

Newsletter No. 11, 11th August 2011

Week 2 of Term 3 and a very smooth start to the term. We have a few new students and would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families into the school community and to bid farewell to those who have left and wish them well.

ROAD SAFETY

Having lost two of our students in past years due to road accidents, we are very concerned about the safety of students at our front entrance, we experienced a shower of rain the other day at the end of our day and due to children being picked up from inside the gate, we were made very aware, again of the possibility of an accident, it was chaotic! We would also like to point out that if you are dropping your child off or picking him/her up from school, please arrange to do so either at the front gate (Smith St) or the Allenby Rd gate. **We ask that you do not drive into the school grounds as this is a safety issue for all pedestrians in the school.** When you park on Smith St to let your children off, please park along the gate side of Smith St, not across the road, as crossing the road with buses parked alongside the school and lots of passing traffic is very dangerous. Thank you for your support on this matter. **Please also ensure, if you are dropping off/picking up your child from Smith St, that you do not park across our neighbours' driveways.**

In spite of this notice being put in several newsletters, we are still experiencing this problem, please, please take heed, it is better for your child to be wet than injured, or worse. Don't be responsible for injuring a child!

MEASLES UPDATE – MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPORT

By 8 August 175 measles cases had been reported this year, including 19 who needed hospital treatment. Most cases were in Auckland region, although 24 have been reported in Hawkes Bay. In the past week 12 cases have been reported in the Waikato region, mainly around Te Awamutu.

SYMPTOMS

Measles is a highly infectious disease and is more serious than many people realise. Symptoms include fever, cough, red eyes and a runny nose and then a rash which develops after about 3 days. Complications can include middle ear infections, pneumonia and more rarely, encephalitis, or brain inflammation. About one in ten people infected need to be hospitalised.

The best measles prevention is the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine which is free for all NZ children. Please ensure your children's immunisations are up to day. If your child is going to attend the NZ AIMS Tournament, it would be a very good idea to check on their immunisation. Any student or adult with measles must stay away from school for 7 days from the appearance of the rash, until recovery, depending on the advice of the medical officer of health. Unimmunised students, or those with no immunity to measles, who have been in close contact with a measles case during the infectious stages should stay away from school for 14 days from their last contact.

For more information, www.moh.govt.nz or the immunisation advisory centre, www.immune.org.nz.

PTA AUCTION/QUIZ NIGHT

A huge success by all accounts! Great prizes and a very good auction, thanks to those PTA members and community members who helped out on the night, volunteering their valuable time & contributing toward the great night it was! Thanks also to our sponsors, there wouldn't have been an auction without your contribution.

We have acknowledged those involved by personal letter and wish to take this opportunity to say thank you again. For those we may have missed, please accept this as a thank you as some we didn't have addresses for.

The PTA are very pleased to inform you that they have banked \$7,408.75 as a result of this evening, net, a wonderful kick start for our age appropriate Adventure Playground, thank you for the support of all who attended and opened their wallets! Special thanks to Heather Reid and her team for their very hard work – hope the stress has passed!

ATTENDANCE/ROCK ON

At the end of each term I check the attendance of each student and although the MoE has a 94% expectation of attendance, I look at those who have 90% and under. 8% of our student's families received letters at the end of Term 2 for 10%+ non-attendance. Although the reasons often are genuine, this first letter is just a reminder and bringing to your notice the amount of days when added up, your child has not been at school throughout the term. Thank you to those parents who have responded to that letter.

As you know, if your child is not at school, they are not learning and soon fall behind.

SPARC YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY

Our school has agreed to take part in a SPARC (Sport & Recreation NZ) survey this term, with students from Rooms 3 & 12 being asked to fill in a questionnaire about their sport and recreational activities. SPARC wants young New Zealanders to develop a love of sport and recreation that leads to lifelong participation. To do this, it is critical that SPARC understand their current experiences and future needs. It is 10 years since SPARC collected comprehensive information about young people (5 to 18 year olds), so an update is well overdue.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Sarah Muir, YPS Project Mngr, at yps@sparc.org.nz

If you do not wish your child to participate in the instance they are selected, please e-mail yps.info.newzealand@Synovate.com

BICYCLE RECALL

The Warehouse are recalling the MILAZO 24"/26" bicycles due to safety issues. These bikes were purchased between 1 March 2011 & 11th July 2011:

9-417648-MILAZO 24" Youth Mens DX350

9-417648-723306-MILAZO 26" Mens DX550

9-417648-723313-MILAZO 26" Womens GX550

9-417648-723337-MILAZO 24" Youth Ladies GX350

For information about the recall process, phone 0800422274 during business hours or contact any Warehouse stores.

CROSS COUNTRY

Please note the results of our recent Cross Country:

Jnr Girls:

1st: Georgia Dixon, 2nd: Kate Hancock, 3rd: Madison Tims

Jnr Boys:

1st: Mark Russenberger, 2nd: Reuben Wigelsworth, 3rd: Bailey Froome

Snr Girls:

1st: Jessica Smitstra, 2nd: Shiana Soutar-Evans, 3rd: Courtney Old

Snr Boys:

1st: Paul Blyde, 2nd: Karl Phillips, 3rd: Ward Dinsdale
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS, the Waikato Intermediate cross country competition will be held at Porrit Stadium on 23 August, those participating will be given further information.

HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP MATHEMATICS WORKSHOP

FRACTIONS – COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

WHO: Stage 4 'Targeted Maths Learning Group' – parents, caregivers, children

WHEN: TUESDAY 16th August, 7p.m.-8p.m.

WHERE: Matamata Intermediate School staffroom

WHAT: An evening focused on 'fractions'. Learning about knowledge and strategy games and activities.

How you can help your child at home.

Maths resources/games to take home that will be fun for everyone!

There will be tea/coffee and light supper provided.

The next dates will be Tuesday 6th September, 7-8pm and Tuesday 27th September 7-8pm.

Any queries, please call Anita, 021 1247097

NZEI/NATIONAL STANDARDS MEETING – with leading educationalist Associate Professor Deborah Fraser – Wednesday 17th August, Putaruru Primary School, 6:30p.m. This meeting is open to BoTs and any interested parents.

NGĀ TAU MIHARO MŌ NGĀ MĀTUA/INCREDIBLE YEARS

PARENT PROGRAMME – is designed to develop positive family relationships, empower parents to make change and to manage difficult behaviour with 3 practical step-by-step suggestions in handling everyday situations parents face. The weekly sessions run for a period of 14 weeks.

WHEN: Starting on Thursday, 18th August, 10.30am-1pm.

WHERE: Railside by the Green.

FREE OF CHARGE.

If interested, please contact Jeanette (07) 8508880 or 0274798957.

REUNION UPDATE

50th SCHOOL REUNION – Friday 21st October, Saturday 22nd October.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 23rd SEPTEMBER, so if you haven't registered yet, please get moving!!!

Will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, and have an entertaining time while doing so. Transport will be provided to and from local motels and central points in town. Would be great to get lots of locals there too!

PLEASE LET YOUR OUT OF TOWN FRIENDS KNOW ABOUT IT ALSO. CCC YOU THERE!

While on the subject, we are wondering if anyone has tucked away somewhere the following old uniform items: Boys grey uniform, grey jersey, berets, caps, or rompers!! We would love to borrow them if you have them to make them part of our foyer display.

WE NEED PEOPLE TO REGISTER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS OCCASION, THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER FOR 25 YEARS!

SELF DEFENCE CLASSES

These are being offered by Ian McLaughlin who also teaches guitar at our school. Held in the school hall on Thursdays, 3.30 – 4.30pm. Phone Ian, (07) 839 1458 or 021 839 848

NZ AIMS GAMES – Sunday 28 August–Friday 2 Sept
Hopefully all students involved in the AIMS teams are taking responsibility for their own fitness. We have teams registered in Boys Basketball, Cross Country Yr7 & Yr 8 girls and boys, Football girls and boys, Golf, Multisport, Netball, Rugby 7s, and swimming.
In 7 years the NZCT AIMS GAMES have gone from a small festival of sport to what are now considered the National Championships for Intermediate & Middle Schools. The 2010 games were embraced by 107 schools from throughout NZ (approximately 3,870 students and 880 coaches/managers).

Olympic gold medallist rower and NZ sporting great Rob Waddell will open the games at the official opening ceremony on Sunday, 28th August at Tauranga's Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre. The Opening Ceremony runs from 6-7pm and a bus has been arranged to transport 44 people to the venue from school. If a couple of parents could take their vehicles, along with students as well, that would enable everyone to be there. Please phone school (07) 888 7221, if you are able to help out.

The students are getting as much practise as we can fit in and this will be a most enjoyable and competitive experience for them all, it is great to see their enthusiasm about their individual sports. Thank you to those parents who are helping us out with preparation for these games.

SPEECH COMPETITION

We recently held our speech competition with the results as follows:

Year 7:

1st: Talia Parker, 2nd: Maddy Dearlove, 3rd: Annelisa Tiddy

Year 8:

1st: Anna Mair, 2nd: Imogen Brown, 3rd: Tayla-Jay Dearlove
Multi-media Presentation:

1st: Kate Hancock, 2nd: Rebekah Pilmore-Evans, 3rd: Kathleen McEntee

WELL DONE TO OUR WINNERS, SOME VERY GOOD PRESENTATIONS – thanks to Mr Steve Morgan for being our judge. The feedback to individual students is always a valuable tool for their next effort!

FREE EAR CLINIC SERVICE FOR CHILDREN

MATAMATA – Thursday 1st September, Mtm Primary School
Wednesday, 28th Sept, Firth Primary School

HOCKEY

The following pupils have been selected for the Waikato Representative teams –
Daniel Stutt – Hatch A
Madison Hawkings – Collier A
Daisy Wills – Collier A

Courtney Tims, Emily de Klerk & Aimee Tarry have been selected for the development teams.

Well done potential black sticks – enjoy the rest of the season and train hard for those tournaments.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

16 August, Inter-Intermediate Gymnastics Competition
16 August, Home-School Partnership Maths Workshop – 7-8p.m., school staffroom

17 August – Bubbledome computer course starts
17 August – Mufti Day \$2 donation if wearing mufti
17 August, NZEI National Standards Mtg/Putaruru
28 August-2 Sept, NZCT AIMS GAMES/TAURANGA