



## 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011

On behalf of the staff and our school community I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and their families.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with those of you with family and friends affected by the traumatic events in Japan.

### **Supporting The People Of Christchurch**

Thank you for your support of our "Red and Black" day to raise much needed money for the schools of Christchurch. It was great to see so many parents getting behind the day and wearing Black and Red to work.

Through your support we raised \$2,345 from the school and our lovely visiting teachers from Norway donated a staggering \$970! Both amounts were sent through to the Canterbury Principals Association to be distributed amongst the Christchurch schools. Last week Auckland schools had donated over \$42,000 to Canterbury. Over the last week some Christchurch schools were able to re-open. However many have been 'red stickered' and will need to be demolished. It is unimaginable to most of us the total despair these communities must be dealing with. A number of damaged schools are now sharing campuses with schools relatively unscathed by the quake.

### **Camps**

Last week the Year 6 children from rooms 22, 9 and 4, their teachers and parent helpers had an amazing time at Lakewood Lodge. This week rooms 28 and 29 head out from Tuesday to Friday.

Our Year 5 children have a Marae overnight learning experience on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Camp is an important learning experience for children as well as being great fun! A huge thank you to all the parent helpers attending our camps this year – our children would not have this valuable learning experience without your help.

### **Drop Off Zone CLOSED**

Children travel to and from camp and the Marae by bus so to ensure their safety the school drop off zone will be closed TO ALL TRAFFIC at the following times:

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March from 8.30am to approximately 9.15am.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30pm to approximately 3.30pm.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 8.30am to approximately 9.15am.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30pm to approximately 3.30pm.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and understanding during these times.

**Reminder:** please do not leave your vehicle unattended in the drop off zone. If you need to go to your child's classroom you need to park on the road please. Thank you.

### **Late Pick Up of Children**

In the 14<sup>th</sup> February newsletter I raised the issue of children left waiting to be picked up by parents after school. This continues to be a major health and safety issue so I have repeated the message in this newsletter.

***Children Left at the Front of the Admin Building***  
*Unfortunately a number of children are being left outside the office to wait for parents/caregivers after school. Many of these children are being picked up after 3.15pm. Last week we had a number of children still waiting at 4pm. Children are not supervised in this area and it is a huge health and safety issue. If you are unable to pick your child up at 3pm I ask that you make other arrangements for your child instead of leaving them outside the admin area. Your child is able to join a Walking School Bus and meet you either away from the school or at home, or SKiDs operate an extremely effective after school programme that you are able to book your child/ren into.*

*I have been speaking with our local police officer about my concerns and will now be contacting individual parents if this continues to be an issue. Child safety is paramount.*

I realise that many of you wait until the drop off zone is open so that you can drive in. This in itself is a huge safety problem as some drivers stop their vehicles near the steps and call children down on to an unsafe section of the road. Please do not do this. Please move along the drop of zone as far as possible before and collecting children.

However no child should be left waiting after 3.15pm.

### **Respect the Road Rules**

Please respect the road rules outside our school gates.

Please do not:

- Stop on the yellow lines to let passengers in or out
- Let people in or out of your vehicle at the crossing
- Stop in the 'Clearways'
- Park over driveways
- Double park
- Park on the grass verge
- Come in through the 'Exit' of the school
- Abuse staff members for allowing 'permit holders' only in to the drop off zone between 2.30pm and 3.15pm

All of the above driving behaviours are illegal and unfortunately happen every day. Please feel free to come and speak with me if you have any concerns with the issues I have raised here.

### **PTA – Trivia Night**

Our annual trivia night is lots of fun. Tickets are available from the office for \$5.00.

When: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm start

Price: \$5.00 per ticket

What to bring: other parents, or friends, nibbles and drinks.

Tables for 6 to 8 people.

Come and have a fun night with friends.

### **Willowbank School Open Day – 31<sup>st</sup> March**

You are invited to attend our Open Day on 31<sup>st</sup> March from 1.30pm. During the afternoon you will have the opportunity to observe a teaching lesson (your child's teacher will let you know what the demonstration lesson will be closer to the date). Your child will share his/her learning goals in reading, writing and numeracy with you and ways in which you can support their learning at home.

We look forward to seeing you at our Open Day on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Cyber Safety Policy**

Today your child brought home a copy of our cyber safety policy. Please may I ask you to read through the policy with your child, sign and return the policy to school.

Our policy ensures children follow a formal code of practice around accessing and using on-line information, the taking and sharing of images and personal information and the reporting of misuse. Your child must have a signed policy to be able to access the internet at school.

### **Digital Devices At School**

Over the next few months we will be working on the procedures needed before children are able to bring digital devices to school. Our goal is that children will be able to use personal digital devices such as iPod touches, iPads, laptops and phones to enhance their learning.

We will let you know further details at the beginning of next term. Please do not send any personal digital devices to school until these procedures are in place, thank you.

### **National Bank**

School banking with the National Bank has started. Our student tellers and a representative from the bank will be in the hall every Tuesday between 8:30-8:55am for student National Bank banking.

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

#### ***Auckland Downs Syndrome Association***

3.5km Family Walk and Fun Fair

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Tahaki Reserve, Mt Eden

Registration opens 9am

[www.buddywalknz.org](http://www.buddywalknz.org)

#### ***Somerville Intermediate Fund Raising***

Arts, Crafts, Food and Local Business Night Market

Somerville Intermediate Gym Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup> 6.30 to 9pm

Over 50 stalls so something for everyone.

Plenty of parking so come along.

#### ***Message from the Peace Foundation:***

Kia Ora! Would you like to make a difference in your family now? Come along and join us for a day of workshops aimed at strengthening family relationships. Attend the **Families Matter event on Saturday, 16 April 2011, 9:30 am. to 3 p.m. at the Jubilee Hall, Parnell Trust, 545 Parnell Rd, Auckland.** You will have the opportunity to attend two of six workshops offered, plus enjoy a laughter yoga session with our experienced facilitators for only \$10 per person. So register now, as places are limited. [Download the brochure for workshop and registration details.](#) For any inquiries, email [caroline@peacefoundation.org.nz](mailto:caroline@peacefoundation.org.nz), or call (09) 373-2379.

*Have a wonderful fortnight,*

*Deidre Alderson*

*Principal*