

18th February 2010

From the Principal's Desk

Tena Koutou Parents/Caregivers

Education has been in the news a lot lately. While I encourage debate and think Education should be a high profile topic, the simplicity of some of the arguments is often quite astonishing.

Many teaching professionals with many years of service will be very reluctant to see themselves as an expert or to make general statements about education. Yet many people think simply because they went to school they have the answers to all the problem areas. It just makes me wonder that if the solutions were so simple, why hasn't everybody done it a long time ago?

Best wishes

Jaco Broodryk
(Principal)

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed 24 Feb	BOT Meeting
Wed 24 Feb	Modules start (Yr 7/8)
Mon 1 Mar	Testing Week starts
Wed 3 Mar	Swimming Sports Yr 1-4 Makino Pool 12 – 2 PM
Thu 4 Mar	PTA
Fri 5 Mar	Swimming Sports Yr 5-8 Freyberg Pool 12:30
Wed 17 Mar	Northern Cluster Swimming
Sun 28 Mar	GALA
Wed 31 Mar	School Athletics
Wed 31 Mar	BOT
Thu 1 Apr	Last day of Term 1
Fri 2 Apr	Easter
Mon 19 Apr	Term 2 Starts

School Bus

The new bus service has started on Monday and things are going well. An Information Sheet is available at the office.

Value of the Week

RESPECT

Room 1: Bailey Anderson - Hiroti
Room 2: Toryah Skerrett
Room 4: Kaycee Rutherford
Room 5: Jeramiah Te Huia
Room 6: Thomas Saxton - May
Room 7: Elliott Goldfinch
Room 8: Matthew Burton
Room 9: Quinn Burton - Brown
Room 12: Kwone Te Huia
Room 13: Isabelle Wai
Room 14: Jade Rogers
Room 15: Luke Naylor
Room 16: Olivia West
Room 17: Holly Lawry

Congratulations

Interschool Activities

During the second half of last year the BOT and Staff reviewed our interschool participation – our needs and what was on offer. The aim was to provide our students with the right level of competition. At the last BOT Meeting the Board decided to accept an invitation from the Northern Cluster to become a member from the start of this year.

We will thus be participating and competing in the following:

- School exchanges
- Northern Cluster events
- PN Sports Council events

How are NZ kids really doing?

PISA International Study 2006
(students at age 15 in 57 countries)

Mathematics literacy:

Five countries higher than NZ (Chinese Taipei, Finland, Hong Kong-China, Korea, Netherlands)

NZ indistinguishable from Switzerland, Canada, Japan, Belgium, Australia (and others)

NZ well ahead of UK and USA

NZ had 14% at Level 1 proficiency or lower, compared to OECD average of 21%

Reading literacy:

Three countries higher than NZ (Korea, Finland, Hong Kong-China)

NZ indistinguishable from Canada, Ireland (and others)

NZ ahead of Australia, Sweden, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Japan, UK, Austria, Germany, France, Norway...

NZ had 15% at Level 1 proficiency or lower, similar to Australia at 13%, compared to OECD average of 20%

Scientific literacy:

Two countries higher than NZ (Finland & Hong Kong-China)

NZ indistinguishable from Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Australia, Netherlands, Korea (and others)

NZ ahead of 46 countries, including UK and USA

NZ had 14% at Level 1 proficiency or lower, similar to Australia at 13%, compared to OECD average of 19%

SPORT

CRICKET – Saturday 20th February

Whakarongo Wizards V's Cloverlea All Stars at 8.45am on Ongley J11
Whakarongo Aces V's Feilding JCC at 8.45am on Timona Park 1
Whakarongo Knights V's Russell St at 8.45am on Papaioea Park J2

TOUCH RUGBY – Friday 19th February

Whakarongo Storm V's Tokomaru Warriors at 4.30 on Kia Toa (B)
Whakarongo Storm V's Awapuni Raiders at 5.00 on Kia Toa (A)
Whakarongo Lightning V's Army Bratz at 4.30 on HWC (A)
Whakarongo Lightning V's Riverdale Rockers at 5.00 on Tanenuiarangi (B)
Whakarongo Thunder V's Terrace End Trojans at 4.30 on Bunnings (A)
Whakarongo Thunder V's Russell St Crusaders at 5.00 on Monrad Intermediate (B)
Whakarongo Avalanche V's Milson 1 at 4.30 on Sport Manawatu (B)
Whakarongo Avalanche V's Linton at 5.00 on Sport Manawatu (B)

