

April 13th

David Latta's venues and times were included in today's Snippets so can be found here under 'Snippets'.

The web site to make bookings is: www.safeandsoundnz.co.nz

Remember the PTA meeting tonight. All are welcome.

John

April 12th

David Latta: As mentioned in the Snippets, Sovereign is working in partnership with Nigel Latta, one of New Zealand's leading clinical psychologists, to organise a series of FREE seminars in Christchurch. These seminars will be hosted by Nigel and will be held over two days (2-3 May), with three seminars per day (12pm, 4pm, and 7pm). The purpose of the seminars is to give parents practical tools to help families deal with the ongoing issues resulting from the quake.

The talks will cover a range of topics but will include the following:

- What's normal after an event like this, for the different ages and stages?
- How can you tell if you should be worried?
- What are the things you should be doing to help your kids deal with the aftermath?
- Is there anything you should try not to do?
- How do you help children who have experienced great loss and grief?
- How do you look after yourself?
- What is the way forward from here? What is the longer-term picture?

I will post the VENUE here when I have it. Put this into your diary as they will be well worth going to.

I will continue these blog type entries for another week as people are saying they appreciate the updates.

I will then archive all the post 22 Feb entries into one document and start afresh next term.

If this happens to be my last entry before the holidays, have a great time with family and I will see you next term on Monday 2 May.

John

April 11th

With the last week upon us, I feel it has come at a very good time. We are presently experiencing a lot of vomiting type bugs and head lice is making a come-back. Both could be attributed to our present living conditions and the onset of winter. Recently, the DHB announced all children could get the 'flu vaccination free, so this may be a good idea, especially with fewer hospital beds presently being available. Just call your GP.

These holidays we hope to have new heat pumps installed, replacing the damaged boiler system. These holidays should also see the completion of Room 26.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank VISION ONE, who recently donated \$1,000 for library books. With their New Brighton shop having just reopened, they are now available to our community without traveling across town. You can visit their website at: www.curtisvisionone.co.nz

This is to be an annual donation, so we are very grateful for this fantastic offer.

If you are concerned re your child's well-being and would like counselling, please remember to contact your GP. Alternatively, you can now contact a Government Counselling Service ('Right Service, Right Time') on 0800 777 846.

Sleep Disruption

We have had several reports relating to students not sleeping properly. When children have been through something scary it's not unusual for their sleep patterns to be affected. Here are some helpful tips for you to share with your parents:

- Try and keep to the same sleep routine every day
- Establish a bed time routine that includes cuddle time
- Don't rush bedtime. Be prepared for it to take longer than usual
- If children don't want to sleep alone, that's okay. But make a plan for them to return to their normal sleeping arrangements.

If they have bad dreams comfort your child and explain that bad dreams are normal and that they will eventually go away.

John

April 1st

No April Fools tricks, we had our fair share of them this morning! It has been another great week and the students remain focused and fantastically well behaved. Yesterday's 'Fun Afternoon' was brilliant and we have to thank YOUTH ALIVE for their organisation and time. Everyone had a great time and I

found we had some really big kids at SNBS! I must thank the two Taranaki Police Officers who came along and helped at the BBQ and created a lot of fun! Have a great weekend and I'll see you next week.
John

March 29th

Tomorrow we have our Fun Afternoon so fingers crossed for a nice day. I know Rm 9's homework is to do a fine weather dance! This will start at 12:50pm and there will be a number of interesting and fun things to do. Yr 4 and above can bring scooters or skateboards (with HELMETS) and have fun on some ramps, etc. If any parent can help on the BBQ or any of the events such as face painting, etc. please let me know.

Work has begun on the neighbouring sewage pumping station and at present it feels as if we are having continual little earthquakes, as if we weren't having enough! It will be great when it is finished as it will be one big step towards having our community sewage system back again! So, if you are visiting us and you hear and feel the 'vibrations', it's just the crane and the work they are doing.

John

March 25th

It has been a great week and we have had even more families return. It is great to catch up and find you all safe and well. Next week we have Youth Alive Trust visiting us on Wednesday afternoon with a huge range of fun activities for all the students. Hopefully the weather will behave! A reminder that Subway lunches will be able to be ordered on Wednesdays and Fridays once again. Have a relaxing weekend and we will see you next week.

You will find a new area on our site under WELCOME called PARENT SUPPORT POST EARTHQUAKE. This has a range of documents to help with family members as well as the latest information I receive from Lianne Dalziel MP who is doing a wonderful job trying to help our residents and community.

John

March 23rd

Our first full week has begun positively and it has been great to catch up with all those who are returning. We decided not to put out a SNIPPETS this week as we have no new information to add to the letter we sent to every family on Monday. This letter will be added to our Snippets link on this web site. The students have been responding brilliantly to getting back into their normal learning programmes and I have just had a really bubbly group from Room 2 in my office who have been looking at the letter 'g'. They bought me a beautiful, smiley baked Gingerbread man. He didn't escape and was delicious!

John

March 20th

I trust everyone has managed to have a relaxing long weekend. For those of you attending the memorial service on Friday, I hope you enjoyed it and came away feeling better. With the change in temperature at the moment, I wanted to remind you to ensure your children come along with some warm clothes for the morning as we don't have heating facilities. We look forward to catching up with those planning to return this week. Being our first full week it will be exhausting for both the students and teachers so please ensure some early nights.

John

March 16th

It was great to catch up with everyone today!. We know we have a fantastic community when we see everyone turn out to the BBQ and get in and help as they did. My thanks to all the willing helpers. I know I've never cooked so many sausages and chops at once!!! So busy I even forgot the onions.... (just that I didn't want to shed any more tears- well that's my excuse anyway)!!

Numbers were down but we know a large percentage are returning, which is fantastic. We even welcomed some new families to our school / community. It's all about supporting everyone, helping get back to our 'NEW NORMAL' , and rebuilding. Please remember to keep in contact with your class teacher about how your child is coping, etc. and if any help is needed. Also remember to be selective in what you as adults discuss in front of them as children pick up a lot more than we sometimes give them credit for and can misunderstand some things. We forgot to send home a letter today so hopefully we will get it home Thursday. Remember Friday is a public holiday and we will be closed.

Thanks everyone, it was great to catch up.

John

March 15th

YES.. we have the 'Green Light' & MoE approval to open TOMORROW , WEDNESDAY 16th March!! We look forward to seeing you all here at 9 a.m. The first day will be for a half day, as we

would like to celebrate our opening and have an opportunity to catch up with everyone. However, if you are unable to collect your child they will be supervised until 3pm. Let us know though!

REMEMBER

- Water bottles (named & Room #) with suitable water for drinking from home
- Warm clothing if cooler
- Join us for a BBQ lunch at 12:30 p.m. If you can bring along a picnic plate and knife and fork it would be great. Adults, we are hoping to have chops and salads for you and round steaks and salad for the students.

Yay...at last!

John & the wonderful SNBS Team

March 14th

SORRY... we wont be opening Tuesday morning. We will aim for WEDNESDAY. At present, we have to assure the Ministry of Education we have met all their requirements. I can't do this at present as I haven't received any portaloos from them, nor have I been able to have the fire and smoke alarms fixed. The latter will hopefully be worked on this afternoon / evening. To complicate matters some asphaltting won't be done until tomorrow. They have been working here full time and have done a wonderful job!

So, fingers crossed for WEDNESDAY. If not, we will play it day by day! Remember everyone will need their own water bottles and warm clothing. Remember also, we aim to celebrate school restarting with a school family BBQ. If you could bring a picnic plate and knife & fork it would be helpful.

Thanks..... a frustrated

John

March 13th

The MoE website has been corrected, so that's good. We are still looking for a TUESDAY opening so long as the toilets arrive and smoke detectors are rectified. I want to remind you about every student requiring a named drink bottle with suitable water in it and to have warm clothing (the mornings aren't warm and we wont be able to run heating). Plenty of suitable food to get through the day will be important too. It's time to get back into our routines so roll on opening!

We will be welcoming the Play Centre and CASPA onto our site once we are open. It's great to have some room available at this time of year to be able to do this and support our wonderful community.

John

March 12th

The MoE still has Monday opening for SNBS. This is INCORRECT. See yesterday's posting. Our thoughts are with those in Japan who have been affected by their recent earthquake and tsunami. Their USAR team who have been based in Christchurch are due to fly home today so will no doubt be worried and wanting to be there. They have done a brilliant job here and I wish them all the best when they get home.

John

March 11th

I have noticed the Ministry of Education web site has us opening on Monday. THIS IS INCORRECT. They have been informed and should be changed. We are hoping to open on TUESDAY. This is TOTALLY DEPENDENT on the MoE of providing 8 toilets and us being able to have our damaged electronically monitored smoke detectors fixed. The Army have done a brilliant job in fixing up a collection system to run 10 toilets. We have water on, provided another leak doesn't appear again. Water is needed for the toilets. We will have an emergency supply of water, but once we start it will be the parent(s) / caregivers responsibility to send students along with boiled water from home in a named container.

On the first day, weather permitting, we aim to have classes from 9 a.m. to 12:30 pm when we will have a community BBQ. Those of you who can not attend, students will be supervised until 3 pm. We are nearly there, we just have a couple of boxes to tick.

John

March 10th

Things are continuing to progress and we are still hoping for a Tuesday opening. I will keep you informed.

STAFF: Will see you again tomorrow at 10 a.m. Don't bother to bring lunch, it will be provided.

John

March 9th

Even better news today. Not only did the power come on but we heard we should have water by Friday. We will have to pressure test the system and repair the damaged sections (which we expect to

find). The biggest issue for us is sewage, as previously stated. Video cameras down our lines show 70% of our sewage lines are damaged and 90% of the waste water. They also showed a massive build up at the road, meaning our sewage would go nowhere and possibly back up. To have this mended we have been told would take 3-4 weeks. This isn't acceptable as we want to re-open asap. SO... the Army has come up with a plan to collect sewage in a large tank from the 8 toilets still operating and the Ministry of Education will endeavour to organize other toilets. So be very careful which tank you pull up to to top up your water supply!

If all goes to plan we hope to OPEN next Tuesday! Everyone is extremely positive they can deliver so this is great news. Presently we have contractors repairing damaged asphalt, builders have eased all doors and electricians have checked wiring and electrical fittings. Along with the three Structural Engineers visits, the Civil Defence operating at the school, staff meetings and 'Operation Tidy-up', SNBS has been an extremely busy place!!! Many thanks to all the parents who turned up to assist teachers today. Many hands do make light work!

STAFF: Thanks for your attendance today and for your positive approach to the issues we are dealing with. It was great to catch up with everyone and I look forward to Friday. Can we quickly meet at 10 a.m. in the Library before Team meetings. This will allow me to give you the latest information I have. Many thanks.

John

March 8th

Good news! The power is coming on tomorrow morning and I hear we have water starting to come on in our area, however patchy it seems. I also have managed to secure a number of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) from the American (Los Angeles County) Search and Rescue Team from Latimer Square. They are pulling out on Friday so gave me a number of these along with some dehydrated food to distribute. The MREs are high in calories to get you through a strenuous day and have meals that heat themselves. Pull the tab, wait and eat. Ideal for those still without power. My thanks to them and USAid who have been fantastic to work with and have done such a tremendous job here for us. So, if you know some of our locals who are still without power or if you could do with some of this nutritional food, call in to the School's Office and see the Civil Defence staff there tomorrow.

Remember, those parents / adults who can help staff with 'Operation Tidy-up', please come to school tomorrow (Wed) at 1 p.m.

Hopefully I have also added some new documents from the Ministry of Education to help children and adults cope with issues post this last 'quake. This one is for toddlers and the one below for primary school aged students. The Ministry of Education has other tips on how to help adults and students with ASD.

STAFF: I look forward to catching up with you tomorrow.

John

March 7th

It is great to see so many going onto the surveymonkey site and letting us know how you are, etc. We have a number of families having enrolled elsewhere but it is good to see the high percentage who intend returning once the school is re-opened. I am working with the Ministry of Education exploring how we can open asap. Electrical fittings, etc. were checked today and doors eased so we are basically only waiting on the Health & Safety aspects of power, water and sewage, none of which are available as yet. I will continue to keep you informed as I hear things.

STAFF: The Leadership Team met today and it was good to be together again. We have planned the following two days as Teacher Only Days.

- Wednesday 9 March 10 a.m. in the Library (staff meeting followed by operation 'Tidy Up') I have tried to organize a lunch but been able to do so. Will have a nice morning tea!
- Friday 11 March 10 a.m Team meeting followed by a brief planning session.

Please note we only expect you to be there if you are feeling up to it. Children still aren't supposed to be on site so if you have children and will have problems with care, let me know. Support Staff and Student Grad Students are encouraged to attend also.

PARENTS: Thanks for all your kind offers to come in and help teachers tidy up. Can you please come to school this Wednesday at 1 p.m. Many thanks.

John

March 6th

Parents, if you would like to visit the school to collect bags and lunch boxes I will be available tomorrow (Monday) between 1-3 pm to take you to rooms. If you are able to assist staff in tidying rooms, etc. please remember to leave your name and contact details at the office. I would expect we

will be looking at getting into the classrooms mid week. I will post dates and times after tomorrow's Leadership Team meeting.

We have major damage to sewage and waste water services and these will be a priority for the Ministry to have fixed. Water and power services are also being assessed. All these are also reliant on local services coming on line. I will continue to try and keep you all informed of any updates. Staff I have spoken to are keen to get back and try to get life back to as normal as possible under the circumstances.

John

March 5th update:

LEADERSHIP TEAM: Our meeting will be Monday at 10 a.m. at school.

EVERYONE: Here is a link to use to complete an on-line survey. Please go to this and complete and I will receive a daily report. Hope all is well. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/southnewbrighton>

John

March 5th

We have confirmation that we are structurally sound and STAFF, not students please, can go onto site. We are busy with contractors working on things and property issues will be soon rectified. STAFF, we are presently collating a list of parent helpers to come in and help tidy rooms, etc. and also the Student Army have been contacted. If you are chomping at the bit to get in to tidy up, give me a ring to discuss. Services such as power, water and sewage (essential to us being able to open) could be some time off. There is some discussion that the Army may help us out in this area. We are getting closer and that's positive. Keep up all the good work everyone out there is doing.

School Leadership Team members, could you please phone me re our meeting time/venue. Thanks.

John

March 4th

No change just yet. Expecting report any time.

John

March 3rd

Today I attended 3 meetings, one was with MoE staff and Principals. Civil Defence still stipulate schools are closed and staff aren't to enter rooms until a Structural Engineer gives our school the all clear. We hope this will happen early next week. The school doesn't look too bad and we believe once we have the contractors on site it won't take long. I have made contact with the Student Army and they are sure they can come in and help teachers straighten classes, book rooms, etc.

Staff, many thanks for your texts, they 'appeared' today! I envisage the leadership team (I will confirm this with you) will meet Monday morning off site and staff to return for 1-2 TOD days when we are given the all clear. Day one will likely be a half day and I would like to have a community BBQ afterwards. The Board will support us and want to help where they can. On a sad note, Tom (our Hall caretaker) is very ill in hospital and is unfortunately unlikely to survive. Our thoughts are with him and his family.

Take care and rest up. We will get our students back to school asap.

John Bockett

March 2nd

No new news. Tomorrow I am meeting with another structural engineer, the MoE & School Support tomorrow as well as the BoT and Principal's Association. Hopefully we will know more then. Jenni has been contacting all staff and most have said they have text me. The only text I have received is Rana's. Please do so again and let me know how you are, where you are, how your house is and if I can help.

We need to start thinking about our return to school and how we go about this. I will try to see if the 'Student Army' is available to help straighten out the mess in classes, etc. If any parents are able to assist, leave your contact details at the school.

The 2 minutes silence observed was very moving outside the school and from talking to the various international SAR Teams, I believe the ceremony at the CTV site was amazing! I have included a neat picture I took inside the cordon on Barbados St yesterday. It was made from sand deposited by liquefaction and had another similar construction stating how we can rebuild. A neat, positive message to everyone coming into the cordon area! Take care and look after each other.

