

Peninsula Primary

Newsletter No. 4 30 November 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 4 is:

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Enduring Understandings:

1. Everything we do has an effect on someone or something.
2. To keep balance we must think about causes and effects.

Essential Questions:

1. What do we mean by Cause and Effect?
2. How can we reach and keep a balance by thinking about cause and effect?

At the moment teachers are writing end of year reports about their students. Teachers at Peninsula Primary School are committed to providing high quality learning for all of their students, and assessment gives them vital information about the results of their work with the whole class and with individuals. Assessment helps teachers give appropriate help and guidance to all children and it forms the basis of reporting to parents and school boards of trustees.

The Government has developed National Standards, attempting to clearly identify stages in the development of children's knowledge and skills, assessing each child's progress and level of achievement, and reporting that progress and achievement in accurate and understandable ways to parents. As is normally the case in schools today, close attention is to be paid to the development of skills in reading, writing and mathematics.

Our reports aim to give a clear picture of student achievement. They are close to the style promoted by the current Minister of Education. However, a major concern I have in moving exactly to MOE reporting is the flawed assumption they hold that children are failing if they do not reach the

standard set for their age. There are many successful New Zealanders with unexceptional school records who would not have succeeded had they been constantly labeled as failures during their childhood. The best forms of assessment focus on progress being made and I think our reports show that along with norm referenced information. For example we aim to move students up levels of writing, to the best of their ability. Our school-wide data, analysed over time shows great added value to students' education.

Schools have only just received clear information about new reporting requirements. Information / consultation meetings are planned for early term one 2010.

PRIZEGIVING ASSEMBLY.....

Our end of the year prizegiving assembly will be held on Thursday 10 December at 11.00 am in our school hall.

The class awards are:

- Citizenship – for the student who respects rules and contributes the most to the school and others in the class.
- Academic – for the student who consistently performs at the highest level in curriculum work.
- Sportsperson – for the student showing the highest level of skill in sports, along with an excellent attitude to team play.
- Effort – for the student who tries hardest in all aspects.

This year, an important change to the programme is being made. Graduation Certificates will be awarded at the Year 6 social on December 9th. The programme for that evening is:
6.30-7.00pm Awards and speeches and performances. (Parents/supporters are welcome to attend).
7.00-8.00pm – swim and sausage sizzle
8.00pm students to be picked up from school.

Return slip

I have received and read Newsletter No. 4 Childs Name.....Room.....

SignedParent/Guardian

Mrs Kent on leave.....

The board of trustees has granted Taranga Kent, teacher of Room 5, one years leave. 2010 staffing is being finalized now, and will be published in the last newsletter for 2009.

EVENING ATHLETICS.....

There was a great turn out of parents to our athletics evening on 26 November. Everyone that spoke to me enjoyed catching up with neighbours and friends as well as watching our students run, jump and throw. All the students spoken to said they had a great time.

The results from this event helps with the selection of our athletics team which competes against other schools in our zone.

The house competition contributes to the award of the house shield at next week's prizegiving assembly.

Totara 537 Kowhai 533 Miro 494 Rimu 461

Thank you to all those who supported the raffles, sausage sizzles and drinks. All the prizes were claimed for the raffles.

Our team for 2009 competed, by invitation at the Henderson zone athletics competition held at Trusts Stadium. The team showed the exemplary behaviour we expect of our teams and everyone tried hard to bring out their best form. There were some outstanding personal results also:

- Discus – 1st James Ogilvie 10 year old boys
- Discus – 2nd Sam Brooking 9 year old boys
- Discus – 2nd Jaden Kendall 11 year old boys
- Long Jump – 2nd Jaden Kendall 11 year old boys
- High Jump – 1st Sam Brooking 9 year old boys
- High Jump – 1st Jaden Kendall 11 year old boys
- 100m – 2nd Jaden Kendall 11 year old boys
- 800m – 1st Jaden Kendall 11 year old boys

Akasha is part of our team who won a trophy at the sports abilities event held at our school recently. More in the next newsletter.



Date; to Remember.....

- December 1 Helpers Morning Tea for invited guests
- December 7 FOS Meeting 7pm
- December 9 Year 6 social evening
- December 10 Prizegiving Assembly 11am
- December 10 BOT Meeting 7pm
- December 14 Talent Quest
- December 15 LAST DAY TERM 4. SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM
- February 2 First day Term 2010

PARENT READING.....

We would like to say thank you to all the parents and friends who have given up their time to help us with this very valuable reading programme.

Our children and teachers really appreciate the help you give and the reading does improve because of this.
Leonie Blackburn – Deputy Principal

CHRISTMAS SANTA SACK.....

Be in to win a Christmas Santa sack. Buy your entry now from the Learning Centre for \$1.00. Winners will be drawn on the last day of term.

HOLA!

Spanish lessons are well settled now, with different groups working at lunchtime almost every day. They have been learning greetings, colours, titles, they know a few songs already.....and much more. We will have after school lessons available from next year; we are taking expressions of interest for that, as space is limited to four children per group. Gracias!
Eva Anton 834 5441 or 021 1431740

SCHOOL SPORTS UNIFORMS.....

Are any of our shorts or shirts at your home? We would like any sports clothing belonging to Peninsula Primary School returned at once.

An audit last week showed many items have not been returned.

The Mind Lab Programme.....

A pamphlet about Mind Lab comes with this newsletter. On Thursday 3 December, 7pm in our hall, Mind Lab personnel will hold an information evening to add to the pamphlet material. If there are enough keen participants, the programme could be fitted in to our learning plan. Please fill out the return slip below.

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Return slip

I will attend the Mind Lab demonstration, in our school hall, at 7.00pm on 3 December.

YES / NO (Please circle your response)