SUMMER HOCKEY – Wednesday 24th February

Whakarongo White v's Monradicals at 4.30pm on 1C

SUMMER HOCKEY – Thursday 25th February

Whakarongo Blue v's Roslyn Tigers at 5.00 on 2B

Any information regarding sports can be found on the atrium window by the school office. This window has information regarding each sporting code, including team lists, weekly draws and ground maps. General information about sporting events can also be found on this window. Check it out!

Whakarongo School is looking forward to another action packed year of sports. If you require any information regarding sports at our school please contact our sports coordinator, Karl Radford, at kradford@whakarongo.school.nz

WEETBIX TRYATHLON WED 24TH MARCH

If you have already registered for the Tryathlon and would like to be part of the Whakarongo team then please let Mr Radford know as soon as possible. If you would like to participate in a team but need extra team members then please let us know, we may be able to help. Please note parents are responsible for registration and supervision of children at the event.

WELCOME...

The following students have joined the Whakarongo school family this week: -

Room 2 – Harrison Boerboom and Forbes Kennedy

MODULES 2010

This year the modules will be available to our year 7 and 8 students. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience new learning and discover new talents.

Year 7 Art Mr Jones
Year 7 Music Mr Parrott
Year 8 Japanese Mrs Nochetti
Year 8 French Mrs Pearce

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Money and named orders need to be in at the office by tomorrow, Friday 19th, at the latest – thank you

FRIDAY SCHOOL LUNCHES

Week 4 – 25th Feb – Subway

Week 5 – 5th March - Hotdogs

Subway orders to be placed in the box in the office by **9am each Thursday**. 1 slip to be filled in for each child. The slips and money are to be in an envelope. Delivery of Subway is Friday lunchtime.

Hotdogs to be ordered on Friday morning before school. .80c for half hotdog or \$1.50 for a whole hotdog.

FROM YOUR PTA...

Gala: Remember to keep aside **Sunday the 28th of March for our gala**. We will be asking for small goods each week prior.

- This week we would like loads of sugar for the candy floss.
- Jars (about jam jar size) filled with novelty items (ie filled with sort of small items that can be sold in the mystery jar sale).
- We need terracotta pots to put plants in for the gardening stall.
- We need a few guys to help out with putting together a motorised couch, if you could please contact Jo Fifield on 354 0390.
- We need helpers for the cafe and BBQ stalls remember that if its only an hour that you can help for then that would be much appreciated. call Jane Mayston on 353 5227.

Firewood: We have been lucky enough to be donated some trees for firewood as a PTA fundraiser. What we now need is man/woman power to help chop and split. We hope to start this weekend but will also be working on the wood during the week evenings. If you are able to help in any way either during weekends or in the evenings, please phone Penny on 354 0212 and leave your name and number on the answer machine.

We will also be taking orders for the wood - it is pine and we will be selling it for \$70 per 6 x 4 trailer load. You will have to pick it up yourself but there will be help to load your trailer. Please phone Penny to place an order

Next Meeting – 4th March at 7pm in the staffroom

Nigel Rook
Chairperson, Whakarongo PTA

OTHER NOTICES

Rugby and Soccer Registrations – See the atrium window for Ashhurst / Pohangina Junior Rugby, Marist Junior Football Club, Kia Toa Rugby Club, and Hokowhitu Junior Football Club registrations days and details.

Palmerston North Basketball Association – U13 Boys & Girls age representative trials, Sunday 7th, 14th, & 28th March. See window for details.

Palmerston North Basketball Association – Hoopstarz camp to improve your basketball skills, Saturday 6 & 13 March> See window for details.

Learn Ballroom & Latin Dance and / or Learn Speech & Drama – See the atrium for information on these different activities.

See the atrium window for further community notices and information.

