



NEWSLETTER

EVENTS COMING UP

March

- 11 Inter-School Swimming Sports
- 12 Save Day Inter-School Swimming Sports
- 16 Parent Evening 6-7pm
Library - New Entrants
Starting Term 1 & 2
- 23 BOT meeting 7.00pm
Staff Room
- 28 School Fair 11am-3pm

Term Dates 2010

- Term 1 Thurs 4th Feb - Start
Thurs 1st Apr - End
- Term 2 Mon 19th April - Start
Friday 2nd July - End
- Term 3 Mon 19th July - Start
Frid 24th Sept - End
- Term 4 Mon 11th Oct - Start
Frid 17th Dec - End

Quote "Cleaning the house while your kids are growing up is like shovelling the path before it's stopped snowing"

Pleasing to see the humid weather seems to have passed us by. Nice of one of the parents to notice I was wearing shorts. It's a worry when the only time someone has positively commented on my legs it had to be another male.

Some lovely reading for you to enjoy. Last year some of the children in our Writers Group, taken by Karen Celebo, had their stories sent off and published by the NZ Book Council. If you would like to read these: google-NZ Book Council and click on Education-Kids-Kids Writing. There you will find three works by; Georgia Greenidge, Sophie O'Neill and Molly Reed. Well done children. I would appreciate an autographed copy of some of your future works when you are famous.

Some more interesting reading that affects parents. The Ministry of Education is currently reviewing Special Needs services. You can access their discussion document on the ministry website www.minedu.govt.nz under Review Special Education. You can download the RTF discussion document. It is quite heavy reading. Feedback is invited before March 19th. As any changes to this service would greatly affect schools and individuals, it is important we have our say now, while the opportunity is available

For those interested, the Australian International Tests are on again. I will take registrations if any families are entering. Simply put the money and tests your child is sitting in an envelope addressed to Principal and hand in at the office. These are only for Years 4 and up. The costs are \$7.50 per paper for English, Maths, Science, Computer Skills, and \$9.50 for Spelling and \$17.50 for Writing. The closing date for enrolments will be the end of Term 1 April 1st. A footnote: these are a voluntary test and are not part of the school assessment cycle. For any further information please contact me.

Advance Warning. The NZEI are holding Union Meetings for all primary school teachers. Ours are scheduled to meet at Albany Primary School on Friday 19th March at 1pm. All union members (all of our teachers) will be attending and will not be available for afternoon classes. Parents are requested to keep students at home for the afternoon. We will have more reminders closer to the time. Thanks for your co-operation here.

Regards
Peter Marshall

Curriculum Corner

The following ideas come from the First Steps Professional Development course which provides Parent Guidance cards at each level of writing. This is the first of these cards and it targets writers at the Junior (Experimental Writers) levels.

Experimental writers know that speech can be written down. They 'have a go' at writing texts they are familiar with, such as recipes, lists and letters. Experimental writers know that there is a purpose for writing and can identify their audience, e.g. *I am writing a letter to Granny to say thank you for.....*

We hope you will find these ideas a prompt for encouraging your child to take an interest in writing.



Parent Card Encouraging Writing

- Let your child see you and other family members writing.
- Talk about the purpose of your writing when doing writing of your own.
- Provide a place where your child can sit and write.
- Make sure your child has large blank paper to write on and a variety of writing materials.
- Encourage your child to hold a pencil correctly.
- Talk about print in the environment, e.g. *traffic signs, shop signs*.
- Talk about all the print at home, such as calendars, diaries, TV guides, newspapers, cookbooks and catalogues.
- Display your child's attempts at writing, perhaps by displaying them on the fridge or wall.
- Praise and value all attempts at writing.
- Read to your child every day.
- Encourage your child to join in when being read to, e.g. *turning the pages, holding the book, reading the parts they remember*.
- Encourage your child to act out or retell stories he or she has heard.

Heather Walker and Jacki Harrison
Deputy Principals

PTA News Wednesday 24th February 2010

Your New Committee for 2010 ...

