

# Peninsula Primary

Newsletter No. 3 2June 2009

*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.....



May was N.Z. Music month. New Zealand Music Month began in 2001. It was originally a project instigated by the government to increase the percentage of ~~kiwi~~music being broadcast in New Zealand and overseas. Now it is more a celebration of the still growing New Zealand music scene.

May was also the month when the new Minister of Education spoke to local principals about National Standards and reporting to parents. At a meeting I attended, the Hon. Anne Tolley told us that teachers would continue to do the same as they do now for assessment purposes i.e. a mix of commonly used standardised tests, and an observation of students at work. In an introduction to material for consultation with schools, Ms Tolley wrote:   
%Most of our children are learning well and thriving at school, but some are not learning so well.

%Up to one in five students leave school without gaining the basic skills they need to succeed in education, work, and their daily lives+.

She goes on to say %eading, writing and mathematics are essential skills for every primary and intermediate aged child. This is why the Government is introducing National Standards for Reading, Writing and Mathematics in 2010.+

I believe our pupils learn well and thrive because teachers teach them well. I believe we must not let the imposition of national Standards, or any thing else, cause us to give up work in the Arts, Sports, and so on. A well-rounded education motivates students to best performances in a broad curriculum.

As the Minister of Education said, teachers will continue to do as they always have, and in the days since our last newsletter Maths GLOSS tests have been done for each student, along with Literacy testing. The facilitator of the Numeracy Project has visited to give each teacher feedback about Maths

## Book Fair/Book Week

Wow! What a fantastic last two weeks we have had. Our Book Fair was a great success and from your support we have been able to place in our Learning Centre resources to the value of \$1000.00  
Book Week continues to be as popular as ever, with Story Reading and %ev It Up!+the musical, Jennifer Beck our visiting author, a surprise visit to our Junior School by Clifford and culminating in our Grand Parade on Friday. There were so many fantastic costumes and I know Christine and Melanie from Waitakere Libraries had an extremely difficult task in choosing winners.

A big %hank You+must go to the following people who gave up their time to support us before school and lunchtimes at the Book Fair and during Book Week lunchtime activities, Craig & Sylvia Whitehouse, Diane Arnold, Teo Lorigan, Maxine Hall, Kate Anderson, Lesley Cooper, Karin Tautuhi, Eva Pita and Danette Hughes.

Thank you to all our pupils, teachers, parents and our wider school community for their support of this event and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

**Carolyn Litten**

As part of Book Week, students attended %ev it Up.+ Last week during Book Week we had the pleasure of %ev it Up+coming to our school. This was a lively musical which featured two main performers. The story lines were topical, set in a primary school and the theme was one the children could relate to-a car racing competition where 2 students competed against each other for first place. There was humour and catchy songs and both performers energetically focused on their roles getting the message across. Judging by the laughter and interest on the children's faces, the show was enjoyed by all ages.

*Return slip*

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

*Signed .....Parent/Guardian*

Break times are busy for most children. A typical lunch time sees the following available to students: Sport practices (soccer and netball at present), instrumental group, jump jam in the hall, gear on loan from our P.E. shed, space for informal play, and our learning centre open for student use.

Our soccer teams travelled to the local cluster field day last Thursday.

Congratulations to the Peninsula Soccer A-team who played against Rutherford Primary School in last week's Soccer Field Day final. Victorious winners of 2009, winning 2 - 1.

Many thanks to all the parents who helped with supervision and transport.

To the coaches who had given their time in helping the children to become better soccer players, on and off the playing field, thank you very much!



Peninsula Primary School Soccer Team:  
Champions of the Cluster Competition

While co-curricular work was going on, teachers were delivering their integrated programme with *Imagining* as the key concept, preparing for report writing for end of term interview time, working on films for the I.T. movie festival, preparing an instrumental group, coaching sports teams, working with the Pacific Island Club, leading Jump Jam, and so on.

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER .....**

June 8	Juniors Kids for Drama
June 9	Basketball Day Field Day
June 9 & 17	Middle School Kids for Drama
June 10	Maths Open Day
June 30	Parent /Teacher interviews

#### **Extension Groups**

The Extension Groups have been very busy this year. The Middle School group were involved in the library letterbox line-up. Students were required to design and make a letterbox based on an idea or theme from a finalist book from the 2009 New Zealand Post Book Awards. The students produced some very creative letter boxes which can be viewed in the front office foyer.

The Junior School group have been busy learning about independent research. Each student came up with a range of questions based on their chosen animal. The students used a range of resources to gather and display their information. They produced some fantastic wall displays which can be viewed in our learning centre.

#### **Message from the N.Z. Police.....**

Some of you may think that because it is cold burglars will stay home and wait until summer to come around for their early shopping spree in your neighbourhood. This is a great time to remind us all that crime doesn't stop or rest whatever the weather conditions may be or the season of the year.

As it is getting colder we must be more vigilant to ensure that our homes are properly secured i.e. *windows, French doors, garages, units or other buildings on your property.*

Of late (specifically since the start of the school term) Te Atatu areas both North and South have been targeted by daytime burglars.

What we can do;

- Know your neighbour, in the hope they will keep an eye out for any suspicious people or vehicles in your area.
- Secure your property as best you can.
- Call 111 if you believe something or someone looks or act suspicious. Note description of the person(s) and registration of vehicle.
- DO report to Police if anything is stolen or missing from your property.

If anyone has any information about the following vehicle could you please forward to the Te Atatu Community Constable, 09 8345812 at the station or leave a note in the mailbox on a bright red van, mag wheels and has a blue coloured back door. Require registration plate or home address.

**Te Atatu Intermediate School on Harbour View Rd** is having an Open Day on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June for Year 6 students who will be moving on to Intermediate School next year. There will be an introduction in the hall followed by a hands on experience in the technology block. Parents are welcome to look around the school at this time but students will be accompanied by staff members to and from Te Atatu Intermediate. Enquires to school office on 8345371.