



# Discovery School

## **ADVENTURE** Syndicate



Little feet-Big steps

### **NEWSLETTER # 1** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We look forward to a busy term after a refreshing holiday. For those of you who are new to Discovery School we give a special welcome. We hope you find our school community supportive and friendly as you settle in.

**This newsletter provides some important information about what is happening this term. It also has important information about things specific to Adventure Syndicate. Please take the time to read these carefully.**

The setting of routines is a very important part of developing a new class. At this time of the year teachers are ensuring children can learn at an optimum level and are getting to know them, so it may be a few weeks before parent help is fully in place. Please let us know if you would like to help in the classroom. We look forward to your input.

#### **LONG-TERM** Planning

We have a very busy term ahead of us as we undertake some interesting units of work. Here is an outline of what we will be focussing on this term.

<b>ENGLISH</b>	Special focuses on listening and speaking skills, and personal writing. Setting routines for writing and reading. A regular daily programme of reading and writing activities will take place alongside any special focuses.
<b>HEALTH &amp; PE</b>	Safety First- Learning to be safe in different situations as well as learning about each other and how to be a good friend, class and school member. Rules for the classroom. Run, Jump & Throw (athletics), Education outside the classroom, swimming and walking/fitness activities (see later in the newsletter)
<b>MAORI</b>	Greetings and farewells, Kapahaka songs maintenance and learning new waiata.
<b>MATHS</b>	Numeracy will be our major focus all year as concepts in this area are vital to establish in the junior school. This term we will be covering statistics.
<b>THE ARTS</b>	Visual Arts: A focus on creating a classroom environment through using crayon/pastels and dye. Music: Regular singing, and listening and moving to music.

## **MEET** the Teacher

Thank you to all those parents/caregivers who attended our Adventure Syndicate Information evening on Tuesday. It was great to meet you and share a little about what happens in the syndicate.

## **DEVELOPING** Independence

- 👉 In the mornings we ask parents to get their child to carry and unpack their schoolbag to encourage development of independence.
- 👉 We need parents and caregivers to say goodbye to children well before the bell goes so that teachers are free to help if there are difficulties with children separating. It makes it hard for staff and children if the goodbyes are protracted or delayed until we are teaching, and other children are trying to focus with distractions around them.
- 👉 We ask that all parents and caregivers wait outside blocks until 3pm, as children often lack focus on the end of the day routines when they see a parent. We are developing independence and children need to be focussed on our instructions. Please allow children to collect their own bags and belongings from their peg. By all means check they have everything when you meet with them.
- 👉 You are most welcome at 3pm to come into the blocks and share in the day's activities with them.

## **STATIONERY**

Thank you to all the parents who have already purchased stationery as it means a quick start to programmes and routine setting.

## **HEALTH** Considerations

We have some children in our school who have allergies to particular kinds of foods; in particular peanuts and peanut products. As these allergies are life threatening for some children we ask that all peanut products are left out of school lunches. Could you please be aware of this when purchasing food for lunches. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

## **SAFETY** Issues

A few reminders about safety for your child:

- 👉 Junior children need to be taught their address and phone number. Please work on this for homework.
- 👉 Please discuss any changes in your child's after school care with teachers. Teachers can help support your child when there is a change. Children can get very stressed if they forget new arrangements.
- 👉 In general, juniors need **someone older to collect them from the classroom** and/or accompany them home from school. They are always safer walking with others especially if something goes awry.

## **LIBRARY** Days

<b>BD</b>	<b>GH</b>	<b>BL</b>	<b>JB</b>	<b>VH</b>
THURSDAY 2:30pm	MONDAY 2:30pm	TUESDAY 2:30pm	WEDNESDAY 1:30pm	WEDNESDAY 12:00pm

- 👉 Please make sure that library books are returned on your child's library day.

## **SUNHATS** and Footwear

Sunhats/Clothing:

- 👉 It is school policy for all children to wear a sunhat in Terms 1 and 4. Please name all sunhats and clothing. A suitable hat must shade the face, ears and neck, or be a peaked cap (not a visor).
- 👉 Please apply sunscreen to your child if desired and teach them how to reapply it if you wish them to at lunchtime. We will assist with reminders on sunhats and sunscreen.
- 👉 Even if the day looks fine please send a sweatshirt or jersey to school.
- 👉 Children need **suitable footwear for fitness, physical education** and school activity. Party shoes, backless shoes, jandals etc are not suitable for school as children can not run in them.
- 👉 It helps us if all belongings are named, as often children don't recognise their own clothes and shoes. We do not have a lost property box and so named items are essential for their return.

## **SWIMMING** Programme

We are yet to finalise costs but the dates are as follows.

- 👉 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April
- 👉 We will be swimming in the morning and will need some **parent help on the buses and at the pool**. Please pencil these dates in now if you are available to help.
- 👉 All levels of swimming ability are catered for. Children need to have swim goggles for this programme.
- 👉 The programme will be instructed by professional swimming teachers at Tawa Pool.

## **INTERNET** Safety Agreements

Thank you to those who have promptly returned their forms. These not only cover internet/email use but also the use of other ICT equipment such as digital cameras. Until these forms are returned, your child will not be able to use computers and other ICTs. Junior school children may use the internet with teacher or teacher aide supervision if parents have given permission. Junior children can not access the internet freely. We do like to be able to show children appropriate sites for work we are covering.

## **LUNCHES**

At Discovery School we are attempting to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce. To help with this we are getting children to keep any rubbish from their lunches in their lunch box. As well as for environmental reasons, it helps classroom teachers monitor what the children have eaten; ensuring that your child is getting enough food to sustain them for the day.

## **EOTC** Activities

Coming up this term we have our EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) week. We are having a special week of activities in the week of **15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March**. **We will provide more details soon but mark that week in your calendar, as your help will be very valuable.**

That's all for this edition. We look forward to working with you over the coming year.  
Kind regards

Barri Dullabh   Jan Braddock   Beth Lough   Gerie Harvey   Vicki Howarth



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### *J*unior *S*chool *A*ctivities *P*rogramme

As part of the Junior School Physical Education and Health curriculum delivery we have a programme of daily exercise, which often takes place first thing in the morning. As well as undertaking aerobics at school, we sometimes walk around the walkways and footpaths adjacent to the school for 10-15 minutes as part of keeping the children fit.

At times we like to use the area adjacent to the school for other short activities such as finding objects for art, science and language experience.

We would like to have your permission for these activities. Please complete the slip below and send it back to the class teacher. When we undertake more extensive activities we will seek your permission separately.

Kind regards,

Adventure Syndicate teachers.

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### *J*unior *S*chool *A*ctivities *P*rogramme

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the junior school fitness programme in the vicinity of Discovery School during the year.

I give my permission for programme activities in the area adjacent to the school.

Parent/Caregiver signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Teacher: (please circle) **BD** **JB** **BL** **GH** **VH**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_