Sorry to say but at our AGM Meeting on Monday night only 10 parents attended (including the 3 incumbent holders of the positions up for grabs) and therefore when it came time for the nominations and voting of the positions of Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary there certainly wasn't an abundance of arms raised. Therefore for 2010 the three names in the positions are exactly the same as were last year. Jacqui Broadhurst is our Chairperson; Susan Mott is our Treasurer and Clare Mooney our Secretary. Those of you wanting to vote for change obviously decided not to come along!

School Fair

Our main HUGE fundraiser for 2010 is of course the School Fair. A lot of our meeting on Monday night was spent discussing this event and later this week you will read this week's dedicated Fair newsletter with all the updated information about the Fair. We hope to have a "helpers" roster up in the school office by the end of this week or early next week so you can come and put your name to something.

2010 Spending of Funds

Those present at the meeting spent a lot of time discussing what we would like our fundraising efforts of last year (our bank balance is currently approximately \$20K) as well as the funds we are hoping to raise this year to be spent on. A lot of wonderful ideas were raised and these are being taken to the school board; we will advise in due course some of the things we are going to purchase in the near future and other items we will be fundraising throughout the year for.

2010 Events

We simply ran out of time on Monday night to discuss any other 2010 potential fundraising events and therefore we have left this to be discussed at our next meeting. With the upcoming Fair being the only event

we have planned for Term One; and it being such a huge event we need to concentrate all our efforts on it and will begin planning events for Term Two, Three and Four once the Fair and Term One is over.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 4th May, 7.30pm in the Staff Room.

As always, everyone most welcome to come and listen, share ideas and contribute as little or as much as they want.

Travel Wise

Travel Wise Week Challenge 1st to the 5th March 2010.



It's cool to ★ walk ★ bike ★ scooter ★ bus ★ to school

Prizes for the largest percentage of children walking to school will be awarded by the Auckland Regional Council.

More prizes. Fill in your card for walking/scootering/biking to receive more prizes in a school assembly.

Sports Shirts

If anyone has a sports shirt that belongs to the school at home, can you PLEASE send it back asap. We have a lot missing from last year. These were used at Inter-school, Super Cluster events and Rippa Rugby. Please check as we would love to get them back to be used again this year.

Shore to Shore Fun Run/Walk

Shore To Shore 5km Fun Run and Walk – Sunday 28 March

Don't forget to get your entries in for the Shore to Shore Fun Run/Walk.

It is the 25th Anniversary of the event this year so there will be an extra special celebration. It will be a lot of fun, great exercise and you can win prizes for yourself and help raise money for the school.

We are one of the few schools that give all entrants and their supporters a free sausage sizzle at the end of the event.

All entries must be in to the school by Wednesday 10th March.
Hope to see you all there.

Extra Curricular Activities

Toukon Ryu Karate - New beginners Class

Karate promotes confidence, self-esteem, discipline, etiquette, respect and of course Self-defence and fitness. Please come down to try it out to see if you like it. Wednesday & Friday nights in the school hall 6.00 - 7.00pm or feel free to call Paul on 021 297 2431 / 416 1266 for more info.

The Performance.net Performing Arts Education Classes Greenhithe School-Isobel Road - Fridays

FREE	3.00-3.30pm	After School Care
4-6yrs	3.30-4.30pm	Dance & Drama
7-9yrs	3.30-4.30pm	Dance & Drama
10-16yrs	4.30-5.30pm	Young Performers

Email enrolme@theperformance.net

When you enrol say that you heard about us from your school newsletter and receive a **FREE** P.net drink bottle and pen

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Is your child having a
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COME n TRY OUT HOCKEY FOR FREE

Tricks Autographs Black Sticks Prizes

Where: Crown Relocations Hockey Stadium
60 Paul Matthews Drive, Albany.

Date/Time: February 28th - 10am – 12pm

FREE

Open to all age groups
Hockey sticks available

FREE ENTRY
Check out our world class facilities

*Come and go when you want between the time allocated.
Black Sticks and North Harbour NHL players will be there to give you a helping hand as well as sign autographs. HEAPS OF GIVEAWAYS AND PRIZES.
Great opportunity to try out HOCKEY for the first time.
Check out www.harbourhockey.org.nz for more information
COME ALONG AND TRY OUT THIS EXCITING, FAST PACED, SKILLFUL SPORT*

