

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

Term 1 Week 9

Thursday 01 April 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

It's hard to believe that it's Easter already and that we are at the end of Term 1. The term has been very busy and productive, including:

- Syndicate Information Evenings
- Parent, Teacher and Child Goal Setting Conferences
- Athletics Sports
- Exploration and Discovery Syndicate Camps
- Adventure Syndicate's EOTC Week
- Adventure Syndicate Swimming

We have had a large number of out-of-zone applications for the second half of the school year, if you have a child who is turning five in Term 3 or Term 4 please read the information regarding enrolment contained in this newsletter.

Upcoming Events - Term 2

Next term will be eleven weeks long, we have a number of exciting events planned.

- We will be continuing with our series of art workshops for all children in Week 2. These workshops will build on the workshops held in 2009.
- Also in Week 2 we will be hosting a group of Year 7 & 8 children from Kio Kio School.
- Our School Cross-Country is being held in Week 6. The top ten place-getters at our sports will then represent our school in the Parumoana Cross-Country. Children who are place-getters in this event will represent our zone team at the Wellington Schools Cross-Country.
- We have a Book Week in Week 3. There will be a wide range of activities to promote books and develop a love of reading. We will need lots of support with these activities.
- Reports will be sent home in Week 9 followed by Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences in Week 10.
- We will be holding an art exhibition in Week 11.

Board of Trustees News

Discovery School Board of Trustees met at 7:30pm on Monday 22 March in the staffroom. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- Conrad's presentation of the results of recent numeracy assessments. This data enables our teachers to target our children's needs and ensure that all children have appropriate learning targets for 2010.
- Parents receiving two written reports this year. One of which will report against the national standards.

- Review of Enrolment Scheme: The Board agreed the current scheme should be retained without amendment
- Several information technology areas of focus are being progressed this year, including staff training & development and the school website reviewed.
- Car-parking: For emergency purposes, two car parks adjacent to the kindergarten are now reserved for staff.
- The draft 2009 financial statements have been prepared and will be sent to the auditors shortly.
- 2010 School Trustee Election nomination forms were posted to all parents/caregivers on the electoral roll. The closing date for nomination is noon Friday, 23 April.
- Next Board of Trustees meeting: 7:30pm Monday, 26 April. (Craig Marsters - Board of Trustees)

Discovery School Board of Trustees Election

Nominations are invited for the election of three parent representatives to the Board of Trustees.

A nomination form and a copy of this notice will be posted to all eligible voters.

Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office.

Nominations close at noon on **Friday 23 April 2010** and may be accompanied by a candidate's statement.

The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand for inspection at the school.

The poll closes at noon on **Friday 7 May 2010**.

Kathy Wall - Returning Officer

Book Week - Week 3 Term 2

This year we will be holding a book swap as part of Book Week. Over the holidays have a good look at your books and think about whether or not you might like to swap some of them for another book at our school book swap during book week. Simply bring in any books you would like to swap to the library and you will be given a swap ticket. One book = one swap ticket. On the Friday of Book Week all of the books will be on display in the hall for you to go and spend your swap ticket. You will be updated about other things that will be happening during book week early next term.

Police Competency Test Challenge

Last Friday eight of our Year 7 & 8 children took part in The Police Competency Test Challenge at The Royal New Zealand

Police College Many thanks to Chris Souness and Claire Burke who provided transport and supervision. Well done to the two teams who represented our school creditably.

Discovery Rockets

Conor Souness
Ethan Pursglove
Caitlin O'Connor
Sian Campbell

Discovery Stars

Ethan Comer
Emma Burke
Rose McLean
Patrick Bull

Out of Zone Enrolments - Terms 3 & 4 2010

Please note the details below regarding the enrolment process for out-of-zone children for Terms 3 and 4 2010:

- If you live out of zone and have a child who will be **starting** school in Term 3 or Term 4 this year, you must ensure that you have completed and returned an enrolment form for him/her to the school office by 3.00pm on **Friday 14 May 2010**. Any application for enrolment received after 3.00pm on Friday 14 May 2010 will not be considered.
- If the number of out of zone applications exceeds the number of places available, children will be selected by ballot. If a ballot for out of zone places is required, it will be held on **Friday 21 May 2010**.
- If you have friends who live out of zone who wish to send their children to Discovery School please pass this information onto them.
- If you live within our school zone and have a child who will be starting school this year please ensure you have completed an enrolment form for him/her and returned it to the school office.
- Children living within zone have absolute right of entry to our school regardless of whether we receive an enrolment form prior to **Friday 14 May 2010** or not. It is however very helpful to us to know how many children are likely to be coming to Discovery School.

We Need Your Help

Parent Reading Tutor Programme

We run a very successful reading support programme, Parent Reading Tutor Programme. The programme is aimed at children who need some tuition to attain and maintain their chronological reading age. In recent years all children involved in the programme have made great learning gains.

One of our volunteer reading tutors is unable to continue with the programme next term and we are seeking a replacement. Tutors are trained in basic reading support skills, and given specific instructions by a trained teacher individually aimed at each child in the programme.

The time commitment for tutors is 1½ hours per week between 9.00am - 10.30am on the same day each week. The same children are seen each week so a rapport can develop between tutor and student. Tutors see one child at a time. Grandparents and other adults who can make the commitment are most welcome to be involved.

If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more please leave your name, phone number and address at the school office and we will contact you.

Parents Helping in Numeracy Knowledge (PHINK)

Wednesdays from 9.00am - 10.30am

Do you want to help your child with maths homework? Or learn fun maths games to play with your child? Join our PHINK team, play games once a week for just over an hour, with a small group of 4 children. You and your child will both benefit. You don't need to be a Maths whizz...just eager to learn.

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.

Whitby Community Guardians

As you may be aware the Whitby Community Guardians was set up recently to help ensure that Whitby remains a safe community. The guardians' presence has led to a significant drop off in vandalism at our school.

The group currently has 16 local residents as WCG patrollers. This allows them to call on each member's services once a month. It does not allow for times, when through illness, holiday time or social commitments people are not available.

The commitment is for either a Friday or Saturday night for 2-3 hours, once a month, and people are rostered on subject to their availability. A 1-2 hour training session is given by the local Community Constable. If you are interested in joining the Whitby Community Guardians please phone Jon Early, 2347880.

DSPTA - Entertainment Books

The DSPTA will be selling the ever popular Entertainment Books again next term. These are fantastic value at \$60 each. All families will receive a copy of the Entertainment Book in the first week of next term either for purchase or to return to the school.

A thought to share with your children:

- How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. (Anne Frank)

Dates for your diary

Thurs 01 April	Term 1 Ends
Mon 19 April	Term 2 Begins

Conrad Kelly
Principal

Community Notices:

Found - Friendly Rainbow Lorikeet found in The Crowsnest, Whitby area. Phone Stephanie 234-7667.