

Peninsula Primary

Newsletter No. 3 15 March 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?**

Half way through term one I can report that our students are working and behaving to the highest of expectations. Teachers continue to participate in various professional development courses all with the same basic end result, that is improved teaching and learning. Students from year three to year six are close to completing Progresssive Achievement Tests. The results of these will be analysed to find the learning needs of students, and also to observe trends in achievement in our school population.

Early learning is accomplished by imitation and some of our students are seeing examples of unwise behaviour. We ask caregivers to observe some simple rules to help keep our students safe.

- Cross the roads outside school at the purpose built crossing islands.
- Move around our school carpark using the 'pedestrian crossing' painted there.

Other than that we expect drivers to obey basic road rules:

- No stopping on yellow lines
- Park on the road

Some parents say crossing the road with their child in tow is safe away from the proper places. Please realize other students see this behaviour and may do the same. Our safety-minded requests are not unreasonable.

Stopping on yellow lines is not allowed. Traffic Wardens will ticket anyone stopping, even briefly. Wardens will be making random visits in the next few weeks.

TWILIGHT GALA.....

THURSDAY 31 MARCH 5.30 - 8.00pm

Our fantastic Friends of the School need more volunteers for this event. The vacancies existing are for half hour slots only. The responsibilities are not onerous but vital parts of the gala organization. Also, please mark on your calendar to bake a cake or other baking for the 31 March. All money goes towards the education of your children.

Recently the Friends of the School held an enjoyable, successful recruitment night. There is still plenty of work to be shared around so please get in touch if you can assist. Leave your name at the school office.

KIWI SPORT ACTIVATOR.....

The after school activities club, run by Matt Wogan, on Tuesday afternoons, has got off to a great start. All places are filled, and a waiting list is in place. Next term, all those who want to attend could be accommodated if some adult volunteers could be found. If you are interested in working with our wonderful students from 3.00pm until 4.30pm on Tuesday afrernoons, please contact our school office. The content of our programme will be directed by Matt Wogan and Peninsula Primary teaching staff.

REMINDER: MATHS OPEN MORNING TOMORROW 16 MARCH.....

Information meeting in the hall 9.00 - 9.30. Rooms may be visited 9.30 - 10.30 followed by morning tea.

Return slip

I have received and read Newsletter No.3 Childs Name.....Room.....

SignedParent/Guardian

MUSIC ROOM AND PROGRAMME.....

Late last year the board of trustees announced their intention, after months of being held up by the Ministry of Education, to place a new building on our site as a dedicated music room. In the meantime prices have risen and the project now exceeds our budget. Ways around the funding shortfall are being worked on now.

Room 4 is being used for music teaching at the moment. Students from all areas of the school have music lessons using our extensive resource collection. Years one and two students are taught music by their home room teachers, year three and four students are taught music by Ms Violet Muller, and years five and six students take part in a team teaching system. The last team teaching set was singing, instrumental work, waiata, choir singing and dance.

Other opportunities for our students are to join the instrumental group (year 4-6), the choir (year 3-6) by auditions, guitar lessons, violin lessons and keyboard lessons with Music Education Centre teachers. Ms Muller, teacher of Room 11, is an expert percussionist and drum kit player. She takes our pupils, who want to learn, for drumming lessons after school.

The following is the rationale of our music programme:

- Music has been, and remains, a vital expression for all people from all cultures and societies. It voices both our individuality and our common humanity in both active and passive ways.
- Music engages the left and right sides of the brain simultaneously, assisting with concentration and focus.
- Music can thus assist learning in other curriculum areas.
- Music can assist in the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of the student.
- Music can promote both individual expression and cooperative learning.
- Music can help with self-esteem, social cohesiveness and group identity.

Hence an active music programme helps not only the individual student but all students and assists the school socially.

A motivating course, appropriate to contemporary children, extending their musical skills, broadening their musical horizons and allowing them a framework within which they may create and explore their personal view of themselves and their world, is invaluable.

Dates to remember.....

March 15 Bike Safety

March 16 Maths Open morning 9 – 10.30am

March 21 Elaine LeSueur talk about educating more able students 7pm in school hall. Details will go home about meeting later in the week.

March 29 Athletics Field Day

March 31 Twilight Gala 5.30 – 8.00pm

Enviroschool News

We now have our Nature Crusaders for 2011. We will be meeting every Tuesday afternoon and have already come up with plenty of plans for this year. Our first job is to promote our school at the family fun day this Saturday 19th March. We will be cooking up a storm with some fun food and fliers, if you want to come down and check our stall out.

Our Trash to Fashion group had their first meeting with Mrs Kellerman on Friday. They are off to a flying start with lots of enthusiasm and many designs and ideas. Mrs Kellerman is still looking for parent helpers who are able to help out on a Friday afternoon every week. Please see Mrs Kellerman in Room 10 if you are able to help.

We are also still looking for 1ltr and 2ltr bottles to store worm tea in. If you are able to help us there will be a box to drop them off in, in the staffroom.

TRAVELWISE WEEK 21-25 MARCH 2011.....

This week aims to encourage students, parents and Caregivers to get out of cars and enjoy the pleasures of Walking to and from school. We have five 'walking buses' operating. Contact Mrs Mills for information about the routes the buses take.

Some Year 6 students enjoying the Bike Safety

