

Discovery School
"Educating for successful living"
"Te whakaako kia momoho ai, kia ora ai"

Term 1 Week 2

Thursday 11 February 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

We have continued to have a very settled and productive start to the school year.

This week we are holding syndicate information evenings for parents/caregivers. Many thanks to those of you who attended the Adventure Syndicate (Years 1 & 2) and Discovery Syndicate (Years 5 & 6) sessions held on Tuesday, we hope these provided answers to some of the questions you may have about how we 'do things' at our school.

Tonight Resolution Syndicate (Years 3 & 4) and Exploration Syndicate (Years 7 & 8) are hosting their information sessions, times are as follows:

- **Resolution Syndicate** (Years 3 & 4) (7.00pm to 8.00pm)
- **Exploration Syndicate** (Years 7 & 8) (8.00pm to 9.00pm)

A number of you will have questions regarding the 'National Standards' being introduced into primary schools this year. You may have received a pamphlet in the mail recently and there has been a lot of focus on the standards in the media. Teachers will be receiving training in the implementation of the standards and I will keep you updated with progress in the school newsletter. If you have any questions regarding the standards, please don't hesitate to contact me.

There is information in the community notices section of this newsletter with details of a meeting about national standards being held by local MP Hekia Parata, on 18 February, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at the Bradey Room Whitby. For more information phone 817 8087 or email hekia.paratamp@parliament.govt.nz

Social Networking Websites

A number of our teachers have personal pages on social networking websites eg Facebook. Some of these teachers have received requests from parents/caregivers and/or students asking to be added as friends. We have discussed this as a staff and I have also informally discussed the matter with some parents. We have agreed that any requests from parents/caregivers and/or students will not be accepted. I have asked teachers to refer any questions regarding this issue to me. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this matter.

Newsletters

This week a syndicate newsletter accompanies the school newsletter. The syndicate newsletter includes an outline of the syndicate programmes and keeps you updated about events specific to your child's syndicate.

Today, you will also receive an envelope containing:

- ☺ An emergency contact information update form.
- ☺ A letter outlining and requesting the school donation.

Please return the emergency contact information form to school as soon as possible. Having up-to-date contact information is very important to ensure your child's safety.

Please remember that a **Student Computer and Internet Use Agreement** was sent home with last week's newsletter. Some classes have already had all these forms returned. This agreement must be signed and returned to your child's teacher before your child can have access to computer equipment including the internet and email at school.

Numeracy Support - Parent Help Wanted

As you may be aware in 2008 we introduced a very successful Numeracy Support programme called Parents Helping In Numeracy Knowledge (PHINK). This programme has helped a significant number of our children improve their achievement in maths.

We need parents or grandparents who would be available for one morning every week to work with small groups of children. Full training will be given as will ongoing support from our Numeracy Leader, Yvonne Thomson. If you can help, please leave your name at the school office (2347103) and Yvonne will contact you.

DSPTA News

DSPTA Fundraiser - Family Photo Day

What a way to record how well you scrub up! Be quick to book a space to have your family photos with Positive Negatives photography (for more info see www.positivenegatives.co.nz).

Each booking is for 10 minutes and there is no charge. You get your proofs back to keep and orders will be back to you in time for Mothers Day!

- ☺ Date: Saturday 20 March 2010
- ☺ Venue: Discovery School Hall

Book Club Orders

Book club order forms were sent home recently. Orders will close on Wednesday 24 February. Please ensure that your child's teacher's name is included on the order form, this will help us with distribution of the books. Please also ensure that the correct money is included with the orders as they are not processed straight away.

Sun Hats

It is great to see that almost 100% of children are remembering to bring and wear sunhats at school. All children are expected to wear a sunhat when outside at breaktimes. Children not wearing a cap or hat at breaktimes will sit in a designated covered area near to the staffroom.

Wellington Barbarians Rugby Fundraiser

Three of our boys, David Hayles, Matthew Davies and Demira Tuiavii are part of The Wellington Barbarians rugby squad consisting of the Best Rugby Reps in the Region; from Onepoto Norths, Tawa, Paremata Plimmerton and Paraparaumu Clubs. The team is fund raising to play against a number of Australian clubs on the Gold Coast.

