



CORNWALL PARK DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th February 2011 No: 248

Stepping up... ...to challenges, ...with confidence, ...with others

Kia Ora Koutou. Hello Everyone.

Welcome back! A special welcome to all our new children and their families who I am sure will feel part of our community very quickly. I would also like to welcome Mrs Lucy Wells who has joined us from Stella Maris School to teach Year 5 in Room 17, Mrs Lucille Wiltshire who is starting the New Entrant class in Room 30, and Mrs Kirsty Ellison who joins us as a Teacher Aide.

A reminder that school lessons actually start at 8.55am and not 9.00am. If children are late they need to go to the office to get a late slip. This is to help ensure we account for everyone correctly on our electronic rolls and also avoids a potentially stressful phone call home, inquiring about your child whom you think is safely at school. The reason the office rings all families each day, who have not told us their child(ren) will be away, is to ensure we can act quickly if we were ever placed in a situation where a child goes missing between home and school. This is a worst case scenario and one we hope we never have to deal with, but we must have systems in place just in case. Therefore to cut down the number of calls we need to make each day please contact the office before 9.00am via email or phone message if you are aware your child will not be attending school on any given day. A huge thank you to all the families who are already doing just this.

It sounds like most families have had a chance to make the most of the fantastic weather that we experienced over the holidays. The children certainly looked refreshed and eager to start the new school year. I am happy to report that the school made it through the break unscathed; that is no major vandalism, graffiti etc. Unfortunately Glendowie Primary was not so lucky. We have already responded to some calls for help and we will be sending them some spare resources to help them through this difficult time.

I spoke to the students at the welcome assembly on Wednesday about our on-going focus of "Better than Before" and how this focus was for teachers as well as students. Teachers have already started on this journey by taking part in a three day professional course on writing during January. Writing will be an on-going focus throughout the school this year, as this is an area we have identified where we can further improve student outcomes.

Communication

I would like to remind parents that I would like to foster open communication between the school and families. It is important that if you have an issue you come and see us as soon as possible so we can attend to things at an early stage. I do take phone calls and if I am not available when you call, I always call people back, as do all my Leadership Team. We are well aware that we cannot please everyone all of the time, but I can assure you we will listen, discuss and try to establish a shared understanding before trying to reach a solution that is acceptable to all as we move forward. Sometimes decisions are not what families may want to hear; but we always try hard to be fair, investigate further if required, and ensure that we have considered the interests of the child, family and school, and given due consideration of all facts etc before coming to a decision.

However, it is always hard to deal with issues that may be being discussed outside the school gate or in the playground. So I stress if you have an issue or may be concerned about something you have been told, please come and see us directly so we can separate facts from hearsay. Please remember it is essential that we maintain confidentiality and privacy when appropriate, so please do not be offended if we are unable to share some information with you. Be rest assured that what we are able to share with you, we will.



Calendar Items

Term 1 2011 Dates

(Check the **School Calendar on Knowledge Net** for full details of the following events)

Feb

- 11th Awards Assembly
- 15th Y3/4 Parents Meet the Teachers
- 15th Y1/2 Parents Meet the Teachers
- 16th Y5/6 Parents Meet the Teachers / Camp Meeting
(see inside for times and details for all Meet the Teachers meetings)
- 16th PTA AGM - 7.30
- 24th Class Photos
- 25th Awards Assembly

2011 Term Dates

- Term 1** Wednesday 2 Feb - Friday 15 Apr
- Term 2** Monday 2 May - Friday 15 Jul
- Term 3** Monday 1 Aug - Friday 7 Oct
- Term 4** Tuesday 25 Oct - Thursday 15 Dec

Term 1 2011 Class Teachers

Year 0/1 Team Leader - Frances McLaren

- Rm 1 Viv Dallimore
- Rm 3 Andy Butler / Lisa Rolle
- Rm 28 Frances McLaren
- Rm 30 Lucille Wiltshire

Year 2 Team Leader - Faranak Saidi

- Year 1/2 Rm 5 Leilah Cooper
- Year 2 Rm 6 Margaret Whittaker
- Rm 7 Josie Strang
- Rm 8 Faranak Saidi
- Rm 9 Victoria Walsh

Years 3/4 Team Leaders

Karyn Sietkiewicz / Colleen Morrow

- Year 3 Rm 10 Jane Simonsen
- Rm 11 Sarah Mackay
- Rm 21 Liz Nichols
- Year 3/4 Rm 24 Colleen Morrow
- Year 4 Rm 19 Rachel Schryvers
- Rm 23 Karen Sietkiewicz
- Rm 25 Emily Humphrey

Years 5/6 Team Leaders

Erin Hooper / Jamie Bretz

- Year 5 Rm 16 Laura Findlay
- Rm 17 Lucy Wells
- Rm 18 Carmen Burns
- Rm 20 Jamie Bretz
- Year 6 Rm 12 Erin Hooper
- Rm 13 Shona Hamilton
- Rm 14 Erica MacKenzie-Browne
- Rm 15 Sue Tapene

The community is very supportive of the school and I continue to be extremely impressed with the amount of time and commitment parents give to the school to ensure it remains one that offers the best to our children while maintaining the outstanding reputation it has. By ensuring communication is encouraged, we can continue to move the school forward in a positive manner. I think the key thing to always remember is, that everything we do is for our students, and they will continue to be our first priority.

Composite Classes

I am aware some families may want some additional information regarding the philosophy and practical reasons behind the inclusion of composite classes in a school's organisation. If you do wish to read more please feel free to pick up an information sheet from the office foyer.

Fair

I attended the first Fair Committee meeting this week and it is obvious the Fair is in good hands for this year. Please remember though that any help you can offer is most welcome. The fact that our fair continues to be successful is due to the outstanding commitment put in by all the helpers. The old adage of "many hands make light work" still stands. So if you can help in ANY way please email fair@cornwallpark.school.nz

This can be a very effective way for new families in our community to network with other families and I am sure you will have lots of fun along the way.

PTA -Parent Teacher Association

Another group of parents who work tirelessly for our school are our wonderful PTA. They will be having their AGM on Wednesday 7.30pm in the staffroom. They are always looking for more parents to join their ranks, so if you are interested please come along.

Uniforms / Lost Property on Display

School uniforms can be purchased from the School Uniform Centre, 553 Remuera Road. Polo Shirts have now arrived from the supplier and will be available for purchase from early next week. All lost property will be on display outside the library on Monday 7th February. **TIME - 8.30AM – 3.00PM.** The proposed second hand uniform sale, mentioned in an email last week, will now be held later in the term. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for the date.

Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees oversee the governance of the school while the Leadership Team is concerned with the Management on a day to day and long term basis. The BOT meetings are always open to the public. However, if you wish to have speaking rights at a meeting you must seek approval prior to the meetings. The first Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17 February at 7pm in the Office area.

Parents Meet the Teachers Evening – 15th/16th February 2011

We extend an invitation to parents to meet your child's teacher. This is a time for parents to look around the classroom, meet other families, and gives you a general introduction to the teacher. Any specific discussion you may need to have with the teacher can be done at a meeting arranged by making an appointment.

- 15 Feb** **Year1/2 Team** – Parents Meet the Teacher - 7:00pm-7:30pm
7:00pm start in your child's classroom,
7:20pm move to the canopy in the Junior Courtyard
- 15 Feb** **Year 3/4 Team** – Parents Meet the Teacher - 6:30pm-7:00pm
6:30pm Meet in the Junior Courtyard
6:40pm move to your child's classroom
- 16 Feb** **Year 5/6 Team** – Parents Meet the Teacher / Camp Evening - 6:00pm-7.20pm
6:00pm Y5/6 parents to meet the teachers in the hall
6.15pm Split off into class groups
6.35pm Camp meeting Year 5 - in the hall
 Camp meeting Year 6 - in the staffroom

Finally I would like to encourage you to ask any questions you may have, and remember that there is no such thing as a silly question. We will try and help in any way we can.

Take care and have a great fortnight.

Kind regards

Janine Irvine

4 February 2011



FAIR NEWS!!!

Cornwall Park School Fair – 2011

Hello, Parents and Students.

Sunday, April 10, 2011: The date has been set, the challenge has been issued, and now, your input is required.

Term 1 at CPDS has always been about helping your child settle in to a great year ahead, filled with learning opportunities, making new and long lasting friends, and of course, the famous **Cornwall Park School Fair**.

Parents that have already been through this period know how much fun it is, and how it brings the students, school, and parents together as we all strive to raise much needed funds for much needed resources – and have a real ball and sense of community while we do it. For new parents to the school, this is an excellent chance to show and share with us your talents and expertise, and to contribute to the improvement of the facilities required to provide your child with the best educational opportunities possible.

CPDS strives to go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that your child is given every opportunity to succeed.

Over the next 10 weeks, we will be sending you weekly communiqués about our Fair. Primarily, the objective is to communicate. But more importantly, the reason is to request your involvement and commitment to this year's Fair. Your involvement can be in the way of donating items, sponsoring events and tasks, or providing much needed person-power when required. Every little bit counts, and we will accept anything you have to offer.

So, please mark the Fair date into your calendars, and start clearing out those items that are surplus to your requirements. What is surplus to you is definitely treasure to us, and we will be collecting anything you have to offer from Monday morning (7 February 2011). Just bring them along to school and drop them off at your child's class. Rooms 12 and 13, or other classes that have heavy or awkward items, please bring them directly to the sorting area, Room 4.

The Fair Committee will be introduced to you in the next Fair Newsletter but for now, they can be contacted via email at: fair@cornwallpark.school.nz

The ultimate benefactors of the Fair will be your children. And don't they deserve the best?

Regards

Fair Committee