

Peninsula Primary

Newsletter No. 5 11 April 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

Our wonderful Friends of the School group were justly rewarded with great weather for the 'Twilight Gala' held last week. The event was a resounding success in several ways. Children who came along had lots to do and enjoy. Adults had the opportunity to mix and mingle with friends and neighbours, and there was plenty of food and entertainment to enjoy. Money raised was a good return, especially when thinking about the other spin-offs from the event.

A huge thank you goes to the fantastic Friends of the School members – Karin Tautuhi, Kathy Hohepa, Teo Lorigan, Dee Brown, Philip Jellyman, John Sommerville, Angelica Lurman for the hours of work and heaps of energy put into this event. Thanks also to the many parents who assisted on the night, and to those who generously sent along baking.

Teachers too should be thanked: from being drenched all evening (sponge bob) to assembling hamburgers all evening, they made a valuable contribution.

I hope you all enjoyed the entertainment. You will be hearing more from the groups as the year goes by.

Our Pasifika Group is going from strength to strength.

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE AT PENINSULA PRIMARY SCHOOL

I have recently had talks with parents and grandparents of our students during which it was mentioned how pleased people were to see the 'This is a No Hitting place' posters throughout the school, amongst other things. Graphic reminders like the Children's Commissioners posters are just part of what we do to keep our students safe at school.

At the core of our ethos is high expectations. Regardless of family background or monetary circumstances we expect all students to behave according to our rules.

We operate an Assertive Discipline programme which begins with class discussions at the start of year to set key rules, consequences and rewards. Students, with their teacher, build a treaty or charter to display in the classroom. The charter will have key elements of desirable behaviour spelt out, and it will have consequences for those not respecting our rules

The consequences might look like this: 1. Warning 2. Name on board 3. Go to Syndicate Leader 5. Go to Deputy Principal 6. Go to Principal

Rewards for respecting rules and carrying out other key aspects might be having shared lunch, extra computer time and so on.

Using assertive discipline means no long term disruption to others learning takes place. Problems must be acted on immediately. The Board of Trustees allocates resourcing to student welfare through behaviour. Both Deputy Principals are released from having a home room so they can be available to support staff with classroom management.

If a student hits or swears they will be given a 'behaviour slip' to take home. Parents are asked to contact the school and if they do not, the school follows up. The aim of this is to 'nip problems in the bud'. Incidents are recorded in the student behaviour file. The Board of Trustees receives regular student behaviour reports.

Another major part of our student discipline programme is positive reinforcement. Schoolwide we have our merit certificate system. Students strive to earn green certificates which can be awarded each week. Once 5 are gained a gold certificate is awarded. Coupled with this are classroom positive reinforcement methods, commonly sticker charts, time for free play, extra computer time, and so on.

Return slip

I have received and read Newsletter No. 5 Childs Name.....Room.....

SignedParent/Guardian

SCHOOL PHOTOS WEDNESDAY 11 MAY...

School photos will be taken on Wednesday 11 May. If you wish to purchase photos please complete the envelope sent home with the last newsletter and return it to school no later than Friday 6th May with the correct money inside the envelope. We do not open the envelopes so are unable to give you change. This is a prepaid system and unless payment is in the correct envelope, photos will not be ordered. Photos are only for children attending this school. Please note: Use the envelope with child's name on.

- Do not enclose one envelope inside another.
- You may pay for more than one child's photo on one cheque, as long as each child has an envelope completed.
- If you have more than one child at school you may have them photographed together. Please see the office for a sibling envelope.
- PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES OUT TO PHOTOLIFE STUDIOS.

PARENT READING.....

Thank you to all who have offered to help with the Parent Reading programme. We still have some places to fill if anyone can help. Please see Mrs Blackburn for more details.

SOME WRITING BY JUNIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS.....

LIZARDS

Lizards are reptiles. Lizards have claws. Lizards eat insects and bugs. Lizards live on the ground and in trees. Some can fly. by Joshua Lohead

BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies are symmetrical and did you know there is 15,000 butterflies? Caterpillars eat pumpkins and swan plants. They live on swan plants. Did you know the egg looks like jellybeans? Did you know that caterpillars have four changes? by Jachin Manu

ELEPHANTS

There are two types of elephants. The African and the Asian elephants. The tusks are really long front teeth. Tusks never stop growing. Elephants have little cushion feet and big ears and a long trunk. They eat grass, shrubs and trees. Elephants don't have enemies but people are their main enemy. by Holly McGrath

Important dates to remember.....

April 15th Last day Term 1. School closes at 3pm
May 2nd First day Term 2
May 11th School Photos

Cultural Group 2011

This year started with a bang! On the 9th February 36 children from various ethnic backgrounds; Pacific Island, Maori, European, African and Indian turned up for the first meeting. It is very important that the children know this group is for all Middle and Senior children at Peninsula Primary and some very special younger ones too. Some of these are Y5 and were either in R3 or R12 last year. Hence the loyalty and dedication to the group. On the second week of practice, 54 children turned up, then the numbers for the weekly practice varied as different activities take away some of the senior students.

The highlight of this year's activities so far was the twilight gala in which the Peninsula Pasifika Group performed. Teachers; Mrs Fa'amamafa, Ms Muller, Ms Lake and myself performed together with the children, albeit behind the musical instrument (drums). Before we walked onto the 'arena' to perform, some parents asked whether their children should have been in the group. Afterwards, more parents asked that their children be included, so it looks like we're going to have more numbers and also parent supporters. We look forward to a very fun-filled year of learning new cultural items.

Mrs Vea

Pacific Island group performing at the Gala

