

Monday 21 June 2010

Newsletter 19/10

Dear parents

End of Term

Remember that we finish on **Thursday 1st July**.

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), which is being organised by Room 11 and the leaders of Hillary House. Parents very welcome: **Jordan Dheda, Natalie Beach, Rachel Prow, Jake Clements, Lara Abernethy, Jacob Harrison, Taylor Holmes, Dorian Samuels-Brits, Jessica Moat, Francois Smith, Teagan Hack, Senuda Dharmadasa, Alexi Lambly, Georgia Gibson, Josh Celik-Alvis** and **Josh Pearce**.

Sports News

We had three teams at the hockey field day held at Lloyd Elsmore Hockey Stadium last Thursday. All the teams played really well and had a very enjoyable day. Special mention needs to be of our Year 5 A Team who won all their games and did not concede a goal.

This week we have the soccer team playing at Point View on Tuesday and the rugby team playing Mellons Bay on Wednesday.

Grant Kibblewhite

Well done School Choir!

Our "Kids for Kids" choir performed brilliantly last Monday, singing at the Telstra with Suzanne Prentice. Children, you looked and sounded great. Special mention of two of our children, **Ashleigh Jones** and **Georgia Gibson**, who were soloists on the evening (and sang like nightingales), and special thanks to choir trainers Su Price and Elizabeth Thomas.

Road Safety

Our electronic school zone signs will hopefully be operating from **tomorrow**. This makes the legal speed limit 40kph outside the school in the morning (approx 8.20-8.55) and again in the afternoon (2.55-3.15). The police have indicated they will be carrying out regular checks, and will be showing zero tolerance for anyone travelling above that speed.

Reminders that:

- The crossing is for **everyone** to use, including parents, so ***please use the crossing!***
- **Everyone** must stand behind the line until the children holding the signs have checked that the road is safe and have called "Cross Now". Please do **not** attempt to cross the road at any time when the children have their arms up. This either means they have opened the signs and are checking the way is safe or they are about to close the signs. The road patrol is there for your safety.
- There is no car parking on any yellow lines.
- There is no right turn from the drop off zone in the mornings
- U turns outside the school are not a great idea!

Term Certificates

Next week's assembly will be held on Thursday, at 9.10am. At this assembly we will be awarding our very special Term Certificates (one per class).

Parent Interviews

Our parent interviews are in Week 2 next term (Wednesday 28 July and Thursday 29 July). A form is coming home today for you to indicate your preferred interview times. Please return this form by Friday. Thank you.

Writers' Quiz

Next Monday 28th June we have two teams participating against approximately 18 other teams from local schools in the New Zealand Writers' Quiz at Baverstock Oaks School.

A group of our expert readers has been meeting each week. They have been reading and discussing fifteen books which they are being quizzed on.

The teams are *Fang Fei Tham, Samuel Wat, Melisa Fung, Niraant Trilokekar, Cameron Biland, Abishek Sharma*. Reserves are *Jacinta Hanscamp* and *Paige Fenning*.

Best of luck.

(*Sheryll Lamb*)

Values Programme

Our current Value is "Honesty". The following children have been selected by their teachers for demonstrating this quality. They will be congratulated at this week's assembly and their names will be added to our Botany Downs Values Tree in the corridor: *Amber Heald, Max Haddon, Luke Holmes, Ethan Harvett, Reece Jackson, Celeste Lane, Olivia Rhodes*.

The National Standards and our School Reports

Over recent months a debate has raged over the government's education "National Standards". I'm sure many of you are confused by the pros and cons of the arguments.

The intent of the government in introducing National Standards is to lift student achievement and to "focus the education system on foundation skills". From this year, schools are required to "report to parents, family and whanau in writing and in plain language at least twice a year about their child's progress and achievement in relation to the standards". Reports are to indicate what schools will do to support each student's learning and what parents can do to help support their child's learning.

The concerns for many teachers-and others-tend to revolve around a lack of evidence from other countries that having such standards actually lifts achievement, worries that a focus upon literacy and numeracy might narrow the curriculum, and doubts around the speed of implementation.

Here at Botany Downs we have been pressing ahead in good faith, attending such professional development on the National Standards as has been provided by the Ministry of Education, and working very hard to get our heads around the changes, and their implications for our assessment systems, our teaching programmes, and the ways in which we report to you on how your child is getting on.

Next week your child will bring home a mid year report. We have redesigned our existing format to try to meet the requirements of the new expectations. Please be aware that it is very much our "first go" at this, as we are still on a learning curve ourselves. An explanation sheet will accompany your child's school report.

If you would like to know more about National Standards, visit www.minedu.govt.nz

Scholastic Books

Final day for this month's Sale Issue is this Thursday 24th June.

School Donations

Our school donation is **\$190 per child** for the year.

Decile ratings are based upon the socio economic status of each school's community, according to the information supplied in the census every five years, and are the way in which the Ministry of Education allocates funding to schools.

Decile 10 schools are considered by the government to be those that have the lowest number of low socio-economic families within their community. As a “decile 10” school, Botany Downs receives considerably less per pupil funding from the government than lower decile schools, and we therefore rely on school donations to help fund equipment and programmes.

It is appreciated if everyone contributes, as this keeps the cost per child relatively low, and all children benefit from the additional resources purchased.

Eftpos and credit card facilities are available at the school office. Different payment options by instalment are available-just contact Tania.

