

23 February, 2009

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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.....

COMMUNITY

Our students are becoming immersed in the topic for this term, community, and they are responding well to the high expectations we hold for them. It is great to see students take full advantage of the opportunities teachers put in front of them. I want to thank all parents who sent their children to school well-prepared in all ways, especially in terms of positive attitude.

When a child starts school, we hope a partnership begins between home and school that continues right through school. Principals and teachers are keen for parents to be involved in their children's schooling. This year we hope to add more information about academic progress to our reporting procedure to, amongst other things, assist parent involvement in pupils progress.

Through assessments, teachers at all levels of schooling find out what their students know and can do, and therefore what they should be learning next. We use a variety of assessment tools and methods across all curriculum areas. The achievement information on their students collected by teachers is used for many different purposes. One of these purposes is to keep parents informed of their children's progress at school.

Teachers talk about assessment for learning rather than assessment of learning. This is because they want to make it clear they use their assessments of what children have learned to plan what they will do next, to help the children they teach to progress.

Two tests used by Peninsula Primary:
Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT)
PATs are standardized tests developed by the N.Z. Council for Educational Research (NZCER).

Year 3 complete one test, listening comprehension, year 4-6 complete reading comprehension, reading vocabulary, listening comprehension and mathematics. The PAT results provide teachers with information about the students' progress compared to other New Zealand students. Teachers use this information to make decisions about what students need to learn next.

There is information about PAT on Te Kete Ipurangi (www.tki.org.nz/r/assessment) and the New Zealand Council for educational research website (www.nzcer.org.nz).

Reading Running Records:

Running records are used to assess individuals progress in reading. The student reads a passage aloud to the teacher who records how the student reads each word. The record shows details of mistakes, changes made, and the way the student goes back to make sense of a phrase. This helps teachers find strategies to best help the learning reader. There is information about running records on the Te Kete Ipurangi and Team Up websites.

Dates to remember.....

- February 25th Information Evening / Meet the teachers evening 7pm in our hall.
- February 27th Water Fun Day . Junior School 1.30pm . 3pm.
- February 27th . Powhiri for new teachers 1.30pm in the hall
- March 5/6 Golf (notice going home shortly)
- March 9th FOS Meeting 7pm
- March 12th BOT Meeting 7pm
- March 13th School Photos

Return slip

I have received and read Newsletter No. 2 Childs Name.....Room.....

SignedParent/Guardian

- 7 pm Information . reports for 2009, NZCurriculum, Introduction of teaching staff.
- 7.30pm Senior Syndicate teachers will move to the Art Room, Middle Syndicate teachers will move to Room 10 and the Junior Syndicate will remain in the hall.
- 8.15pm Evening finishes

POWHIRI FOR NEW TEACHERS.....

This Friday, 27 February, a powhiri will take place in our school hall, to welcome new staff. Everyone is welcome to attend. The powhiri will start shortly after 1.30pm.

SCHOOL FEES / DONATION.....

Fees for one child are \$85.00 for the year. **If paid by 2nd March they are reduced to \$65.00**

Family fees are \$130.00 for the year. **If paid by 2nd March they are reduced to \$110.00**

The school receives government funding to run the day to day activities of the school. Often this does not allow for the provision of much needed resources. The school fees/donation helps provide for these things.

Friends of School Update.....

We are moving quickly towards March 28th which as you all know by now is the day of the School Gala. Organising for the day is well underway and we are hoping it will be a great family day for you and a fantastic fundraiser for the school. If all goes to plan the day should include: bouncy castle, inflatable slide, trike rides, pony rides, lolly toss, white elephant, cake and plant stall, water stand, quickfire raffles, monster raffle and plenty of entertainment, bands, kapa haka group etc.

We might have even figured out by then how to wet those lovely teachers of yours (for a small fee of course). So its shaping up to be a pretty busy and exciting day.

If any one has any other ideas or special talents we would love to hear from you.

We need lots of helpers to spend an hour or so on one of the activities/stalls. (Please fill in the form sent home last week). If you have anything for the white elephant stall please remember it needs to be small and in good condition. Everyone is welcome to attend the FOS meetings. The next meeting is Monday 9th March 7-8pm.

SCHOOL PHOTOS FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

School photos will be taken on Friday 13th March. If you wish to purchase photos please complete the envelope sent home today and return it school no later than Thursday 12th March with the correct money. We do not open the envelopes so are unable to give you change. This is a prepaid system and unless payment is in envelope photos will not be ordered. Please note:

- Please use the envelope with child's name on.
- Please do not enclose one envelope inside another. It will be missed.
- You may pay for more than one child's photograph on the one cheque, as long as each child has an envelope completed.
- If you have more than one child at the school you may have them photographed together, If you wish to do this please see Maree Williams in the office so you can complete a separate envelope for sibling portrait photographs. These are for children enrolled at school only. These photographs will be taken after all individual photos are taken.

Danger in Gwendolyn Ave.....

Some driving in Gwendolyn Ave has to be seen to be believed. Several near misses have been reported, with our students having to take evasive action when cars run two wheels along the kerb and so on. I have asked Traffic Wardens to attend randomly. It is an offence to park, even momentarily, on yellow dotted lines.

School garden...Enviroschools...

Peninsula Primary School has been awarded funding to build a school community garden. The funding comes from the Ministry of Health Healthy Eating, Healthy Action fund. Te Atatu Kindergarten will share the garden with us. Work has begun clearing the site, which is next to our Property Maintenance Officers shed. We would welcome involvement from parents, grandparents and other friends of the school. This could be helping with construction, planting, or demonstrating gardening skills and so on. Please contact the office if you are able to assist.

These pumpkins were grown by Oliver, Nathan and Vincent Bonner-Hutton.

