

1st August 2011



Welcome back, we hope you had a great holiday with your children and are all ready for term 3.

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.

This term we also welcome three new staff members to our teaching team.

Mrs Michelle Hewlett - specialist art teacher, Year 5 and 6 classes.

Mrs Sona Singh - specialist science teacher, Year 3 and 4 classes.

Mr Jeff Mackay - specialist PE instructor, Year 0, 1 and 2 classes.

Our specialist teachers will work with each of their year level classes for an hour and a half per fortnight.

Preparation for Our 10th Year Celebrations

This year we celebrate 10 years of *discovering the potential, developing the learning and nurturing the relationships of our children – the leaders of tomorrow.*

To celebrate this momentous occasion we have two days of celebrations planned for the 18th and 19th November.

You can register your interest in our 10th Year Celebrations and receive regular newsletters and invitations to events by emailing Chris at info@willowbankschool.co.nz

We would like to contact past pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school from over the past ten years. Please may I ask you to pass this message on to anyone you know who has been involved in the school in the past.

Emailed Newsletters

Keeping you informed of up coming events and current issues at Willowbank School is very important to us. If you would like to have the newsletter and any other newsletters emailed directly to you please click on the link in the left hand column and complete the necessary documentation. If you have any queries about receiving the emailed newsletter please contact Chris in the office.

Having the newsletter emailed to you each fortnight is of huge benefit to both you and the school.

You can also join us on facebook and on twitter.

fb – willowbank school twitter - @willowbanknz

Term 3 Calendar of School

The term 3 calendar of school events will be sent home with your child tomorrow (also available on the website). Although most events are recorded, we sometimes need to change dates or times. We will notify you of any changes or updates in our fortnightly newsletter.

Term Dates Term 3: 1st August until the 7th October 2011.

Please remember to let us know if you are planning to take your child/ren out of school for a holiday of more than 5 days.

In compliance with Ministry of Education requirements children absent for 15 weeks (on vacation) must be removed from the school roll.

School Uniform

Please ensure your child is dressed in the correct Willowbank School uniform. I noticed today that a number of children have the wrong shoes, socks or jumpers on. A full uniform list is available on our website.

Our school beanies are available from the office for \$12.50.

WOW

The auditions in term two were fantastic. We have one more audition date - Monday 8th August. All students should have had their auditions or a time for their audition on Monday. If you have not - please contact Clara: claraiqbal@xtra.co.nz and we will sort it out.

After Monday's auditions we will be scheduling the heats. Those acts that have made it through the first auditions will then be notified, when and where their heat takes place. Remember they can have the same act as they did for the audition.

Voting

During the heats students and parents can vote for their favorite act. The student and parent vote counts for 50% of the final score. We will be selling voting tokens - \$0.50c and \$1 tokens. Each act will have it own box during their heat and the most number of tokens will determine 50% of the outcome.

All the money raised through voting will be going directly to the School Van.

WOW Wall

You will see we have a fantastic WOW wall as you come into the school. This will show us how well we are doing in raising funds for the school van. If your family or business would like to sponsor or contribute please let us know and we will talk through the various options. For all sponsorship Pamela is your go to person: pkirtlan@xtra.co.nz

Lunchtime Activities

Over the winter months, children need to bring a change of clothes to school if they wish to play on the field at lunchtime. However for the children who prefer not to get covered in mud we have a range of inside activities available over the lunchtime break. The library is open Monday to Thursday for children to select new books or to complete research. Passive

Playground is available Monday and Friday in Hoiho Awhina (next to rooms 9 and 10).

Sports activities for the older children include netball, soccer, rugby, gymnastics, chess (all year levels) and dance.

Our Awhina spaces are also open for children to play quiet games in during wet days. The PE shed is open daily for children to borrow equipment for use on the concrete or the field.

Children Arriving Late

Towards the end of last term we noticed an increase in the number of children arriving late to school. Children in these circumstances often find it difficult to settle quickly in to the learning and have not made connections with their friends prior to the start of school.

Please ensure your child arrives at school before 8.50am each day. Thank you in anticipation.

Cross Country Training

As part of our compulsory PE curriculum/programme all children are expected to participate in cross-country training. Children will begin this part of their PE programme in week 3 (15th August). Year 4-6 children need to wear their PE uniform or suitable sports clothing and sports shoes please. Year 1-3 children may bring sports shoes to wear for this training.

Children's Art Calendars

The PTA is again organising the school calendars and cards. The children will be working on their art during the third term. Notices will come home later in the term with the order forms, in time for you to post overseas.

Right Start Programme – Term 3 and 4

Our Right Start Programme has proven to be extremely beneficial to promoting confidence in our pre-schoolers as they make the transition to school on their 5th birthday. Julie Cowan, our Deputy Principal runs this excellent pre-entry programme every Tuesday afternoon from 1.30pm until 3pm.

The programme is open to all children aged 4.6 months and over pre-enrolled at Willowbank School. It does not replace the traditional two morning pre-school visits but adds a new dimension to how we transition children to school.

We also offer parent/community information sessions at the same time as the Right Start Programme. Our sessions are:

16th August: Getting ready for School.

23rd August: Supporting your child with literacy.

30th August: Supporting your child with Maths.

6th September: Learning Support/extension & differentiation.

13th September: Getting involved in your school.

20th September: Assessment in School.

For more information on the Right Start programme or our parent sessions please contact Chris in the office.

Help Us Grow Our School Veggie Patch

To help build Willowbank's Veggie Patch, simply collect barcodes from your McCAIN vegetable packs and either place them in the collection box in the office or post them to the school at 56 Middlefield Drive, Dannemora.

Every barcode earns McCAIN Veggie Patch points for Willowbank which can then be redeemed for gardening tools and seeds.

To find out more about McCAIN School Veggie Patches, please visit: www.mccainveggiepatches.com

Community Notice Board

The Parenting Through Separation programme is available at Willowbank School for all parents in the region. The highly regarded programme was developed by the Ministry of Justice to support parents in a relationship break up to achieve the best outcomes for their children. The programme is free to all parents who are in the process of separating or considering separation.

The programme will be delivered by psychologists from Triple P New Zealand Ltd, a new provider recently appointed by the Ministry of Justice. A lawyer from the Family Court will contribute to the second session in the two-part programme. The Parenting Through Separation programme will be run twice over the term to enable parents to attend individually.

Willowbank School, 7-9pm, To register call Triple P New Zealand Ltd 09 579 1794

"Mothers Helpers" charity

"Mothers Helpers supports women who have post-natal depression or who are at-risk of post-natal depression, including single mums. We are looking for mums to join our Board which meets once a month to bounce ideas around about the leadership and direction of the charity. If you could spare this time and would like to help other mothers please contact Kristina:

mothershelpers.webgarden.com@gmail.com or 022-093-1822. For more information about our service go to: www.mothershelpers.webgarden.com"

Links on line:

Story fest

Positive Parenting

We look forward to seeing you at our events this term,

Deidre Alderson
Principal