



BOTANY DOWNS SCHOOL

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35 MIRRABOOKA AVE, HOWICK, AUCKLAND 2010.

Monday 19 April 2010

Newsletter 10/10

Dear parents

Welcome back to the start of a busy second term. An especially big welcome to the new pupils joining us today.

There are lots of school events coming up in the next few weeks, including:

- The Y6 children off on camp today, and returning Friday
- Winter code sports events for the Seniors
- ICAS competitions
- The local Musical Festival (23rd and 24th June)
- Mid Year student reports, coming home on the last day of term.

Teachers' Union Meeting

A reminder that there is a teachers' union meeting planned for **Tuesday 4 May at 2.30pm**. Many teachers from other schools will be attending a meeting in our hall.

Parents are asked to collect their children if at all possible at **2.00pm** on the 4th May. 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.

Board of Trustees Election

A reminder that nominations for the Board of Trustees close this Friday. Nomination papers were sent out to all parents last term.

A strong Board is essential for our school. Please consider putting your name forward.

Winter Uniform

We begin the transition into winter uniforms from today. A couple of weeks grace is always allowed in case some parents have not yet purchased all the correct items for winter.

Reminders:

- White sneakers are **not** part of either our winter or summer uniforms. The correct footwear in winter is **plain black shoes** please.
- The uniform shop is situated in the hall, and opens every Thursday morning at 8.30am. Huge thanks to the mums who run our shop. We all appreciate your efforts and support.

School Hours

Classes begin at 8.55am, and finish at 3.00pm. We ask that children be collected promptly after school, and **no later than 3.15pm**. 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 in the playground.

Year 6 Camp

Our Year 6 children headed away at 7.30 this morning to their camp at Camp Bentzon on Kawau Island. During the next five days the children will be going on tramps, visiting the old copper mine and Mansion House, abseiling, orienteering, sailing and kayaking. Best wishes to all of you. **Have fun!**

Values Programme

For the first half of this term we will be focusing on the school value "Responsibility".

Peer Mediation

The Year 6 Peer Mediators are beginning their duties in week 2 this term. They are trained to help mediate small problems in the playground. Your child will recognise them by the blue jackets that they wear.

They are there to help and are very capable at solving small playground grievances. They do not replace teachers and their duties, but they are a terrific asset to the school.

(Mrs Foot, Peer Mediator Coordinator)

Last day of Term

Please note that the last day of this term is now **Thursday 1st July**. We are having a Teacher Only Day on the Friday, to enable all our teachers to continue work on designing our school curriculum, and receive professional development on the new "National Standards".

The last day of the school year will still be **Thursday 16 December**.

Building Project

The new classroom block is all but finished, and is looking very smart. The area includes two new classrooms (numbers 22 and 23), three cloak bays (one of them is for Room 20), and a resource room.

From Your PTA

Norman Ross BBQ Fundraiser again THIS WEEKEND!

Norman Ross (The Hub, Botany), have once again offered us the opportunity to run a fundraising Sausage Sizzle outside their store, this **Saturday 24th (12-2pm)** and **Sunday 25th April (1-3pm)**. They are kindly donating the sausages, bread, sauce etc, all we have to do is run the 'sizzle', so we hope in return you will support them by paying a visit to the store on one of these days. We require **one more person on each of these days to help** with the sausage sizzle, if you are available during the hours as detailed, please contact Maree as soon as possible – ph: 5376037 or email: biland@xtra.co.nz

Balloon Day Sausage Sizzle – Wednesday 5th May

'Balloon Day' is the Asthma Foundation's annual asthma awareness and fundraising campaign. In support of the **Hartnoll Family** and the **Asthma Foundation**, the PTA will be holding a special '**Balloon Day Sausage Sizzle**' on **Wednesday 5th May**. We look forward to your support with this special fundraising event, more details will be sent home next week.

2010/11 Entertainment Books COMING SOON!

These wonderful books will again be available through our school as a fundraiser for 2010. Entertainment Books contain hundreds of valuable 25% to 50% off, and 2-for-1 offers from top Auckland restaurants, cafes, takeaway chains, attractions, activities and more. At \$65 per book, you only need to *use the Entertainment Book a few times and it's paid for itself* – and from there you will go on to enjoy *significant savings*. And while you set yourself up for great savings, you can feel especially pleased that our school also wins, as we get to keep *\$13 from every book sold!* Books will be sent home to families next week, with more details!

Next PTA Meeting ...

Monday 3rd May, 7.30pm, in the staffroom. Plan to join us, we look forward to meeting you!

Have a great week everyone

Regards

Mr T