

Peninsula Primary

Newsletter No. 1 14 February, 2011

Greetings, Tena Koutou e hoa ma, hello parents and friends of the school, talofa lava, malo e lelei, fakalofa lahi atu.....

Our focus of study for Term 1 is: Celebration of Culture

Enduring understanding:

- 1. Culture is defined by a shared set of attitudes, values, goals and practice.**
- 2. We need to understand and respect all cultures.**

Essential questions:

- 1. What do we mean by culture?**
- 2. What determines and influences culture?**

We have had a great start to the year. Our students have arrived for Term One keen to get on with their learning as well as to meet their old friends and to make new. They respect rules and look out for their classmates and others. Thank you parents and extended family members for your part in this. Ours is a diverse and dynamic community and we at Peninsula Primary School do our best to provide a well-rounded education, to meet the varied needs of our students. Teachers use an inquiry approach to best meet individual needs, and the accompanying term calendar includes quite a variety of activities as vehicles for learning.

The Board of Trustees is working hard to review current policies and results of the recent school survey reinforces two areas that will be worked on: reporting to parents and meeting the needs of academically able students.

Teachers began professional development about teaching Gifted and Talented students, on teacher only day. This day was facilitated by Elaine Le Sueur from Gifted Education Services, and more days on this area of our work will be done over this year.

Elaine Le Sueur is an international authority in the field of Gifted and Talented education, and subject to confirmation, she will be available to talk to parents about this on March 20, at 7.00pm in our school hall.

Other work planned for teacher professional development includes writing, continuing on from last year. As the year goes by we will connect this work with reading.

Several teachers are taking a course called %Incredible Years+an off-shoot of the highly regarded parenting programme. The study our teachers will complete, run by Auckland University Faculty of Education, is about managing classes at the highest level of performance.

Other teachers are assisting the University in a study of high expectations and the role of those expectations in the success of exemplary teachers and students.

SCHOOL STATIONERY AND DONATION.....

Thank you to those parents who have purchased their child's stationery packs through the school. If you purchased stationery outside the school the compulsory items still need to be paid for.
Year 1 & 2 \$3.00 Year 3 & 4 \$6.00 Y5 & 6 \$3.00
School Fees / Donation: If paid by 1st March \$65.00 per child for a year or \$110.00 for a family. We are happy to accept this in installments to suit you.

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.....

We warmly welcome each and every one of the 45+ new students, along with their families. Pictured on the next page are those new entrants beginning their school learning. It is great to have you with us.

Return slip

I have received and read Newsletter No. 1 Childs Name.....Room.....

SignedParent/Guardian

SOME IMPORTANT DATES I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE.....

- February 23 . Meet the Parents / Information Evening 7.00pm in our school hall.
- March 16 - Maths Open Day. A programme will Come out closer to the day.
- March 20 - Elaine Le Sueur talking about educating academically able students in our school hall. (date to be confirmed).

Enviroschool News

Welcome to a new school year. Our last year was busy with several e-projects (environmental projects) being started to make the school more environmentally sustainable and beautiful. Some of these projects will continue this year, such as litterless lunches, composting and our gardens. There will be other e-projects started throughout the year, we will keep you posted with what the e-projects are and any help we need. For our first e-project we need to collect 1 litre milk bottles for worm tea and egg cartons for planting seeds into.

We also need help again with our garden to table programme, with both gardening and cooking. Mrs Barton is also looking for any extra produce especially lemons that people have spare for cooking with. Mr Whittaker is looking for any spare forks or spades that people have for gardening.

In other news Mr Whittaker worked his magic and got funding for us to install waterless urinals in 6 of the toilet blocks at school, this will save over 400,000 cubic metres of water each year. What a way to make our school more sustainable!

Upcoming events: There will also be a stall held at Jack Pringle Park on 19 March where children are welcome to come help us plant some seeds for our garden. This will be part of the family fun day planned for this day.



Meet the Parents / Information Evening....

The format is:

All parents meet in the hall for a prompt start at 7pm. Information about school priorities for the year will be presented. The teaching teams will move to the following places at which you can find out about learning at each level:

- Year 1 & 2 in the hall
- Year 3 & 4 in Room 10
- Year 5 & 6 in Room 1

The Principal will be available to talk to any parents about any matters. Close 8.15pm

Spanish at Peninsula Primary.....

These lessons are held during lunchtime break and after school. Students have one 45 minute class every week in groups of 4 / 5 members, with a Spanish native speaker tutor. Classes are extra curricula, however aims and achievement objectives, as well as learning and teaching examples are based on the statement of Spanish in the NZ Curriculum.. If you are interested please contact Eva Anton 8345441 or 0211431740.

MUSIC EDUCATION CENTRE.....

Students at this school can learn music:

- One to one instruction or group lessons
- One lesson each week
- Lessons held here at school during school time.
- Specialist instrumental teachers
- Suitable for students over the age of 7.

The instruments taught are: Piano./Keyboard, Guitar, Violin. For further information about enrolment and cost, forms are available from the school office.

Blue Turtle After School Art Classes.....

Begins Term 1 Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th February for 8 weeks. 3.30pm to 5.00pm at Te Atatu Intermediate School. For more information phone Rowena on 8345297.

GYM CLUB.....

Peninsula Primary is offering our students the opportunity to take part in a professional gym club.

- Top quality reward based programme
- Top class coaches
- Affordable fees - \$85 for the term
- Convenient Friday lunchtime classes

This will run for at least this term and will commence this Friday. All students took home an enrolment form last Friday. You can return forms to the office where they will be collected. Payment is to be made direct to the Gym Club. For further information or to register online: www.GYMclub.co.nz

SWIMSATION SWIM CLUB.....

Swimsation lessons started last Monday and Tuesday. If you would like to enrol your child in lessons please phone 9482414 or visit their website: www.swimsation.co.nz