John

March 1st

The school had its inspection today and has been deemed structurally sound, except for the pool and adventure play ground. Recommendations have been made to fix a number of Health & Safety issues

and I don't know how long this will take. We are also reliant on water, sewage and power being in working order. Staff, please remember to get in contact with me and still keep out of the school until informed other wise.

John

Feb 28th

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Regardless of what you may have heard, Christchurch schools are **CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**, and definitely closed for the rest of this week. This edict comes directly from **CIVIL DEFENCE**. CD controls all decision making during the National State of Emergency that currently exists. Their edict is definitive, and must be followed. If their ruling changes you will be informed.

STAFF: I hope you are all well and safe and recovering. Please do not go to school and definitely don't enter any classrooms until we have been given the 'all-clear'. In fact a directive has been given to not go onto the site. I would rather you stay away and look after yourself and your family/whanau so you are ready when students return. Today's structural inspection didn't occur so I will keep you informed. I know I have contacted you all personally, but could you please text me or your team leader to let me know if you are still okay/ where you are/ if you need any help. Team leaders (a slight pause while another aftershock passes!) please forward any messages you receive. Thanks.

PARENTS: I hope you are coping well. If you are needing any help and are not receiving it from where you have been directed, call in at the school's CD Sector Post. They have my contact details and I will help where possible. Keep the fantastic Cantabrian attitude going! International visitors are impressed how we have responded to this disaster and our spirit where we support each other and discussed this with me. The NZ and International Search and Rescue Teams are doing an amazing job in some horrendous conditions, and my personal thanks go to them all. Take care. Our thoughts are with all those who have lost family/whanaumembers or friends.

John

Feb 27th

If you are like me, the days all seem to be rolling together and it is difficult to keep track of the day. The expectation is that it is extremely unlikely that school will open in any way or form next week. The Board will have to formally notify the Ministry of Education of its decision. I will post this when known. Civil Defence set up in the Admin block today and did a great job in trying conditions. My thanks also to the mobile coffee van operator who set up at the main gate and gave out free coffees. There are so many wonderful things going on in and around our fine city. From all the international USAR groups and their support teams to 'joe' public, we thank you for all the fantastic things you are doing to assist us.

John

Feb 26th

I hope everyone is coping well. The school was inspected today and a structural engineers report has been requested. Hopefully this will be actioned on Monday. We obviously can not open until we have the all clear and all services are in place. So keep looking at our web site. Take care

John

Feb 24th

I hope everyone is safe and well after the horrible events of last Tuesday. Many thanks everyone for getting to school as fast as possible to collect students. We didn't suffer any injuries and everyone was quickly accounted for and collected. My thanks to the staff for the fantastic effort in keeping everyone calm and for the parents who came and supported us. The students were fantastic, even with sand volcanos (liquefaction) occurring all around them on the field and coming out of the concrete and asphalt joints as we move to the field!

As you will imagine, we won't be open any time soon. I will endeavour to keep you informed. We won't be able to open until we are assessed as safe and have all the services. I realise most of you won't be able to access this without power but hopefully you will communicate with each other.

Our thoughts are with all those who have lost houses, family members and friends. It is truly horrific. Having spent the last two days assisting in the city centre and out in our area I am in awe of the damage and loss of life. We will all have to be strong and support each other. Try not to go out and sight see as it is very difficult for those trying to help to get around the city.

My thoughts are with you and with all those who have lost family members and friends. If I can help in any way let me know.

Staff, we will try to keep you informed via our web site and team leaders. No one needs to come near the school at present. Thinking of you all.

Kia kaha

John

Feb 2:

Welcome to the 2011 school year. I trust everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break at some stage during the school holidays. Unfortunately the quakes continued and further damage was done at the school but we seem to have all the important items completed so we were able to open on time.

Please remember the home / school partnership is so important so if you don't know your child's new teacher, pop in and say hi. We have some changes in Teams (eg the new Yr 3/4 Kuaka - Godwits team) and staff so will endeavour to get our website updated as soon as possible.

John

Below we have added an informative document that is easy to read about dealing with children and traumatic events such as we have recently experienced.