The team is organising a fundraiser at Postgate School Sunday 28 February from 9.00am onwards. Demira, Matthew and David will be part of a 10 hour sponsored runathon. On the day there will be a Sausage Sizzle and ice blocks and drinks for sale. Four Hairdressers will be available to cut Boys and Mens hair for \$10 and \$15. Haircuts from 2.00pm onwards.

A thought to share with your children:

☺ "If I try to be like them, who will be like me?" (Anonymous)

2010 Term Dates

Please find below the term dates for 2010. These have been agreed between the primary schools in our local cluster.

- Term 1; Wednesday 03 February to Thursday 01 April
- Term 2; Monday 19 April to Friday 02 July
- Term 3; Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September
- Term 4; Monday 11 October to Thursday 16 December

Dates for your diary

Thurs 11 Feb	Syndicate information evening (Resolution & Exploration Syndicates)
Tues 16 March	Athletics Sports
Fri 19 March	Athletics Sports (Postponement Date)

Conrad Kelly
Principal

Community Notices: *When we have space available in the school newsletter we are happy to include community related notices or notices we feel may be of particular interest to our families. Please note that we include as many notices as we can however, we cannot guarantee that the notice will be placed and we take no responsibility for any services offered.*

Paremata Plimmerton Rugby Football Club Junior Registration - Girls & Boys, Grades start at Under 6 (for 4 and 5 year olds) right through to Under 13 grade for Year 8 players. Registration at the Paremata-Plimmerton Clubrooms @ Ngatitao Domain, times:

- Tuesday 23rd February 6pm - 8pm
- Thursday 25th February 5pm - 7pm
- Saturday 27th February 10am - 2pm
- Saturday 6th March 10am - 2pm

New Players please bring a copy of your passport or birth certificate when you come to register. Cost: \$40 for 1 child,

\$60 for 2 children, \$70 for 3 or more. For further details please contact: Martin Highgate - 232 4883

Free hutch for guinea pig or rabbit: If interested ring 234-1409 for more information.

Mana Music Centre - Enrolment Day for 2010. Saturday 13th February 2010, 10.30am - 12 pm at Discovery School and Maraeroa School. Instrument tuition available to Primary/Intermediate children - only \$12 per term. Instruments include: recorder, piano/keyboard, clarinet, saxophone, flute, violin, guitar, music appreciation. Age restrictions do apply to some instruments. Further enquiries to Sandra Ph: 235-9019.

Nursery Grade Football Programme - For children aged walking to 7 years. Uniform included in \$70 fee. 10 weeks of games @ Johnsonville, Miramar, Petone, Upper Hutt. For further details phone 586 6006 or www.little-dribblers.co.nz

Kelly Sports After School on Mondays At Discovery School - Kelly Sports is again offering its multisport programme on Mondays after school this term. MIGHTY MULTISPORT is designed specifically so children can experience a range of sports. For those who have never joined a club before it gives them the confidence to give sport a go. For children already playing sport it gives them an extra chance to improve their skills for the summer and winter seasons. For further info or to enrol please contact Duncan Murray on duncan@kellysports.co.nz or 232 9409.

Western Suburbs Soccer Club - Registrations for the coming season will be held on Sunday 7 February 10-30am-2.30pm, Thursday 11 February 5.30pm-7.30pm and Sunday 14 February 10.30am-2.30pm, all at Endeavour Park Clubrooms, Albatross Close, Whitby. Any girls aged 7-14 who wish to register for the Capital Football Girls Sunday League can do so at the same time and venue as above. For more details please phone 234 8611 or email to juniors@westernsuburbs.co.nz.

The Pelorus Trust Wellington Round the Bays Fun Run/Walk and New Balance Half Marathon is being held on Sunday, 21 February. If you are interested in entering please register at www.wellingtonroundthebays.co.nz

Rotary Book Fair - Have you got any used books you can kindly donate to the upcoming Rotary Club of Plimmerton Bookfair? Alternatively, books can be dropped off at The Professionals Real Estate (at Whitby, Mana, Porirua) or Challenge Service Station (Cobham Court Porirua). Donations happily received and proceeds from Book Fair help support Life Education Trust and Community/Youth development projects in our area.

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I would like to receive an email copy of the Discovery School newsletter.

Name:

Email Address: