

## *Term 2, 2011 Blog archive*

14 July

Wow, I was blown away this morning when I received an email from the Ngaio School PTA in Wellington stating I should receive a courier pack either today or tomorrow. It arrived 10 minutes later!! It included a lovely note: "Dear John and the South New Brighton School Community. We are acutely aware of how difficult the last few months have been for you all - staff, children and families. We know that your ability to fund raise has been severely compromised due to the earthquakes and so we have done some for you. We'd like you to know that this cheque comes with our unconditional love and support" (signed by 12 PTA members). The cheque was for \$15,000!!!!!! This is an amazingly generous gesture. We also received a call from Methven Primary School who are holding a Red & Black Day tomorrow to do something for our students. Each student here tomorrow will receive a free Cookie Time cookie from them. The generosity pouring in from across NZ is nothing short of incredible. Makes me feel very humble indeed. The Canterbury Primary Principals Association has also received just over \$500,000 from NZ Schools that will be distributed among schools too, so we will probably wait and work with the students to develop priorities.

Hopefully I wont be back to adding to this blog each day during this break, so I will take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing and safe holiday. I trust you all manage to get some quality family time together. We will see you back again on Monday 1 August for the start of Term 3.

John

10 July

Today the work promised outside school on Estuary Road has begun. You will be unable to park directly outside the school so you can either use the Hall car park or further away. The car park would probably be the safest option. If children are walking down the road, please tell them to use the patrolled pedestrian crossing.

HUGE THANKS: Today, just after the wee 4.3 rocked through, we received an amazing gift in the mail from four Orewa Schools: Orewa College, Orewa North Primary, Orewa Primary and Red Beach School. They held a combined free concert to showcase the talents they have in the performing arts. Voluntary collections came to over \$1,150. A very generous gift for our students! We will see what ideas our School Council can come up with.

John

5 July

Hope you all received your wonderful packs of free Polyprops, etc. from Vulcan Steel. They have certainly been well received. The Parent 'Journey of Hope' meeting held on Monday was certainly a success with those attending enjoying the session and getting a lot from it. Remember there is another one on tomorrow (Wednesday) night. It would be great to get some of the DADS along. Hope to see you there.

ESTUARY ROAD WORKS: It looks as if they will begin work on this the middle of next week. They will start at the school end so they can get most of the disruptive work (for us) done during the holidays. They have begun to tidy up the Hall parking area so it can be used as a school drop off & collection area. Please don't long term park where it will disrupt the flow of traffic. They will signpost it, I gather. Once work begins it will probably be best to go down Pine Ave & Beatty St. It will be disruptive for a while, but the positive is it will fix up our local sewage problems!

John

1 July

Thanks everyone for coming out in the bitter cold to attend our Student Led Learning Conferences. We had a fantastic turn out and it was wonderful to see and feel the positivity. So many thanks!

TRANSPORT COST ASSISTANCE: There is financial assistance available from the Red Cross: The grant for \$250 is available until Wednesday 13th July and is to ..... "assist children who are attending their existing school but are commuting a significant distance because earthquake damage to their homes have forced them to relocate. Children who have been displaced from their usual residence, as at 22 February 2011, and have moved to a new residence as at 22 May 2011, which is located outside a 3km radius from their school." <http://www.redcrossegrants.org.nz/Overview/Information/Relocated%20Children%20School%20Grant> There is a handy tool on the website where you can put in the name of your school and address to see if you qualify. I'm sure it would be great to put this into your petrol tank!

A reminder about the 'Journey of Hope' parent meeting on MONDAY morning in the Library . This will be great so BE THERE! Also on the Monday we should be receiving the wonderful donation of warm undergarments, etc. donated by Vulcan Steel.

Have a great weekend everyone.

John

28 June

BACK GATE BY HALL: The CCC will be digging a trench across the back of the field to assist their emergency plans for the community sewage pumping station. This will mean we can't use the Hall gate entrance to pick up and drop off children until the job is completed. Estuary Road work will now likely begin during the school holidays, so that should help us.

Thanks to those parents who came along to our discussion session yesterday, it was valuable to get your feedback as well as talk about issues we are all dealing with. How do you like the new Kuaka icon / link on the Welcome page? Hope to see you all over the next couple of days at the Student Led Learning Conferences.

John

26 June

Hope the weekend has gone well for you all. A reminder about the PARENT MEETING Monday 9 am in the staff room for those wanting to come along and have a discussion on 'things on top' regarding what we are having to deal with in our school and community at present. There is no set agenda, just an opportunity to discuss things and I may be able to share some helping agencies / groups.

This week we are also running the STUDENT LED CONFERENCES and look forward to catching up with you all. The weather doesn't look great so a coat / umbrella may be a good idea! Take care on the roads,

John

23 June

All the best to everyone, we will be thinking of you this afternoon when the Cera Report is announced. Everyone will be affected in some way and so will the school. How this will be we can guess, but we'll wait and see! The Ministry of Education had a meeting with us yesterday but didn't have any specifics, but have promised eastern side schools will be contacted personally today where they believe the school / school community will be affected. I'll await the call.

Remember, Aranui High has it's open night tonight. They also sent us a flyer advertising a community fun night for this Friday being hosted by Erin Simpson (from Shortland St) and various bands. I have included their flyer. It is open to everyone and will have a BBQ running. Sounds like an entertaining evening.

