



4th May 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.

A very warm welcome back to Mrs Marie Todd who is teaching year 1 children in room 16.

Jane's farewell

Jane's farewell was a huge success! The children and staff had a fantastic day dressed as their favourite Star Wars characters. Thank you to those of you who popped in throughout the day to wish Jane well in her new job as principal of Hingaia Peninsula School.

Congratulations

Over the holidays Miss Carmel Long married Thomas Grace. Congratulations Carmel and Thomas!

Congratulations also to Miss Halina Varcoe and Mr Brett Munro who announced their engagement in the holidays. We wish Carmel and Thomas, Halina and Brett much happiness for the future.

Staff Changes

Unfortunately Mr. Sean Moran has needed to resign from his teaching position so he can concentrate on recovery from an injury. We will be making an appointment to this position very soon. Mrs Carol Wharton will continue to teach the class in the interim.

We welcome Mrs Kelly Adams who joins us as a teacher aide working in Year 6.

Looking Ahead at Term 2!

We have another great term ahead of us, which starts with our Mother's Day High Tea this Friday from 2pm in the hall. We look forward to seeing our mums and grand-mums there. We have great prizes to be won during the afternoon, plenty of home-baking to sample and it's a wonderful opportunity for you to mix and mingle.

You can keep up to date with the learning focus in your child's class by checking their class wiki. Your child should be able to show you how to do this or have a chat with your child's teacher. Please see our Term 2 calendar for upcoming school events. We will keep you informed of any changes to this calendar through our regular newsletter, and through our facebook page and twitter postings.

Remember to email Chris if you would like the newsletter emailed to you each fortnight.

cday@willowbank.school.nz

Emergency Contacts

Please let us know if you have changed home or work addresses, email address and or phone numbers. We need to ensure all emergency contacts are kept up to date. Thank you in anticipation.

Entertainment Books

The yearly Entertainment Books were distributed out to families at the end of last term and we are already taking extra orders. My book didn't stay intact for long, my eldest daughter who flats in the city but shops in my pantry found it on the kitchen table – many of the coupons left with her! The books are a great way to save on purchases and to find new places to dine at or to visit.

Thanks to Kelly Adams and the PTA for their organization of this fundraiser.

Lost property

Did your child lose an item of clothing at school last term? If you are in school this week please take a moment to look through our rather large pile of found items.

Please remember to name all clothing so that we are able to return it to your child if it finds its way to the lost property pile.

Brightening Our World

You may have noticed all the bright colours now adorning our walls! The colours are definitely brightening our world and we hope that we will be able to eventually have children's artwork covering the walls as well.

Lunchtime Activities

Each term we offer a range of extra curricula activities for our students. These are mainly targeted at our older children but some are open to everyone.

This term our activities include; gymnastics, dance, soccer, netball, hockey, choir, chess and a new concept called 'passive playgrounds' which provides a quiet space for children at lunchtime who prefer a more peaceful environment than the general playground.

Our library is also open every lunchtime Monday to Thursday for children to change books, browse the shelves or to read in a quiet space.

Change of Clothes

As the wet weather approaches children will need to bring a spare set of clothes to wear if they intend playing on the field at lunchtimes.

Children still need to bring their normal PE clothes for PE and sports and wear their school uniform to and from school.

Sickness

The winter months also bring a few nasty illnesses and it is very important that your child stays home if they are unwell or have been exposed to a contagious illness. Please ring the office in the morning if your child is going to be away from school. Your child does still need to bring a note to school explaining the absence when they return. Thank you.

Extended Absence From School

If you intend taking your child out of school for more than 5 days you must complete an 'Absence from School' form available from the office. All non-medical absences from school must be approved by me otherwise your child is deemed truant from school.

Right Start Programme

Right Start is a transition to school programme to help your child get a head start on their learning and support the starting school process. It is a series of 6 sessions where the children work with Julie Cowan (Deputy Principal) on foundation learning skills and early literacy and numeracy. During the session parents work with the members of the school's leadership team on how they can support their child's learning.

Right Start is one afternoon a week and children can attend in the term before they start school. There are strictly limited numbers and there is a small cost (\$60.00). Please email Chris or Julie at rightstart@willowbankschool.co.nz for more information and an enrolment form.

Supporting Children's Learning – Sessions for parents. These sessions are open to all parents and are held on Tuesday afternoons from 1.35 until 2.45pm in the staffroom.

- Getting ready for school (Wk 3)
- Supporting your child with literacy (Wk 4)
- Supporting your child with maths (Wk 5)
- Learning support/extension and differentiation (Wk 6)

-Getting involved in your school (BoT, PTA) (Wk 7)

-Assessment in school (Wk 8)

Student Led Conferences

We look forward to our student led conferences on the 14th July. During the conference your child will share discuss their progress and achievement against the goals set in Term 1 and their new learning goals for the remainder of the school year. You will receive a written report outlining these achievements, learning goals and the support you can give your child to further enhance their learning.

Wonderful Achievement

Congratulations to Emmalee Harrison from room 22 who recently competed in An american cheerleading competition. Emmalee's team did extremely well and have brought home a gold medal.

An open invitation to all our
mums and grand-mums

Mothers Day
High Tea
2- 3pm
The Hall

RSVP – 271 1077 by Thursday

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Would your child like to learn to play a musical instrument? KBB AllStar Band Programme is proud to offer lessons for a wide range of instruments at Willowbank School in 2011.

- For Clarinet, Saxophone, Trombone, Glockenspiel, Flute, Trumpet, Snare Drum lessons and enquiries please contact:

Leon Dumper Ph:021 366 443

Email:leon@allstarbp.co.nz www.allstarbp.co.nz

Have a wonderful fortnight,

Deidre Alderson

Principal