

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

Term 1 Week 3

Thursday 18 February 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

Last Thursday we began our Kapa Haka programme for the year. This was a fantastic addition to our programme in 2009 and we have been fortunate in being able to retain Murray Patterson as our Kapa Haka teacher. Every Thursday each syndicate will take part in Kapa Haka. The timetable for Term 1 is as follows:

- Discovery Syndicate - 12.00 - 12.30
- Adventure Syndicate - 1.30 - 2.00
- Resolution Syndicate - 2.00 - 2.30
- Exploration Syndicate - 2.30 - 3.00

The Board of Trustees (BoT) holds its first meeting of 2010 next Monday 22 February in the staffroom commencing at 7.30pm. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the parent noticeboard outside the staffroom. We have BoT elections coming up in May. If you are interested in finding out more about how the board functions please feel free to attend this meeting.

The Discovery School Parents and Teachers Association (DSPTA) also meet for the first time next week. The DSPTA will hold its February meeting in the staffroom from 7.30pm on Wednesday 24 February. New members are always welcome to attend.

**Numeracy Support - Parent Help Wanted
Wednesdays from 9.00am - 10.30am**

We need one more parent/caregiver to help us with our Parents Helping In Numeracy Knowledge (PHINK). This programme has helped a significant number of our children improve their achievement in maths.

You will need to be available on Wednesdays from 9.00am to 10.30am and would work with another parent helping a small group of children with numeracy knowledge. Full training will be given as will ongoing support from our Numeracy Leaders, Yvonne Thomson and Sarah Jenner.

If you can help, please leave your name and contact details at the school office (2347103) and Yvonne will contact you.

Parent/Teacher Goal Setting Meetings - Week 6

All classes with the exception of Carl McManaway's class will be having parent/teacher/child goal setting conferences on Tuesday 09 March and Wednesday 10 March. Mr McManaway's class will be having their conferences on Monday 08 March and Tuesday 09 March.

The main focus of these meetings will be to set goals with your child for the first half of the school year.

Now would be a good time to begin talking to your children about what they would like to achieve this year, why this is important to them, how they will go about ensuring they are successful and who might help them.

Teachers will also have some ideas about areas the children need to focus on and I'm sure you will too.

This year all bookings for conference times will be done using www.schoolinterviews.co.nz. You will be able to either book a conference time online or by telephoning the school office and asking one of our office team to book a time for you. Full details of this process will be published in next week's school newsletter.

2009 Parent Survey Summary

A summary of the feedback that the board received in the 2009 Annual Parent Survey accompanies this newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Recent Newsletter Information

Last week, you will have received an envelope containing:

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

Thank you to those of you who have already returned the emergency contact update form or paid your school donation. If you have mislaid your emergency contact form please contact the school office, 2347103. Having up-to-date contact information is very important to ensure your child's safety.

Please also remember that a **Student Computer and Internet Use Agreement** was sent home with the first school newsletter of the year. 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.

If you would like to join the email distribution list for the school newsletter please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school office, or send me an email asking to be added to the list; principal@discovery.school.nz.

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! For further information please contact Bernee Koschak, 2341226.

☺ 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.

Wanted Clothes for the Medical Room

Occasionally children have accidents at school which means that they need to change into another set of clothes. If you have any clothes at home, particularly for five to nine year-olds, which are still in good condition but you don't need anymore, please drop them in to the school office. We will keep them in the medical room in case of accidents.

If your child has borrowed clothes from the medical room recently, we would be grateful if you could return these.

A thought to share with your children:

- "It is wise to direct your anger towards problems - not people; to focus your energies on answers - not excuses."
(William Ward)

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

Mon 22 Feb	BoT Meeting (7.30pm)
Wed 24 Feb	DSPTA Meeting (7.30pm)
Tues 16 March	Athletics Sports
Fri 19 March	Athletics Sports (Postponement Date)

Conrad Kelly
Principal

Community Notices:

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 @ Ngatitua 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

Mana Music Centre - Piano/Keyboard, Violin and Flute Vacancies for Term 1 - Lessons only \$12 per Term. These classes are available to primary/intermediate children aged 8 years and older. Piano/Keyboard and Violin lessons are held on Saturday mornings and Flute lessons are held on Wednesdays after school. We have violins and flutes available to hire. For further information and enrolments please phone Sandra 235-9019.

Wellington Barbarians Rugby Fundraiser - The team is organising a fundraiser at Postgate School Sunday 28 February from 9.00am onwards. Three boys from our school 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.

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

Name:

Email Address: