

I know as a community our sympathy and support goes out to all those in the Canterbury region affected by the devastating earthquake a week ago and the continuing aftershocks. Many people have lost their homes and livelihoods. Our thoughts continue to be with them as they strive to bring about some normality to their lives, particularly for their children.

Many schools were damaged during the quake and further damage was caused through aftershocks and unfortunately looting. Last week many children wrote wonderful letters to the Christchurch Special School that was robbed after sustaining damage from the quake. Some children also wrote moving letters to Burnside School and to the Laura Fergusson Trust. The proceeds from today's mufti day and the profits from Friday night's disco will be donated to the Christchurch Special School to help with the purchasing of consumables which would not be covered by insurance.

Last week the affects of the quakes could also be heard amongst the discussions of the children at Willowbank. Many of the children had been following events on the news and were genuinely concerned for the wellbeing of those in the Canterbury region. On Monday when I visited Kiwi Awhina (our youngest children) a number of the children came to speak with me about what they had heard or seen.

These discussions are vital for children to help develop their understanding and to help work through their own fears and concerns. As we continue to discuss the earthquakes in the classrooms over the coming week we will also practice emergency drills and safety plans. Please may I ask you to take some time to discuss these with your children.

Here is a brief outline of our emergency plans at Willowbank School.

Fire

The fire alarms will sound, the alarm is a repetitive statement; 'evacuate the building, this is not a drill'. All persons on site must assemble on the field, closest to the fence along Gracechurch Drive. Roll call is taken to ensure all children; staff and visitors are accounted for. As wardens the senior leadership team collect all information and inform the fire brigade of any concerns.

No one is permitted to re enter the buildings until the fire brigade gives the all clear.

Children practice these drills both during class time and during a break to ensure they clearly understand what to do no matter when and where an incident may occur.

Volcanic Eruption

Auckland is a city built around 48 volcanic cones. No one knows when or where the next eruption may be.

In the event of an eruption children will move to the closest classroom with a sloping roof (rooms 11 to 16, 23 to 32). Windows and doors will remain closed. Children will remain there until collected by a parent or caregiver, or as directed by Civil Defence authorities.

Intruder

Willowbank School is locked down during the day and all visitors must report to the office before entering the school.

In the event of an intruder alert

Children will remain in their classrooms, (if outside children will be directed to the hall or another classroom if it is unsafe to return to their own classroom) where a

roll call will be taken and information relayed through the office to their class teacher). Teachers will lock all doors and windows and children will be moved to the safest part of the classroom. Children will not be permitted to leave the room for any reason until the police give the all clear.

Flood or storm damage

Children will assemble in their classrooms (or if damaged the nearest alternative room) and wait to be collected by parents or to be evacuated by Civil Defence.

Pandemic Planning

The Ministry of Health provides schools with up to date information of the likelihood of a pandemic alert. Children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly and to use hand sanitizer before eating.

Children feeling ill should be kept at home or will be sent home if presenting with contagious like illnesses.

Schools may be directed to close by the health authorities if the pandemic situation worsened.

During a pandemic, parents will be kept up to date with information via the website and facebook updates.

Our full pandemic plan and emergency procedures are available on the website under the Board of Trustees.

It is also a timely reminder to us all to have emergency plans and kits at home and in the workplace. Here are some important web pages that can help you do this. www.civildefence.govt.nz

Do we have your most up to date information? If you have changed address or phone numbers recently please let us know today.

Our ERO Review

As you know a team from the Education Review Office (ERO) visited us last week. The team spent time in each class and with the Senior Leadership team looking at the delivery of the New Zealand Curriculum through effective learning and teaching programmes and assessment practices. We look forward to the team's final report, which should be released some time in November. We will keep you fully informed of this.

Kapa Haka

Over the past two terms our Kapa Haka group under the fantastic instruction of Mr Te Kani Williams have been practicing for the up coming Koanga festival. Schools from all over the Howick and Pakuranga area participate in the Koanga and it is an absolutely magnificent occasion. Our group will perform Tuesday 14th September at 7.30pm at the Picton Centre, Howick. Gold coin koha at the door.

Sporting Results

Congratulations again to our soccer team for their great win against Shelly Park last week. The final score was 2, 1.

A message from Mrs Gardner in the library:

We have had a number of books coming back to the library with water damage.

Please help your child keep library books safe and if they are damaged please let us know.

PTA Notices

The regular PTA meeting has been cancelled this Tuesday due to the Kapa Haka performance.

Sunblock for Sale

As we head into Spring it is really important that the children have sun protection. You can now buy that from

school.

When: Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th and Friday 17th of September from : 8.30am – 8.55am and 2.30 and 3.15pm each day

Price:

Roll-on: \$6.00

Tube: \$7.50

Aftergell: \$7.50

The Sunblock is SPF 30+ low irritant and PABA Free

DISCO

This term our disco is extra special as we are raising money for the Christchurch Special School which suffered considerable earthquake damage and was then robbed.

The theme for the disco is HOLLYWOOD MOVIE STARS.

Come along as your favourite movie star or comic hero!

Year 0 – 3 children 5.30 until 6.45pm

Year 4 – 6 children 7 until 8.30pm

\$2 entry fee.

Pizzas \$2

nachos \$3.50

Drinks \$2

Children must be collected at the end of their disco, no child will be allowed to leave the hall without an adult.

Chocolate Sales

Our major prizes for selling the most chocolate will be drawn on the last day of this term.

Are you able to sell more chocolate bars for the school? We still have a number of boxes left and need to sell them all.

Please let me know if you are able to help us sell this.

Dental Clinic

For details of the nearest School DentalClinic open during the holiday period please contact **0800 TALK TEETH** or **0800 825 583**

A list of clinics currently open is also available on our website:

www.ards.co.nz

Notices

Saint Columbus Church

From Monday 27 September to Friday 1 October, the Special Forces are enlisting kids for an action packed week of stories, challenges, games, music, sports and crafts.

Juniors 5-8 years (School Years 1-4)

Seniors 9-13 years (School Years 5-8)

8.00am to 5.00pm (mornings \$12.50 or full day \$25.00)

For more information, visit the Church Office or website

www.stcolumba.org.nz

Call 274 4864, or email

alex@stcolumba.org.nz

if you have any queries

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The Farmhouse will be running fun camps once again during the April school holidays. There are so many fun fill activities to take part in, including lots of

horse riding, treasure hunts, movie nights etc.

The dates for our next camps are 27/09/2010 – 29/09/2010 and 27/09/2010 – 01/10/2010. If you love animals and having fun then this is the place to be.

We are members of the OSCAR foundation and have CYF approval, so feel free to enquire about subsidies.

For more information please contact us on: **07 3323 771 or www.thefarmhouse.co.nz**

Deidre Alderson
Principal