

# Peninsula Primary

Newsletter No. 1 9 May 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 2 is:**

## IMAGINING

**Enduring Understandings:**

- 1. What we imagine does not have to be real.**
- 2. Opportunities are created by what we imagine.**

**Essential Questions:**

- 1. What is imagining?**
- 2. Why do we imagine?**

Our students have returned from term break in great shape for learning. The focus of study for term two is one that is ideal for the inquiring minds of our talented students. Our talented teachers enjoy this focus also and they have set the children off on this inquiry with some interesting introductory lessons and activities.

Teachers will continue to use effective pedagogy, that is, actions promoting student learning. Our integrated curriculum plan allows teachers to take an inquiry approach. The New Zealand Curriculum states:

Inquiry into the teaching-learning relationship can be visualised as a cyclical process that goes on moment by moment (as teaching takes place), day by day, and over the longer term. In this process the teacher asks:

- What is important (and therefore worth spending time on), given where my students are at?
- What strategies (evidence-based) are most likely to help my students learn this?
- What happened as a result of the teaching, and what are the implications for future teaching?

### **KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AT PENINSULA PRIMARY SCHOOL.....**

Last term I outlined how school actions aim to keep children safe at school. The Ministry of Education has a set of policies aimed at supporting schools efforts to maintain high standards of behaviour while also protecting the rights of students.

'Guidelines for Principals and Board of Trustees on stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions' details one aspect of the Ministry of Education interest in discipline in schools but in short, the process that schools can use is complex.

The Ministry of Education guidelines document the order of events that could be worked through: stand-down, suspension, exclusion and expulsion. The pertinent section of the student welfare handbook defines these terms clearly and suggests actions suitable for particular contexts. Parts of the handbook are as follows:

- Was the students behaviour gross misconduct?
- Is there continual disobedience?
- Is the behaviour risking serious harm to the student or other students if the student is not stood-down or suspended?
- Being fair and flexible.
- Natural justice.
- Documenting decisions.
- Communicating with parents.

The document aims at giving schools tools to deal with bad behaviour by students, at the same time making sure schools are not careless or over-zealous in using stand-downs, for example.

In the past ten years Peninsula Primary School Board of Trustees have sanctioned one exclusion and several stand-downs only.



Winners of major awards at Te Atatu Athletic Club prizegiving

*Return slip*

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

*Signed .....Parent/Guardian*

## SCHOOL PHOTOS WEDNESDAY 11 MAY...

School photos will be taken on Wednesday 11 May. Personalised envelopes for ordering photos were sent home late last term.

## Enviroschool News

Welcome to Term 2! This term the Nature Crusaders have lots of plans to improve the school and make it more sustainable. Our first project is to start Litterless Lunches again. Litterless lunches show us how much rubbish we send to landfills every day that we don't need to! It also gives us an opportunity to practice reducing, reusing and recycling. Every Wednesday morning before school we will be checking the children's lunchboxes and awarding a point for each child who has no rubbish. Ideally this means all food is in reusable containers or ziplock bags. If things need to be wrapped up then paper wrap is better as it is compostable, so we can put paper wrap in our compost bins. There will be no rubbish bins put out for the Wednesday playtimes and lunchtimes so all non-compostable rubbish will be sent back home on that day. A trophy will go to the class that got the most litterless lunches for that week. Thank you in advance for your support!

Nature Crusaders

### **Garden to Table at Peninsula Primary by Mara-Shelle.,.....**

*"Peninsula Primary School is an enviro-school, this means that they try very hard to make sure they keep their school clean at all times. One of the things they do is an activity called Garden to Table. Garden to Table exposes Year 5 & 6 students to the importance of being eco-friendly and also to know how to grow their own vegetables. Students are separated into groups named A & B. One group of children are put in the garden and the other in the kitchen. In the garden students do things like picking fresh fruit and vegetables, weeding, planting, sorting and ploughing. In table the students cook mouth watering dishes and learn basic cooking skills like how to hold a knife properly and why yeast makes bread rise.*

*The outcome of this event is that children know how to grow their own vegetables and can easily make their way around the kitchen. Mrs Barton (the teacher in charge of table) is very pleased with the behaviour of the children and always welcomes new children in the kitchen".*

## **Dates to remember.....**

May 10	Parent reading starts
May 10	Free accordion demonstration
May 11	School photos
May 12	B.O.T. Meeting
May 16-20	Bookweek activities
May 17	Friends of School Meeting
May 18	Meeting of Whanau group
May 19	Jump-to-it perform
May 23-27	Book Fair
May 24	Soccer Field Day
May 27-29	40 hour famine

**BOOK FESTIVAL....** Our Festival will begin on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May with a visit from our local Librarian, talking and reading to all syndicates.

### **JUMP TO IT SHOW.....**

During our Book Festival in association with the Storylines Festival 2011, a musical celebrating reading and literacy called "Jump to It" will be performing at our school on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The cost of the performance is \$4.50 per child. All students are expected to attend as this show has been carefully selected to add to learning coming out of the Book Festival. If you have not already done so please send money along to school before 19<sup>th</sup> May.

At lunch time activities will be available for children to make masks and book marks and listen to stories read by teachers.

Our Book Fair will be open from 2.00pm Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and all classes will get the opportunity to come through the fair and take home a "wish list". The fair will then be open from 8.15am – 3.30pm each day closing at 9.00am Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Our festival ends on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May with our annual character parade beginning at 9.30am.

### **Community Notices.....**

Blue Turtle After school art classes begin Term 2 for 8 weeks Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Ceramic Jewellery. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Clay Pirate ships. 3.30pm – 5.00pm Te Atatu Intermediate. For further information phone Rowena 021 732437.

### **Elev8 Club.....**

Begins on Friday May 20<sup>th</sup> for Year 4-6 students. New enquiries phone Ruth Scott 8348551

### **Gym club lunch time gymnastic classes....**

Term 2 gymnastics classes start on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May at lunchtime. Gymnastics is fun. The combination of coordination, strength, flexibility, and spatial awareness are not only fundamental skills for all other sports, they are also skills for life. To enroll your child in GYM CLUB gymnastics programme, collect a registration from the office or register online at [www.GYMclub.co.nz](http://www.GYMclub.co.nz). The cost is \$85 for the term paid directly to the Gym Club.