

7th December 2009

This is the final newsletter for 2009.

Willowbank Of Arts Festival

WOW! What a fantastic finale to our inquiry, 'How do I communicate my ideas to the world?' The event showcased the children's learning over the last two terms in different Art media. We had over 1200 visitors to our Festival, thank you for your support and for the incredible number of messages of congratulations we received both during the night and over the last two weeks. We are hoping to produce a DVD of the event soon and will let you know via this webpage when it is available for purchase.

If you have not yet seen the Year 4, 5 and 6 stunts on youtube the addresses are:

Year 4 Stunt

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMQwY7aegiQ>

Year 5 Stunt

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tGLFfi6RnQ>

Year 6 Stunt

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17iJEPQPuX8>

Helpers Morning Tea

Thank you again to all the wonderful people who supported the school in so many different ways over the year. It was a pleasure to have you as our guests on Friday and we hope you enjoyed the morning. A very special thank you to our PTA who have worked tirelessly to raise much-needed funds. Without this support we would not be able to provide those little (or big) extras like the Kapa Haka uniforms, the digital projectors for each class and the café blinds for Kiwi Awhina.

To Scot and our BoT my sincere thanks for a great year, it has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you in the governance of our school.

Reports and Portfolios

Your child will bring home their End Of Year Report and assessment portfolio this Friday. This report summarises your child's learning over the year in the key learning areas of Literacy and Numeracy. In the portfolio you will see an accompanying document entitled 'How to read this report'. This provides you with details on aligning the achievement rubric, an indicator of learning expectations at each year level to your child's achievements.

Please look through the portfolio with your child and return it to school on Monday the 14th December.

To make things a little less stressful over the holidays we will be introducing the children to their next teacher before the end of the year. In the portfolio you will also find a letter addressed to your child from their 2010 class teacher. Please

remove this from the portfolio to keep. Next week the 2010 classes will meet with teachers (in most cases) to settle a few nerves and have a chat.

2010 Staff

We have some changes to our staff next year, mainly in year level and leadership.

Our teaching staff for 2010:

Principal: Deidre Alderson

Deputy Principals: Jane Danielson and Julie Cowan

Assistant Principals: Leigh Steel and Lisa Bonniface

Team Kiwi (Year 0 and 1)

Jo Thompson – Team Leader

Ginelle Webb

Natasha Hsu

Team 1

Marie Todd (nee Blair) – Team Leader

Juliana Lee

Megan Cameron

Sally Ross

Team 2

Lisa Neish – Team Leader

Jo Black

Kathy Danielz

Colleen Wilkie

Vanessa Carnie

Team 3

Kirsty Gray – Team Leader

Jessie Somervill

Eden Freeman

Halina Varcoe

One teacher yet to be appointed

Team 4

Marissa Kruse – Team Leader

Keren Copeland

Carmel Long (new to Willowbank)

Cheryl McLeod

Year 5

Ange Rasmussen – Team Leader

Heather Lane

Clare Greenwood

Tina Joshua-Barge

Connie Morrish

Brett Munro

Year 6

James O'Brien – Team Leader

Jean Holder

Karina Powys

Alana McKay

Olivia Calder

Specialist Teachers:

Maureen Agnew ICT facilitator and Team Leader

Angela Cullen – Reading Recovery and ESOL

Liz Macfarlane – Reading Recovery and ESOL

Christine Kendall – Release

Administration Staff

Michelle Wilson – Executive Officer

Calleigh Simpson – School Receptionist

Brenda Causer – Resource Manager
Carole Brainch – Admin
Murray Naylor – Caretaker

Support Staff

Sandra Christiansen – Teaching Assistant – ESoL
Jocelyn Gardener – Library
Amanda Harris – Specialist Support
Dawn Nicol – Specialist Support
Karen Douglas – ESoL support
Carla Hart – Specialist Support
Sue Mitchell – Specialist Support
Martha Straytom – Specialist Support

Staff leaving

It is always difficult to say goodbye to our much loved and admired staff members. This year we farewell six teachers;

Mr David Wilcock, moving to Farm Cove Intermediate as a syndicate leader.

Miss Amanda Bell, moving to Maraetai Beach.

Miss Karen Gilligan, moving to Wellington as a Resource Teacher Vision.

Miss Tarsha Myles, moving to Meadowbank School.

Mrs Sarah Nancolas, moving to Somerville Intermediate, responsible for the GaTe programme.

Miss Rachel Versloot also leaves us this year. We wish our leaving teachers much success for the future and we will miss you all dearly.

We also farewell the following Support Staff; Melissa Redshaw, Erica Dam, Ruth Gillingham, Sharlene Apaipora and Jeanne Hill.

Inter-schools Athletics

Congratulations to the children who received places in the inter-schools athletics competition on the 23rd November. A full list of names and places is available on our website.

Congratulations to all our school representatives this year.

Carols Night – Wednesday 9th December from 5.30pm.

Come along and enjoy the evening's entertainment. Rayner Clarke, our Irish dancing champion will be dancing at 6.15pm and Courtney Janssen will sing a selection of songs throughout the evening.

Bring a picnic along or purchase a sausage sizzle or nachos from our PTA. The 'Coffee Guy' will be available for all your coffee and tea needs. Please remember we are a zero waste school and all rubbish needs to leave with you.

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday night.

Year Book

The 2009 Year Book will be on sale in the last week of this term at a cost of \$10. You are able to pre-order a copy by sending \$10 to school in an

envelope with your child's name and classroom number on the front.

Please note: This year due to costs our Yearbook has been reduced in size (and purchasing price) and we will only be printing 200 copies.

Spreading Christmas Cheer

At this time of the year we collect goods to donate to families who are less fortunate and need our support.

Willowbank School is proud to continue its support for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Each year we collect gifts and food items for the Salvation Army. **All items will be gratefully accepted.**

Donated items will be collected from classrooms.

Right Start Programme

We have a limited number of spaces available for our term 1 2010 *Right Start* programme. This programme is designed to transition pre-school children confidently in to their first year of schooling. For further information please email rightstart@willowbankschool.co.nz

Term Dates:

Board of Trustees meeting – tonight 7pm in the staffroom.

Prize giving – Friday 11th December. Juniors 9.15am to 10.45am. Seniors 11am to 1pm.

Year 6 graduation - Monday 14th December.

School closes on Thursday 17th December at 12.30pm. Please arrange to pick your child up from school at this time.

The school office opens on Wednesday 27th January from 8am.

Term 1 2010 starts on Tuesday 2nd February at 8.55am.

Stationery and School Donation information for 2010 is now available on our website beneath this newsletter.

We have had an incredible year; our children never cease to amaze me with their enthusiasm, their attitude to taking new risks in their learning and their nurturing of relationships. Willowbank is an outstanding school because of this. To our students leaving this year, thank you for your contributions to Willowbank and we wish you much success for the future.

On behalf of the staff, students and Board of Trustees, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable, safe and family centred holiday.

**Deidre Alderson
Principal**