John

20 June

Last week you will have noticed we had to do a quick change around of the pedestrian crossing due to the road collapsing in the middle. Fortunately this was quickly dealt with by the Council. I have had meetings with their representatives lately and we will have major work happening outside school (and along Estuary Rd) very soon. Essentially there are two sewer lines so the holes they will be digging will be quite deep. This raises a concern re children's safety as well as access to school for picking up and dropping off students. We will have to play this by air as work progresses but it is unlikely we will be able to park at all outside the school for a period of time. They will endeavour to fix up the roading / access into the Hall car park to allow a pick up and drop off zone. It may well be easier to

use Pine Av and Beatty Streets to do the school run. This is just a heads-up for the moment. I hope everyone is keeping warm and dry.

John

15 June

Hi, it was great to reopen this morning (11:30 a.m.) and catch up with everyone. As expected, many have stayed home or are staying with friends / family. Our aim is to try and provide security in one normal aspect of life and I have to admit, the students have been fantastic! Their resilience has been unbelievable and they have handled all the 'shakes' brilliantly. If you are wanting any support in getting information, emotional support, counseling, referrals to other agencies, etc. remember we have access to PSS here at school each Wednesday afternoon or you can ring 24/7 Victim Support on 0800 842 846. Keep an eye out for regular updates on this site and check out the Snippets for BREAK FROM THE QUAKE for 10-17 year olds (you can nominate them for a fantastic holiday) and the amazing donation from VULCAN STEEL. Hope to see you around soon. MATARIKI FESTIVAL for our Kapahaka group planned for Thursday 16 June has been cancelled for the time being.

John

14 June (3 pm)

GREAT NEWS.... I have had 3 engineers through the school today and structurally we have the all clear. The fire alarm company have just now reported to me they have isolated the fault (which they will fix at a later date) but we can reopen. There is still a heck of a mess around classrooms so staff will be in first thing and STUDENTS can arrive at 11:30 a.m. SO, SCHOOL WILL RE-OPEN TOMORROW 15th JUNE (National Support Staff Day) AT 11:30 A.M. See you all then. REMEMBER to ALL bring some BOILED DRINKING WATER from home.

John

13 June

Ho hum... the shakes keep on coming!! Hope all is OK at home for you. Once again the kids were fantastic and staff did a brilliant job keeping everyone calm and assured. Thank also to all the parents coming along to collect children, you were calm also and the children noticed this and reacted positively. School will be closed until we check services, alarms, damage, etc. We're getting good at it! At present the only obvious things that will delay us reopening are a lack of water, damaged smoke alarms, and fallen electrical fittings. A lot of tidying up will be required again. So, fingers crossed we can get these things fixed asap. I have already organized an engineer for tomorrow morning so hope we can get someone to fix alarms. These held us up last time. Keep an eye out on this site as well as the School Blackboard.

Take care, John

7 June

It is always good to get good news..... It seems as if we can now use the sewer line that runs down the centre of Estuary Road. It is very fragile though. Our only issue is that the only school line that is in one piece and can connect to this, is the line renewed after the Boxing Day earthquake. This runs down the back of Rooms 7 – 13. If this proves to be reliable, we can do away with the Portaloos, which will be a fantastic step forward. Fingers crossed!

Today I have also included a photo taken of Lianne Dalziel (Labour MP) opening our new Room 26 at the PTA / Community meeting held last week. I trust you all had a relaxing long weekend and managed to enjoy some quality family time together.

John

3 June

The Snippets are now up and available. Recently a pump has been installed in the road at the Beatty St intersection with Estuary Rd (50m down from the school gate) and a concerned neighbour told us that some sewage was running across the road and children were walking through it thinking it was just water. If your children come this way, or come across these large pumps around our community, please explain they are trying to clear sewage and any water around them will have come from raw sewage lines. Not ideal water to walk through! On a cheerier note, have a nice relaxing long weekend and we will see you on Tuesday. Many thanks to those who attended the PTA / Community evening. I think it was a relaxed but informative evening with some fabulous nibbles to go with the wine. Our thanks to the PTA (especially from the staff who got to clean up the left overs at morning tea!).

John

2 June

I am sorry, they have not fixed the problem in adding files to the site overnight. I have tried adding the file to different areas and it still hasn't worked. Email [admin@snbs.school.nz](mailto:admin@snbs.school.nz) and we will email you a copy.

John

1 June (first day of Winter)

If you are looking for the latest Snippets, unfortunately the website is having problems uploading it. I will keep trying. Hope to see as many of you as possible at tonight's PTA / Community night.

John

25 May

Just a quick reminder that the School Council has organised a fun PJ Day this Friday. We are looking forward to the day and hope some of you are able to come along and join us. More information can be found in Snippets. Many thanks to all those parents in the Legends for getting the bikes along for the Safer Cycling program. They have had a lot of fun and learned some valuable skills and knowledge.

John

15 May

Term 2 has begun well and I think we must be thankful for such neat weather. However it looks as if it will be changing this coming week! Please remember to send your children along with clothing suited to the weather, and jackets in wet weather as there is nothing worse for their health than sitting all day in wet clothes. I know this can be a challenge sometimes (to get them to wear jackets) but it may save you having to stay home with them while they get well! Remember, you can see your GP re free flu' vaccinations.

It is great to have our new Room 26 up and running and the CCC contract with Downers working on our property to mend the local sewage pump is nearly completed. They have decided to replace some of our old adventure playground with new items, so it has been a win win for all of us. Thankfully we don't need to put up with the 'crane earthquakes' any more.

The term is gathering momentum and quite a few things are coming up (eg Cross Country this coming week, PTA evening, etc.) so keep an eye out for these things in Snippets. Remember they are available here on our website too. You will notice the whole Earthquake period of my daily messages has been archived and I will continue to add items when required to this new page for this term.

John