

7 October

I have just added Lianne Dalziel's latest Earthquake Newsletter to our web site (#23). They are always informative and this one discusses some meetings including some re the Educational Renewal Recovery Plan. It can be found in this section: Welcome / Parent Support Post Earthquake. Enjoy the holidays!

John

5 October

I just put into today's Snippets about hearing from the Ministry of Education soon re the consultation process for the 'Educational Renewal Recovery Plan' to help determine the future shape of education in the greater Christchurch area, and here is the first contact this afternoon. They want to encourage all schools staff, boards, management committees, teachers, students, and families to become involved in the process. They have provided details on the attached newsletter, including information on how you can participate. There are links there for student & community resources for consultation which will be live later in the week. They can't tell us what schools will be remaining open, etc. until next year at the earliest. In fact, the process outlined here looks as if it is designed to start next year. Some things could possibly be started this year for us though. Anyway, this is important for ALL of ChCh and our future so take some time to look through this. Happy reading & pondering. John

4 October

Some exciting news (which is always great!)... you will remember Ngaio School's PTA having donated \$15k to us, well, we have managed to secure some sponsorship to bring down 3 students, a Senior Teacher and a PTA member to visit us on Wednesday 26th October. I thought it would be a great opportunity to have a small group come and see what conditions we are still living in over a year past the first earthquake and have them report back to their school. We will also be able to present them with a small 'Thank You' package. As it is also the MusicFest Day, we will hopefully have a fine day so we can have a full school assembly outside Rm 23 at 1:30 pm (after the Choir returns from practice) to make the presentation. You will all, as usual, be welcome to come along. Our thanks to Air New Zealand (Rob Fyfe), United Fisheries (Paul Stephenson) and Garden City Helicopters (Simon Duncan) for their sponsorship!!! We look forward to their visit. Nicola, their PTA rep, is a Cantab so it will be of

particular interest to her I'm sure.

On another note, with this wet weather and the contractors pumping water out from under the road in preparation to replace the gravity sewer lines, we have a lot of surface flooding. It will no doubt be full of bugs, etc. so please encourage your children not to play in it and choose the best (shallowest) place to cross if needed. If I don't add another post this term, have a great holiday everyone.

John

29 September

The ski day was a tremendous success with the Wave Riders having a fabulous day at Mt Hutt. It was a real treat and the day was superb with many experiencing skiing or boarding for the very first time. There were some extremely fast learners amongst the students and adults. Our thanks to all the parents who helped and to Rana for her fantastic organisation.

Watch out for some new information coming out soon under School Information - Student Council. They organised a very well attended 'Smiggle' lunch time and the students were really keen to show off all their prized possessions.

Today we had to contend with more water issues and lack of flushing toilets for a while but it is now all fixed (until next time). Contractors today told me the trucks were on site and they expect to start work on the gravity sewer line any day now. This will be messy for us and we will have to once again contend with lots of shaking and vibrations as they set about their work. There will be some very deep holes so please take care and complete road closure is a possibility. The good news is this is the beginning of the final stage in getting our immediate community sewer system completed.

John

22 September

Fingers crossed for good weather tomorrow for our Wave Riders Ski Day. I mentioned Anna's published book in Snippets this week. Here is a picture of her front and back cover. It will be in the library next week (after the teachers have read it!).

16 September

With my first day back for the week (and no I haven't been watching RWC matches all week) and having to catch up with work and then having CCC call in to see me about sewage issues THEN to have the water go off, I nearly wished I'd stayed in bed! The wonderful greetings from the students and staff made it all worth while though. THEN, I received a wonderful letter, card and a donation of \$2,712 from WESTMERE School in Pt

Chevalier, Auckland, letting us know at the anniversary of the first quake they are still thinking of us! Makes the challenging days better when you know we are still in the thoughts of others around NZ. A fantastic and generous act... many thanks Westmere!

12 September

We have mentioned the problems of Facebook in the past and the importance of parents knowing what their children are doing. Check out this: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/digital-living/5611042/Monitor-how-kids-use-web>

John

9 September

WELL DONE to the Year 8 Ripper Rugby team. They outclassed the talented staff team to win the coveted trophy for this term. Congratulations, and the staff look forward to next term's challenge!

8 September

We have many talented students at SNBS. The latest we have heard about are Levi (Rm18) and Chino (Rm14) who are in the Canterbury Soccer Team competing in Nelson soon. Caitlin (Rm 21) has made the NZ Talent Centre squad and goes to Oamaru soon. So, well done and good luck!!

Facebook is always a controversial issue and continually gives rise to outside activities causing us issues at school. Do you know that your child doesn't have a page?? Are you sure?? Some parents obviously don't and are coming to us with concerns when they find out. Parents need to know what is going on and what is being shared, and this sharing is more than often open so anyone has access. Scary stuff for many parents! That is why 13 years of age has been set (and that some will say is too young) to open a page. We have to face the fact that this form of contact / communication / socializing is normal for the younger generation but as parents, you need to keep an eye on things.