Music Festival

The performance evenings are Wednesday the 23rd and Thursday the 24th of June at Point View School, Kilkenny Drive starting at 7:30pm. Tickets are available from the school office at a cost of \$5.00 per ticket – these are limited and usually sell out quickly.

Coming Attractions

<i>Today</i>	Parent interview request forms coming home Choir at combined festival practice
<i>Tuesday 22 June</i>	ICAS Spelling & Writing
<i>Wednesday 23 June</i>	Sausage sizzle and mufti day. Music Festival (1 st night)
<i>Thursday 24 June</i>	The Aunties are entertaining Y1-3 Music Festival (2 nd performance)
<i>Friday 25 June</i>	School disco
<i>Monday 28 June</i>	Writers' Quiz Maths books coming home
<i>Thursday 1 July</i>	School reports coming home Last day of term
<i>Monday 19 July</i>	Term 3 begins

From Your PTA

Sausage Sizzle & Mufti Day this Wednesday!

Remember to wear mufti and enjoy your sausages and drinks for lunch this **Wednesday 23rd June**. If you haven't returned your order and payment, please do so tomorrow (an order form can be downloaded at www.botanydowns.wikispaces.com/pta). We still need help for the 11am-1pm slot, please contact Maree if you can help – phone 537 6037. Our thanks to Dave Slessor (Total Focus Property Ltd) for once again, generously sponsoring this sausage sizzle.

'AMAZING SPACE' Disco this Friday!

The PTA has a fun night planned for this **Friday 25th June (6.30pm – 9pm)**, in the school hall. Come along dressed in your creative 'space' outfits! Entry is \$4 per child or \$6 per family. Drinks, ice blocks, chips and some confectionery will be available for sale on the night, along with lucky dips, glow sticks and face painting. The hall will be supervised, but parents are most welcome to stay – complimentary tea/coffee will be provided. Children must be collected by a parent at the door by 9pm (please don't be late). Parents of younger children are encouraged to collect them earlier. If you can help with face painting or with decorating the hall from 12.30pm on Friday afternoon, please contact Aroha Bishop – phone 537 4799. Our thanks to Dave Slessor (Total Focus Property Ltd) and Tony & Marg Parker (FAS Fine Art Supplies) for their generous support in sponsoring our disco.

SCHOOL RECIPE BOOK

The PTA is excited to announce we are creating a Recipe Book as a fundraiser for the school! We're planning a fabulous book, complete with the best of recipes from your own kitchen, combined with some wonderful artwork from your children. A notice with more details went home last week, asking for recipe donations via our PTA wiki space – please visit www.botanydowns.wikispaces.com/pta to download a template in MS Word format, which you can type onto and send back by email. We would appreciate if you could send these recipes through as soon as possible, as there is much work to be done after the recipes have been received, in terms of checking, compiling, proofing, printing etc!.

so we would like the recipe collection process to happen as quickly as possible. Recipes should be sent by email (no handwritten recipes please) to Sally Sumner – sally.paul@xtra.co.nz – or if you have any further queries, contact Sally by email or phone 534 4463.

CARBOOT SALE – TERM 4

Advance notice that the PTA are planning to hold a Car boot Sale here at school, in Term 4, **Sunday 7th November**. We will also be selling ‘table space’ in the hall for interested parties. This event will be open to the public, not just our school community, so feel free to ‘spread the word’ to whoever you think may be interested. More details will follow soon, if you have any queries in the meantime, contact Sam Skelton by email sam.skelton@clear.net.nz or phone 532 9690.

From the Children in Room 12

The sun is as round as the Fifa world cup soccer ball. The sun is as bright as the smile on Winston Reid’s face when they scored a goal and tied the match. The sun is as bright as New Zealanders’ hearts when we scored our first goal.

Liam Harrison

Today the sun is as gleaming bright as N.Z.’s hope when Winston Reid scored that life changing goal for his team. The sky is as blue as the other teams’ faces when the ball hit their net and tied up the scores. *Kye Wood*

The sun is as golden round and shiny as the beautiful soccer world cup. The hearts of New Zealand are extremely thrilled and happy that the All Whites scored our first goal against Slovakia. The Vuvuzela horns were as loud as my brother cheering on the awesome All Whites! Well... in the end it was a draw, one all. Anyway, All Whites.....You Rock!! *Jazmine Thlang*

The sun is as brightly golden and crisp as the brand new Fifa World cup medallion made out of pure and solid gold!!! The crowd was going wild as the All Whites scored their victory goal by Winston Reid. The Vuvuzela horns were as noisy as a bee buzzing around a sweet, yellow sunflower. The emerald, green, tender trees were as tall and anxious as the crowd, when they leaped to their feet when the All Whites scored.....Go All Whites! *Swehea Raj*

Today is as bright as New Zealand’s heart when we scored the last minute goal. The players must have felt deaf with all the Vuvuzela horns going at the same time. There would be around about 6000 of them. *Akash Lingham Dalzell*

NOTICES

ANDREW BLOWERS RUGBY ACADEMY

Join former All Black Andrew Blowers for a fun and action packed rugby programme. All programmes are for players of all abilities. Kids will be grouped on age, ability and experience. Participants receive Quality Coaching, AB Academy T-Shirt and a Final Award ceremony.

Ages 5-8 years 9am-12pm 5th - 6th July \$80

Ages 9-13 years 9am-3pm 7th - 8th July \$130

For further information contact: Andrew Blowers: **Mob:** 021 2029114

Email: abrugbyacademy@gmail.com

Have a great week everyone

Mr T