



28th February 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.

To those of you who have lost family and friends in the Christchurch quake we offer our deepest sympathies.

Supporting The People Of Christchurch

Our thoughts are very much with the people of Christchurch and the Canterbury region at this time. The scale of devastation is a tragedy that touches everyone.

Like many of you, I have family and friends in Christchurch and the sense of absolute dread on Tuesday last week was almost crippling. Thankfully they are all safe and well and have been able to return to their homes.

Over the week we have watched the story unfold through the ever-prevalent media. However, nothing I saw or read affected me as greatly as reading an email from my sister, describing the sheer horror of that day and effect on her staff and patients. I am forever in awe of her strength, courage, compassion and utter tenacity.

The task ahead of the people of Canterbury is beyond our comprehension. The September quake damaged properties, including heritage sites but this time we must focus on the people – the injured, the homeless and those grieving for loved ones.

Upcoming Events in Support of The People of Christchurch

Two minutes silence: Prime Minister John Key has asked that *“At 12.51pm this Tuesday, the 1st of March, I am asking that New Zealand stops for two minutes as a sign of unity for the people of Canterbury who are enduring a tragedy beyond what most of us can imagine.”* We will be observing the two minutes silence at this time.

Collection For the People of Christchurch

The most effective support we can offer the people of Christchurch is money. If you would like to make a donation through the school please drop it into our collection box at the front office. This money will be given to the New Zealand Red Cross.

The APPA (Auckland Primary Principals Association) has asked that every Auckland school hold a **“Red-And-Black Christchurch Support Day”** on Friday 4 March.



Lets get behind this and have the best **red** and black day ever! We would love to see all our parents who walk to school in **red** and black too! Wear your **wackiest reds** and blacks, colour your hair, nails or maybe paint your face ☺

So pull out your **red** and black and lets make it a day to remember!

All funds **raised** will be distributed to Christchurch **primary** and **intermediate** schools.

Emergency Procedures at Willowbank School

We have very comprehensive emergency procedures that cover all major civil defence and localised emergencies.

Our procedures in brief:

Fire: children, staff and visitors will assemble on the field until the fire brigade gives the all clear. If the school is declared unsafe children will be moved to a safe site. Staff will make every attempt to contact parents.

Ash Fall: children will be evacuated to the re-loc classrooms (rooms 11 – 16 and 23 – 32). The senior leadership team will take advise from local Civil Defence personnel.

Intruder: children will move away from windows if inside. If children are outside they will be directed to the closest classroom. Children will remain under the care of the class teacher until the police give the all clear.

Earthquake: children will move away from windows and take cover. After the quake children will assemble on the field until the buildings are checked and the all clear is given.

Pandemic: in the event of a pandemic children/staff exhibiting signs of the disease or who have been in direct contact with contagious people will be sent home. The school leadership and Board of Trustees will follow the directions given by the Ministry of Health and if necessary close the school.

In the event of the school being damaged or a major centralised disaster: children will be supervised by staff until all children are collected by a parent or moved to a Civil

Defence Centre.

Parents will be kept informed/updated of the school's status through website updates and local radio station community messages.

Keeping Our Records Up to Date

Please ensure we have all your current contact details. Please notify us immediately of any changes. Thank you in anticipation.

Measles Outbreak

The Ministry of Health has advised us of an outbreak of measles in the Auckland area. Children feeling unwell with symptoms associated with the measles or suspected of having been in contact with someone with measles must stay away from school for 10 days.

The symptoms to watch out for are:

- At first, a fever, runny nose, and sore red eyes
- After a few days, a red blotchy rash which lasts for up to one week.
- The rash usually starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body.

If you detect any of those symptoms, keep your child at home and phone your GP or call Health line (toll-free) on 0800 611 116.

In the event of a case of measles at the school the Ministry of Health is advising that all unimmunized children be sent home until further notice.

Up Coming Events:

Do you have a child starting school next term? Come along to our New Entrants parents evening on Wednesday 2nd March at 6pm. Further details are available from Calleigh (office).

Camps

Our Year 6 children are off to camp over the next few weeks and are very excited about their upcoming outdoor learning experience at Lakewood Lodge near Huntly.

Rooms 4, 9 and 22 are going to camp from the 8th to the 11th March and rooms 28 and 29 are going to camp from the 15th to 18th March.

Our Year 5 children have a marae overnight learning experience on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th 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 by bus so to ensure the safety of all of our children the school drop off zone will be closed at the following times:

Tuesday 8th March – from 8.30am

Friday 11th March – from 2.30pm

Tuesday 15th March –from 8.30am

Friday 18th March – from 2.30pm

Wednesday 23rd March – from 8.30am

Thursday 24th March – 2.30pm

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and understanding during these times.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Somerville Intermediate Fund Raising

Arts, Crafts, Food and Local Business Night Market

Somerville Intermediate Gym Wednesday

March 30th 6.30 to 9pm

Over 50 stalls so something for everyone.

Plenty of parking so come along.



Have a wonderful fortnight,

Deidre Alderson

Principal