John

1 September

Hopefully it will be a warm welcome to spring! Thanks to all those who attended the Wave Rider's Open Night. It was an informative night and people are saying they didn't know we offered so much! It's a great team and certainly prepares students well for Year 9. I have included (under Welcome - Parent Support) a newsletter from the Pegasus - Burwood Ward Community Board which I thought had some interesting information for locals. Have a great weekend.

John

30 August

Remember: Wave Rider Open Night tonight (see below) and SCHOOL PHOTOS tomorrow (Wednesday).

29 August

WAVE RIDER Open Night: Please remember tomorrow (Tuesday 30th) @ 6:30p.m. you are invited to come along to the PA Room to hear all about our fabulous Wave Rider Team (Yr 7-8). Our band will entertain you and our science work will impress you so come along and see what we offer our Yr 7-8 students.

John

22 August

It seems longer than 6 months ago when the devastating 6.3 earthquake rolled in and it has certainly been quieter lately! I hope this, along with the lovely weather finds everyone in good / better spirits. I have attached Lianne Dalziel's latest newsletter re Earthquake damage and reconstruction for your viewing. All the best to those who will be finding out about their 'orange' zoning soon. I want to remind those with Telecom & Vodafone cell phones that you can sign up with a free Twitter account and then get the directions from the Office or come to Monday morning's (9-10) session to set it up. You will need to bring your Twitter Username & Password. This will mean you can receive all our urgent messages by text.

John

18 August

School is OPEN during normal hours. ie start at 9 a.m. See you all there. SNIPPETS will come out on Friday.

John

17 August

Hi everyone. School will OPEN at 11 a.m. today to give us a chance to clear areas of snow and get staff in. Dress warmly and gumboots would be a great idea. Not too worried about uniforms, just sensible, warm and dry clothing please. Obviously Subway won't be available due to short time frame. Roads are pretty good as it has been raining most of the night and it hasn't frozen. Take care on them though and PLEASE don't try to drive right to school! Thanks, see you soon.

John

PS Thanks to those parents who saw my request on South New Brighton School Face Book page and came in with shovels to help. A HUGE thanks also to the Fire Brigade who came in to clear our Admin 's roof which was causing flooding indoors. A number of students came without jackets - parents please check before they leave the house.

16 August

Sorry School is CLOSED today. Keep warm. Positive is if driving (which I don't advise) the roads are now very smooth!

John

15 August

School is CLOSED today. We will have to assess how things are for

Tuesday. Sorry for the late notification on this website, but it wasn't allowing me to manage it earlier. If in doubt, check out our Face Book page as that was able to be worked on. Also, More FM & the Breeze were able to put early notifications out for me. I will have to remember to get them to put the 'South' part of our name into messages!!! Keep warm and I hope all the kids (big & little) in your family enjoy the snow day!

John

10 August

Following up with what I said in '*Snippets*', I would like to remind ANYONE planning to enroll at our school this year (or for 2012) that we are not aware of already, to do so asap. By the middle of next week would be good. Give the Office a call on 3889 426. The reason for this is the MoE is reviewing rolls of school for eastern schools so they can generate provisional staffing and funding. Both are very important to us, so the more info we can supply the better for us. If you are out of zone and are interested, call the office and get an application form sent out. Our next closing date is Wed 31st August. If you know others who may be in this position, let them know. Thanks.

John

8 August

The term has begun smoothly and I have been so impressed with the behaviour of traffic. It is good to see people using the hall car park as a drop off and pick up point. It won't take too much longer for them to finish this first part outside the school. The next step, fixing the gravity sewer line, will take longer and I am not sure when this will begin.

The school has a new Facebook page and it is designed to work in with Twitter. Once it is finalised, everyone with either a Telecom or Vodofone mobile account will be able to register and will have any posting we make sent as a text. For us this is a free service and will allow us to keep you up to date with any urgent messages. Interestingly, they say web sites will get about 15% engagement from our community, but Facebook will engage 80% (I think our website does better than this)! Anyway, I will let you know when you can register for this service. This is just another way we can try to keep you informed.

John PS I have attached Lianne Dalzeil's latest Earthquake Newsletter Update under Welcome - Parental Support...

30 July

This Monday is the first day of term 3 and I look forward to catching up with everyone once again. I trust you have had an enjoyable break and the snow was more of a 'fun' distraction rather than a nuisance. As discussed last term, they have begun working on Estuary Road. Life will be a NIGHTMARE if anyone tries to drive down towards the school from Bridge Street to drop children off. It is a dead end just past the school and the

road is essentially one way outside the school. PLEASE drop children off by going down Pine Ave into Beatty Street and into the Hall parking area or a little further away and get them to walk and USE the patrolled PEDESTRIAN CROSSING. If using the Hall area, please don't park in areas that will block the flow of traffic if you come into the school. We love to see you but we will all have to be very sensible and patient regarding parking. Just think of the positives having a working sewage system for our community!! Staff, we may have to use both gates; we'll wait and see how it goes.

John