



29th August 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.

Staff Farewell

Our lovely receptionist, Calleigh Simpson, will be leaving us at the end of this term. Calleigh and her family are moving to Whangaparaoa. We wish Calleigh, Pete and Ruben much success in their new adventures. Mrs Carla Hart will take over the role of receptionist. Mrs Sam Monoyoudis will be helping out in the office over the next few weeks.

New Zealand-a-Thon

Our much-anticipated New Zealand-a-thon starts today! Children have their NZ-a-thon passports ready to record their answers to a series of knowledge and research questions, and activities. The NZ-a-thon questions are available on your child's class wiki and on our website so you can support your child's learning at home.



NZ-a-thon activities are happening everyday making it easy for your child to collect their 50+ stamps needed for their sponsor forms. Each question is worth 1 stamp and activities and research are worth up to 5 stamps.

Lunchtime activities include orienteering, library fun and e-learning support led by the awhina captains in the library.

Hopefully your child has collected (and continues to collect) a number of sponsors – remember the top prize for the greatest number of sponsor is a wii!

The NZ-a-thon is lots of fun and we hope you enjoy being part of the learning with your child.

The NZ-a-thon will continue over the next three weeks.

Important NZ-a-Thon dates:

Sponsorship forms and information sent home were sent home – please let us know if you need another copy.

- ★ **Monday 29th August**
 - Week 1's question/activities – Focus: 'Our Place'
- ★ **Monday 5th September**
 - Week 2's questions/activities – Focus: 'Citizenship'
- ★ **Monday 12th September**
 - Week 3's questions/activities – Focus: 'That's Unusual'
- ★ **Friday 16th September**
 - Completed passports sent home to celebrate achievements.
- ★ **19th – 23rd September**
 - Sponsorship money due. Money should be brought to school in a sealed envelope or bag with the sponsorship form named and attached.
- ★ **7th October**
 - Prizegiving for students - prizes for most sponsors gained, team rewards for classes with all forms and money returned (1 per team), top effort awards and spot prizes for the best passports.



2nd September Father's Day Breakfast

We look forward to seeing all our dads, granddads and other important male role models at our Father's Day breakfast from 7.30am this Friday. I have heard that some dads have been practising their paper plane making skills....

Major Father's Day Raffle:

Limited Edition All Black jersey (only 2011 available worldwide) – \$5 a ticket or 3 for \$10. Tickets available from the office and at the Father's Day breakfast.



Thank you for supporting this charity event. All proceeds raised have been donated to the New Zealand Cancer Society

Dance Festival

Congratulations to our wonderful Dance Festival troupe for their item in last week's HPPA (Howick Pakuranga Principals Association) Dance Festival. The girls were fantastic and we were all very impressed with their performance. A huge thank you to Mrs Jessie Borrie who choreographed the dance and trained the girls.

Speech Finalist

Congratulations to our year 5 and 6 speech winners. This year's topic aligned with our school-wide inquiry focus on global citizenship. Year 6 winners: 1st place: Molly Griffiths with her speech on 'good manners'; 2nd place: Shannon Clerk with her speech entitled 'Save the world'; 3rd place: Celine Dam with her speech on 'racism'. Molly will represent Willowbank School in the Howick, Pakuranga inter-schools speech finals.

Year 5 winners:

1st place: Islam Talib with her speech on child abuse; 2nd place: Jack Lee, with his speech on hunger and Madison Bond in 3rd place with a speech on the rights of the child and poverty.



This week it's the turn of the Year 5 WOW contestants. The full list of acts is on display in the staffroom, hall and WOW room (room 26) windows. The acts will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday during the lunch hour. You are very welcome to come and watch the performances. Please consider the performers and enter the hall between acts, thank you.

Upcoming Events

Right Start Parents Programme (open to all parents)

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.

Other events:

This week:

NZ-a-thon starts

30th August – Scout meeting 7pm

31st August – NE parents meeting

1st September – Willowbank Netball Club meeting 7pm

2nd September – Father's Day breakfast

6th September - Year 1 trip to the Buddhist temple

7th and 8th September Inter-schools gymnastics competition

8th September – Year 5 and 6 inter-schools

10th Year Celebration

Do you know past students and or their parents of Willowbank School? We would like to invite them to join our alumni. Please see our Facebook page for further details.

Events over the 2 days

Friday

1:30-3pm – Open school

5-7pm – WOW factor showcase

7:30-10pm – BoT invite the community to a mix and mingle evening in the school hall – tickets available soon.

Saturday activities

Open classrooms

Games and activities

Food stalls (if you are interested in running a food stall please contact me)

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

Under 11s Karve'em up Touch teams registrations are being held at Howick domain, 5pm 30.8.11 and 1.9.11. Limited spaces available. 2010 eastern junior champions. Contact Pat on 0211384449 or email diamond2744@hotmail.com

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

Deidre Alderson
Principal