

Term 4 2011 Archive

24 Dec

Staff: School is looking remarkably good. Classes only require (we hesitation as another rocks through) a little tidying up of fallen stuff. Very little really, I was surprised. I've straightened most file cabinets and picked up a few things. Some have asked if they need to come in to help, I would wait till later in case of more... (just had another, about 5th roll on through since I've been here) ... and it might save having to tidy up twice. ANYWAY, it's more important to try and get a decent break while you can, you all certainly deserve it. We now have 2 way traffic!! Merry Christmas.

John

23 Dec

Hope all is ok for you all. Think this was another Boxing Day one that came early! Take care. John

16 December

Yesterday was a special day for many reasons. Firstly we were able to send off our Year 8's with the whole school and community members in attendance, we farewelled 2 long serving staff members, Lorraine (16 years - retiring) and Rana (10 years and moving on promotion) and also Mike (1.25 years - moving to a new position) and we received yet another surprise from Ngaio School. They sent down some beautiful cards with some goodies in them for every child. A picture of some students opening them is attached.

Our Final Assembly, having to be held outside as our Hall is still unable to be used following Feb 22 earthquake, was rained upon. We had ordered fine weather and it began OK but progressively got wetter!! My sun dance with Room 23 didn't do the trick this time. However, it was fitting that we battled with Mother Nature right up to the last day and have come out still smiling. To all the students, I was really proud of you all, your behaviour was superb in the conditions! It was nice that we could all be there as a school to farewell the Year 8's and staff, rather than just a few classes squeezing into the PA Room.

Because of the increasingly heavy drizzle, I didn't get to share some last minute messages. I got to thank all the staff and leadership team, but didn't get a chance to specifically thank Jenni and Janene, our DPs who did a fantastic job with me in such a demanding year. With Jenni being in her new roll, she picked a great year to induct herself into senior management! My sincere thanks to both. The final message was to be that we should NOT be needing PORTALOOS next year!! Yay I can hear you all say!!! The Ministry of Education have given me a verbal agreement to fix the underground services after I had a 'wee' discussion/moan with them at the end of last week. In fact they had digital cameras down half our lines today - and yet to find one they can get very far down! For those not living in the east or other areas where this problem has existed for such a long time, they won't know how uplifting this change will be. To have flushing toilets again will be SOOOO good!

2011 has been an extremely memorable year for so many reasons, but a lot of positives have emerged from the hardships and ruin. I believe we are so much stronger as a community and really look forward to further developing this in 2012. Have a great Christmas and New Year and I look forward to catching up with you in the new year.

Regards John

13 December

It was great to see such a great turnout today for our staff morning tea shout for all our wonderful parent helpers. Their fantastic work during the year, and especially this year, is greatly appreciated by staff and students. A lot of what we do we simply couldn't manage without their support.

Fingers crossed for a nice day on Thursday (I'd be happy for it to stay nice until 4pm) for our final assembly at 12:30 pm. If it is wet, please refer to last week's Snippets to see how we will manage a scaled down version. Remember 2012 term 1 starts on Wednesday 1 Feb. Stationery lists are available on each team section here on our website. Have a great Christmas and holiday break everyone.

John

2 December

What a nice introduction to summer! Last night's Music Performance Night was a great success with about 50 parents filling our PA Room. Comments have been extremely positive and everyone enjoyed the night's entertainment. The students have certainly come a long way this year, and with a range of new instruments for 2012 it will further develop. Our thanks to Sally and Emma for all their wonderful work with the various groups this year. We are certainly lucky to have their enthusiasm and expertise.

23 November

I have just added Leanne Dalziel's latest Post Earthquake Newsletter (#26) under Welcome / Parent Support Post Earthquake. Her Newsletters are informative and helpful so have a look. There is an interesting Red Cross grant some of you may be able to apply for to help with geological assessments, etc. Also, a huge thanks to Westmere School in Auckland who held a fundraising event (celebrity water slide) to raise funds for us while we were having our Fair. You may have seen it on TV.

20 November

What a wonderful day today!! The Fair was once again a brilliant community success and our thanks to the very hard working committee and of course all the fantastic volunteers on the day. Without you it couldn't have been achieved. Many of the stall vendors, etc. commented that our community day is the best they go to and by far the best 'concert' - great to hear. We pick our days well as Sat. was cool during the set up and tomorrow's looks very wet! Thanks again everyone, it was a great day for the children with lots of free things to do (and eat) and ride on. I'll finish with a guess who.... someone who was very 'sweet' yesterday! (NB the picture has been deleted, you'll have to check out our Facebook page to see who it is. See the link below on the right.)

John

17 November

URGENT REQUEST FOR PARENT HELPERS FOR SCHOOL FAIR

Content: Thank you to all of those lovely parents and family members who have volunteered to help at the school Fair on Sunday. Unfortunately a number of people who had volunteered are now not able to help and we urgently need to find some extra helpers. If you can help, even if it is just for an hour, could you please contact Lynne Connolly in Room 5 or email her at lynne@snbs.school.nz as soon as possible. We want to make Sunday a great day for all of our community so please help if you can. Thank you from the hard working Fair Committee.

12 November

Recently we just received another wonderful gift, a grant through the Pye Foundation which has supplied us with \$10,000 worth of Sunshine books and computer / on-line resources. They are fantastic resources the students will love. Check out the attached photo!

Next weekend we have our Fair which is designed to celebrate our year and will be a really special day. The committee has been working exceedingly hard and things will be heavily subsidized with a lot of free activities for the children also. With heaps of entertainment it will be a wonderful day and I hope to see you all there.

John

1.11.11

Had to use this form of the date!! The visit by Ngaio School was a special day and it was wonderful to meet them and give them the opportunity to see what life is like for us even now. They were blown away with our conditions. We were able to give them a wee surprise and gave them a helicopter ride over the city, Lyttleton and South Shore. None of them had been in a helicopter before and it was special to see their enjoyment! Our sincere thanks to Air New Zealand for bringing them down (and taking them home), Southern Fisheries for sponsoring the helicopter flights and to Garden City Helicopters for putting in an extra seat and taking me along! Ngaio also gave us a wonderful poster board (which we will put up on display soon) and 3 boxes full of games. Another very generous gift! We look forward to our future relationship together.

John

25 October

It was great to catch up with the children today and hear of all their exciting holiday experiences. Several took the opportunity today to go and welcome the All Blacks to Christchurch, which would have been a great experience. Tomorrow we are welcoming Ngaio School from Wellington who have assisted our school so much this year. We look forward to them arriving at school around 11 am.

Today several people were surprised by the closure of Estuary Rd from the Bridge St round-a-bout but still proceeded down it in the wrong direction. At present, it is open from Beatty St end so please drive down Pine Av (running parallel to Estuary Rd) and drop off at the Hall parking area as there is no parking outside the school at present. The roading changes regularly so please take care.

To the choir, good luck and enjoy the MusicFest tomorrow. John

24 October : Labour Day

Well done the All Blacks... if you are like me, I hope your finger nails grow back soon! I trust you all had a great break and I look forward to catching up with everyone tomorrow for the first day of Term 4. I have just received information about some of the last **Public Presentations for 2011** aimed at helping earthquake affected families. Some of you will have heard Nathan Mikaere-Wallis present and will be able to vouch for what an awesome and accessible speaker he is. Thanks to funding from the Tindall Foundation the Brainwave Trust are able to offer six more **free** presentations in the Canterbury area focusing on "Reassurance, Recovery and Resilience"; with practical tools to help meet the needs of Canterbury children. The venues are large so everyone is welcome to attend. RSVP not essential, but it will help them with planning.

Ferrymead, Thursday, 27th October, 10am – midday. **Venue:** Heritage Park, 50 Ferrymead Park Drive, Heathcote; **Presenters:** Nathan Mikaere-Wallis & Lauren Porter; **RSVP:** sandie@brainwave.org.nz
Darfield, Tuesday, 1st November, 10am – midday. **Venue:** Darfield Rugby Club Rooms, Darfield Domain on North Terrace; **Presenters:** Nathan Mikaere-Wallis & Lauren Porter; **RSVP:** sandie@brainwave.org.nz
Kaiapoi, Wednesday, 9th November November, 7:00 – 9:00pm. **Venue:** Kaiapoi Baptist Church, 67 Fuller St; **Presenters:** Miriam McCaleb & Lauren Porter; **RSVP:** sandie@brainwave.org.nz
Aranui, Saturday, 12th November, 10am – midday. **Venue:** Aranui Primary School, 257 Breezes Rd; **Presenters:** Nathan Mikaere-Wallis & Miriam McCaleb; **RSVP:** sandie@brainwave.org.nz
Hornby, Monday, 28th November, 10am – midday. **Venue:** Working Men’s Club, 17 Carmen Rd; **Presenters:** Nathan Mikaere-Wallis & Lauren Porter; **RSVP:** sandie@brainwave.org.nz
St Albans, Tuesday, 6th December, 7:00 – 9:00pm. **Venue:** Shirley Working Men’s Club, 269 Hills Rd, Mairehau; **Presenters:** Nathan Mikaere-Wallis & Lauren Porter; **RSVP:** sandie@brainwave.org.nz

I have also added Lianne Dalziel's latest newsletter #24 under Welcome/ Parent Support Post Earthquake.
John