

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

Term 2 Week 1

Thursday 22 April 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

Welcome back to the new Term.

Next week some of our Year 7 & 8s will be billeting Year 7 & 8 children from Kio Kio School. Kio Kio is in the King Country. The Kio Kio children will be visiting many of the sites around the Wellington Region. We will be welcoming our Kio Kio visitors with a Powhiri at 9.00am next Monday 26 April.

On Tuesday and Wednesday next week, Jane Lloyd will be running art workshops focusing on, 'how to draw animals'. All classes will attend a workshop on one of the days. Many thanks to the DSPTA who are covering the costs of the workshops.

Student Council

Each year our older children elect a student council. There are four representatives from each of our Year 7 & 8 classes and one representative from each Year 5 & 6 class. This year the student council members are:

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| ☺ Patrick Bull | ☺ Cameron Muckley |
| ☺ Sharelle Buchan | ☺ Nikolai Bain |
| ☺ Dominic Pearn | ☺ Kate Eland |
| ☺ Briana Davey | ☺ Cory McRoberts |
| ☺ Sam Gallagher, | ☺ Lisa Tweedie |
| ☺ Rose McLean | ☺ Abby McRoberts |
| ☺ Junior Teaupaku | ☺ Renee Tracy |
| ☺ Rebecca Groom | ☺ Sienna Packer |

Colleges 2011

Those of you with children in Years 7 and 8 may be going through the process of choosing a college for your child for 2011 or 2012. I have a 14 year old who is currently in Year 10 and a 13 year old who is in his first year at secondary school. I am therefore keenly aware of how you may be feeling about this decision.

My advice is to gather as much information as you can and to do this as soon as you can. This will ensure that you make an informed choice.

It is particularly important that you understand the enrolment schemes in operation at the different colleges you may be interested in your child attending. There are a number of 'rumours' regarding these schemes, which unfortunately in the past have led parents into making choices based on hearsay rather than facts. If you have questions regarding a particular enrolment scheme you should contact the college and ask. Another source of information regarding a school's enrolment scheme will be the school's website.

I will publish information regarding college information evenings, open days, etc, as we receive it. If you would like to discuss how you might go about choosing a secondary school for your child, please do not hesitate to contact me, 234 7103.

Police Competency Test Challenge

On 29 March, 8 Year 7 and 8 students from Exploration Syndicate went to Porirua Police College for the PCT Challenge. We had two teams made up of Emma Burke, Rose McLean, Ethan Comer, Patrick Bull, Sian Campbell, Caitlin O'Connor, Conor Souness and Ethan Pursglove. We had to do a big obstacle course including climbing two walls, one 6ft high and the other 10ft, dragging a 70kg dummy, pushing a trailer for 10m, running 200m and lots of other challenging things. We had to work as a team to help each other do some of the activities. Lots of other schools participated and it was a great day. (Emma Burke Year 8)

Book Week - Week 3 Term 2 - Book Swap

This year we will be holding a book swap as part of Book Week. If you have books at home which you'd like to swap for other books, bring them to the library and you will be given a swap ticket. *One book = one swap ticket.* On Friday 07 May all the books will be on display in the hall for you to go and spend your swap ticket.

Book Club Orders

Book club order forms were sent home recently. Orders will close on, Friday 14 May. 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.

Netball

Practice starts this Friday for all players. Coaches will contact players with details. The season starts on Saturday 08 May. Any queries contact Cara, 2357553.

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.

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.
- There are no out-of-zone places available in Years 2, 3, 4, 7 & 8.
- 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.

DSPTA - Entertainment Books

Entertainment books will be sent home next Thursday 29 April. Any queries or extra books wanted please contact Cara, 2357553

A thought to share with your children:

- "A 'No' uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a 'Yes' merely uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble." (Mahatma Gandhi)

Dates for your diary

Mon 26 April Kio Kio School Powhiri (9.00am)
Mon 26 April Board of Trustees Meeting (7.30pm)

Conrad Kelly
Principal

Community Notices:

ANZAC Day Civic Service - Porirua City Council advise that planning for the Porirua Basin Combined Civic Service on ANZAC Day is well underway. The service will be held at the Peace Memorial on Te Rauparaha Park or under the canopies in Cobham Court if the weather is inclement, commencing at 9.00am on Sunday 25 April.