video recorders), and a contribution towards a shade cover for the sandpit (which should be installed these holidays).

The contribution our PTA makes to this school is incredible.

**Thank you** to our PTA Committee, and to all parents who support their fundraising ventures.

## Our Children are Superstars!

- Congratulations to **Georgia Manning** who was awarded the prize for most valuable Under 8 player at the Howick Softball Club over the weekend. Well done!
- Well done **Erika Whiteley** (Room 19) and **Rubin Whiteley** (Room 4) who did very well at a Karate tournament in Hamilton yesterday. Erika won a bronze medal for Kata, and the silver medal for Kumite. Rubin won the bronze medal for both Kata and Kumite.

## Paid Union Meeting

We've received notification that a Paid Union Meeting for teachers is planned for **Tuesday 4 May at 2.30pm**. Many teachers from other schools will be attending a meeting in our hall.

It is likely that parents will be asked to collect their children if at all possible at **2.00pm** that day. Staff members will be on hand to supervise children who remain at school, but it will not be possible to provide normal programmes for the last hour that day.

More details after the holidays. In the meantime, please make a note of the date.

## Road Safety after School

For safety reasons, parents' cars are **not allowed** into the drop off zone after school. That is why we cone off the entrance to the drop off area.

Please do **not**:

- Park on the yellow lines
- Back into the drop off area through the *exit*! Two cars have been observed doing just this last week!
- Do u turns right outside the school

Teachers take the safety of our children very seriously. These expectations are in place for a reason...to keep everyone safe. Offenders will have their registration numbers taken, and ***the police will be notified***. We will not compromise on safety.

We are currently negotiating with the Manukau Council to have electronic speed restriction signs installed in Mirrabooka Avenue.

## Swimming Season

An innovation this year was the introduction of swimming lessons taken by professional coaches. These have proved very successful, and very popular with the children. Thank you parents for the positive feedback you have given us regarding these.

I'd also like to thank the Board of Trustees for funding the lessons, so there was no cost to parents. A very generous gesture.

We are planning to have swimming lessons during class time again next season, and are also hoping to introduce swimming lessons after school.

## Building Projects

- Our two new classrooms (Rooms 22 and 23) and small resource room are nearing completion. We have certainly been very lucky with the weather, which has helped.
- Once we have a building permit from the Council, work will hopefully begin on a caretaker shed and storage area, going roughly where the old container currently sits (next to the boiler shed)
- A shade cover is going up over the sandpit-again, once we receive the permit.

## **Anzac Poppies**

Anzac poppies will be on sale at the school office on the first day of term (only on the Monday).

## **Office Hours in the Holidays**

The office will be closed from Monday 5 April up to and including Tuesday 13 April.

The office will be *open* on Wednesday 14 April, Thursday 15 April and Friday 16 April, from 9.00am until 1.00pm, and will then reopen on Monday 19 April.

The uniform shop will not be open during the holidays, but will be open on the first day of the new term, Monday 19 April.

## **When You Have Concerns**

### **Guidelines for Parents**

From time to time you may have concerns about how your children are progressing at school. Perhaps you are worried about their academic progress, or how they are getting along with their classmates. It could be that your child is reluctant to go to school.

If you have concerns, what should you do? What steps should you take?

An excellent starting point is to *get to know your child's teacher*. Establishment of a rapport with the teacher often makes resolving the odd little problem that may arise easier for you both. Pop in and say hello before school (although be aware that teachers can be very busy at this time – don't be offended if they can't chat to you for too long!)

If you are unhappy...

1. Stay calm!
2. Talk to the class teacher. Discuss your concerns. **Write down** what was agreed during your conversation.
3. If you are still unhappy, make an appointment to see either the syndicate leader, or the principal. It's a good idea to make an appointment first, through Trish in the school office.
4. Still no progress? It's time to put your complaint or concerns in writing, addressing your letter to the principal. (If your problem concerns the principal, write to the Board chairman).
5. If the problem still persists, a formal written complaint should be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

Some handy hints:

- Act early. Don't let things drift along. If there is a problem, **we need to know**.
- Write things down.
- Remember that the principal is just a phone call away.

*From the PTA*

## **Donut & Mufti Day – this Wednesday!**

Remember to wear mufti on this day, and enjoy a donut and drink for your morning tea. Donuts need to be pre-ordered, so if you haven't returned your order form yet, please send to school with payment ASAP.

## **Norman Ross Sausage Sizzle**

A big THANKS to Norman Ross for their generous donation of sausages, bread, sauce etc and the opportunity to raise over \$200 at a sausage sizzle outside their store on Saturday. The PTA would also like to thank the parents who gave up a couple of hours of their time on the weekend to help out. We really appreciated you lending a hand!

## **2010/11 Entertainment Books COMING SOON ...**

Advance notice that we will be fundraising by selling the 2010/11 Entertainment™ Books again this year, as we have for the past several years. The Entertainment™ Book is a local restaurant and activity guide providing hundreds of 25%

to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from the finest restaurants, cafés, attractions, theatres and accommodation. Virtually all of the offers in the Entertainment™ Book are restriction-free and can be used whenever you like.

More information will be sent home early next term. In the meantime, any queries, please contact Aroha Bishop Ph: 537-4799.

### **Next PTA Meeting**

Due to the timing of Easter/School Holidays, there is no PTA meeting in April. Our next meeting will be Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 7.30pm in the staffroom – please feel free to join us, we would like to meet you!

If you are interested in joining or discussing more about the PTA, you are welcome to contact our PTA Chairperson, Maree Biland Ph: 537-6037.

### **School Wiki**

*Remember:* If you are looking for safe websites for your child to use at home on Maths, English, Inquiry themes and internet search engines, go to: <http://botanydowns.wikispaces.com>

### *Coming Attractions*

<i>Today</i>	Draft books home
<i>Wednesday 31 March</i>	Donut and Mufti Day
<i>Thursday 1 April</i>	<b>School term finishes at 3.00pm</b>
<i>Monday 19 April</i>	Term 2 begins
	Year 6 children go on camp
<i>Monday 3 May</i>	PTA meeting at 7.30pm
	Soccer Field Day
<i>Tuesday 4 May</i>	Paid Union Meeting in the afternoon
<i>Wednesday 5 May</i>	Sausage sizzle and mufti day
<i>Wednesday 19 May</i>	BOT meeting at 7.00pm

### *From the Children in Room 20*

...his father the King couldn't find him, he said "ARREST HIM" but the prince got away! I was just floating around the planet when my friends Mr Flame and Empolem got separated. **Luke Kirk, age 8**

I was fast asleep when I felt something tickling my toes. I looked at the end of the bed and SCREAMED! The purple alien screamed back at me telling me to "calm down, and follow her". I followed her outside and suddenly my eyes were extremely wide. Right in front of me was a purple spaceship with sparkly gems. I hopped inside the crazy ship and it took off into space heading for Polow Planet. **Rebecca Barlow, age 8**

...and again she went closer to the creature, they finally met in the middle. "Ello" said the creature.... "what did you say"? I asked.

"ello!" the creature said again. "Oh, okay hello!" **Georgia Gibson, age 8**

Suddenly something pulled me through the floor onto the ground. I wasn't in the ground though, I was on Uranus with Remy. The ground on Uranus was blue and slippery. Just then Remy disappeared into a crater. **Cassie Vickers, age 8**  
I woke up at 7.30am to find a vicious fat alien in my bed. I whacked him with a metal stick and I saw ducks flying over his head. **Vinny Lambly, age 8**

***Have a good week, and great holiday break everyone***

***Regards***

***Mr T***

