

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

Term 2 Week 3

Thursday 06 May 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

The fantastic weather continues.

Next Tuesday we are hosting teachers from Fairhall School in Blenheim. The teachers will at our school to learn about our approach to inquiry learning.

Four of our Year 7 and 8 children recently represented Discovery School the Kids Lit Quiz held at Seatoun School. Congratulations to the following children who performed very well in the quiz:

- Matthew Keegan
- Sian Lewin
- Jasmin Inglis-Matchett
- Sienna Packer

Board of Trustees Update

The Discovery School Board of Trustees meets on the last Monday of each month - 7:30pm in the school staffroom. At the 26th April meeting, the school governance topics discussed included:

Board of Trustees election: Congratulations to our new parent representative trustees Adam Burns, Craig Honeyman and Paul Wiszniewski and the staff representative Vicki Howarth. (There were three parent nominations received for the three parent rep vacancies)

Annual Plan 2010: A review of the 2010 Annual Plan highlighted the stretched goals set by the school, to build our children into well rounded individuals. The objectives include:

- Mathematics and Statistics Review
- Literacy Review
- Implementation of the National Standards
- Inquiry Review
- ICT
- Procedures for working with parents of children in split family situations
- Planned Reserve Spending
- Swimming Pool

National Standards: The Board discussed the National Standards and confirmed how Discovery School will ensure it meets the new legislative requirements.

NZEI Paid Union Meetings: To minimise disruption to school life, teachers have been given two meeting dates for the out-of-school meeting (3 or 4 May). Our children will be appropriately supervised during any teacher absence.

School Pool: The Board has been progressing an option of an external organisation taking over the school pool and them

providing swimming lessons. There are still some hurdles to jump and we'll send out more information as soon as possible.

This is a few of the topics covered at the April Board meeting. Please feel free to attend any of future Board meetings. Your input is most welcome. (Craig Marsters)

Discovery School Art Exhibition

Your children are currently preparing very special artworks for our biennial Discovery School art exhibition. These precious creations will be framed and displayed in our school hall for public viewing on Tuesday 29 June.

Artworks will be available for purchase both before and during an evening of musical entertainment, wine and other refreshments. This is a fundraising event for the DSPTA. Please put this date on your calendar and watch for more information re ticket sales in following newsletters.

Please note that each child's piece of artwork will be for sale, with the proceeds going to DSPTA fundraising. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish your child **not** to participate in this fundraising activity.

Child Safety

The mother of one of our children recently helped out in a situation in which a child had been accidentally left on a train by her mother. Had this child known her parents' cellphone numbers a lot of upset could have been prevented.

It might be a good idea to check whether or not your child knows your cellphone number or not.

Social Skills Programme

As you may be aware we run a social skills programme at our school. Each fortnight a new skill is introduced by teachers and discussed with children. The skill is then reinforced throughout the fortnight including the issuing of TRUMP tickets, when members of staff 'catch' children actively using the skill:

Thinking
Relating
Using language, symbols and texts
Managing self
Participating and contributing

The current skill is: *"Praising/Giving and Receiving Compliments."*

The social skill for the period Monday 10 May to Friday 21 May will be: *"Accepting Consequences"*.

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 has started on Fridays for all players. The season starts on Saturday 08 May. Any queries contact Cara, 2357553.

College Enrolment Information - 2011

St Mary's College - Open Morning,

St Mary's College Open Morning Tuesday 11 May, 8.00am to 10.00am. For further information please contact the principal's assistant, 473 5554 extension 844.

Aotea College - Information Evening

The principal of Aotea College, Tim Davies-Colley, will be at Discovery School on Wednesday 12 May, to provide information about the college for both children and parents. He will be talking to Year 7 and 8 children at 1.30pm and will also be presenting information for parents at 7.00pm in the Discovery School library.

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 have been sent home recently. Any queries or extra books wanted please contact Cara, 2357553.

A member of the DSPTA will be in the school hall from 8.30am each morning to collect money and book returns.

We Need Your Help

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.

A thought to share with your children:

- "I always loved running...it was something you could do by yourself, and under your own power. You could go in any direction, fast or slow as you wanted, fighting the wind if you felt like it, seeking out new sights just on the strength of your feet and the courage of your lungs." - Jesse Owens

Dates for your diary

- Fri 07 May Book Week Book Swap
- Fri 14 May Out-of-Zone Enrolments Close
- Fri 21 May Out-of Zone Ballot (If Required)
- Wed 19 May DSPTA Meeting (7.30pm in the staffroom)
- Mon 24 May BoT Meeting (7.30pm in the staffroom)

Have a great weekend - can the Hurricanes and the Black Caps keep winning?

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.*

Zone Dance Academy Fundraiser - Movie night at Lighthouse Theatre, Sunday 16th May. The movie is "Home by Christmas", Highly recommended, 4 star rated film. Tickets are \$20 available from Tracey 234 7313.

Discovery Kindergarten Fundraiser - 2nd hand Book/Movie/Music Fair to be held on Saturday 29th May 10am-2pm. Donations required, please drop off outside the Kindy door. Queries to Nic 235 6683.

Paremata Plunket Playgroup Fundraiser - Paremata Plunket Playgroup proudly presents.... Sex and the City 2, 13th June 2010 The Lighthouse Pauatahanui, Supper at 7.15pm, Movie starts at 8pm. Tickets \$20. Raffles, spot prizes and a fun evening For tickets ring or text Melanie Neeley 0211604798