



11th October 2010

Welcome back to school for the final term of 2010. I hope you had a fantastic school holiday time with your children.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and their families who join us this term.

We also welcome Mrs Sona Singh to our staff this term. Mrs Singh has taken over from Mrs Black and will be teaching in Room 3 this term.

Up Coming Events

We have a very busy, exciting term ahead with our Market Day, Carols Evening and Three Way Conferences. This week we will send home an overview of school events for you to pin on the fridge door. Although most events are indicated on the overview, there may be a small number of additions or changes. We will keep you up to date through our website, by twitter and through our facebook page.

Our Market Day celebrates the conclusion of our inquiry learning focus of *Enterprise* this year. The children have investigated their products through a range of learning experiences, designed packaging and advertising campaigns all in anticipation of the market day. Our traditional carols evening will follow on from the Market Day.

Up coming events:

- 12.10 Interschool Cross Country
- 12.10 PTA meeting 7pm in the e-learning room
- 14.10 NZEI union meeting for teachers. School will remain open.
- 19.10 Waterwise starts for Year 3,4,5 students
- 21.10 PTA Ice Skating evening
- 25.10 Labour Day Holiday
- 27.10 Assessment reporting to parents of new children in Kiwi Awhina
- 27.10 Reporting to Parents community evening
- 28.10 Reporting to Parents evening for Chinese and Middle Eastern parents
- 29.10 Mufti Day – Bright Colours Day, gold coin donation
- 1.11 Board of Trustees meeting
- 2.11 Touch tournament
- 4.11 Year 6 visit to Somerville Intermediate (for pre enrolled students)
- 9.11 PTA meeting
- 10.11 School athletics day
- 10.11 New Entrant's parent's evening 6pm Kiwi Awhina
- 11.11 Parenting strategies evening
- 12.11 PTA disco
- 22.11 3 Way Conference bookings open on line
- 23.11 Interschool athletics day
- 24.11 Assessment reporting to parents of new children in Kiwi Awhina
- 26.11 Mufti day – Summer fun! Gold coin donation

- 29.11 ASB Get Wise programme starts
- 29.11 BoT meeting
- 30.11 Year 6 trip to Rainbows End
- 1.12 Student reports sent home
- 2.12 3 Way Conferences. School closes at 12.30pm
- 8.12 Market Day and Carols Evening
- 10.12 School Prize-giving assemblies
- 13.12 Year 6 graduation
- 16.12 School closes at 1pm

Last day of term: School will close at 1pm on Thursday 16th December.

First day of term 1 2011: Willowbank School will open for the 2011 school year on Tuesday 1st February at 8.55am.

Student Absence

Please remember that if your child is away you need to ring the school office prior to 9am and leave a message. Your child must bring a note to school explaining the absence on their return to school. We require you to complete an absence request form if your child is to be absent from school for any other reason than illness. The form is available from Calleigh at the office.

It is very important that children are at school prior to the school bell. This gives them time to meet and socialise with their friends, talk with their teacher and to organise their learning day.

School Uniform

As it is now the summer term it's time for children to wear their school hat when outside and they are now able to wear black sandals instead of wearing the covered black school shoes. STOMPS shoe store at Botany has a full range of school shoes and sandals. STOMPS also run a rewards programme, which means that we benefit from every pair of school shoes purchased. Please mention Willowbank School if you purchase shoes from STOMPS.

Further information about uniforms can be found on the website under *School Community / Uniforms* or from John Russell Menswear in Moore Street, Howick. Our bucket style hats are also available from school for \$12.

Children without hats must sit in shaded areas during breaks.

Labelling the school hat can be a bit of a problem but a number of parents are now embroidering their child's name on to their hat and other items of clothing, which is great.

While the weather remains unsettled children will still need to bring a change of clothes if they want to play on the field at lunch times. Hopefully this won't last too much longer.

Out of Zone Enrolment for 2011

Reminder:

Out of Zone Enrolments: Willowbank School and Somerville Intermediate

If you are intending to enroll your child at Somerville Intermediate School in 2011 and you live in zone, you should have by now completed and submitted an enrolment form. If you have not yet completed an in zone enrolment application, could you please contact Somerville Intermediate immediately.

Out of zone enrolment applications for Willowbank School and Somerville Intermediate close at 4pm Friday 15 October and the ballots will be held at each school on Friday 20 October 2010. All out of zone applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of the ballot within 3 school days.

Christchurch Fundraiser

We raised a huge \$2,000 for Ferndale School in Christchurch. This is a fantastic amount and will go a long way to helping staff replace many of the items lost in the earthquake and the robbery. I would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and for supporting this fundraiser. Our children wrote wonderful, and in many cases very moving, cards for the children at two Christchurch schools and the residents at the Laura Fergusson Trust Centre.

PTA Ice Skating Fundraiser

Tickets go on sale this Wednesday for this fantastic family night out.

Place: Paradise Ice Skating

Date: Thursday 21st October 2010

Time: skating starts at 6.45pm (doors open at 6.15pm)

Price: \$12

Tickets are available from the office. Please send money to your child's class teacher in a named envelope, please include the number of tickets required and your child's room number. There is no cost to spectators.

On Site Parking

The school drop off zone is available for parent parking between 9.30am and 2.30pm, drivers must stay in their vehicles at all other times. Please do not leave your vehicle to collect or drop off your child between 8am and 9.30am or after 2.30pm. Occasionally we bring buses or other vehicles on site, which will require the drop off zone to be closed.

Walking School Bus

I was interested to hear that Mr Len Brown, our Super City Mayor elect made special mention of school Walking School Buses and the important part they play in helping to keep road congestion down around schools. We have three Walking School Buses at Willowbank School but often struggle to attach enough adult supervisors to keep the buses operational. If you are able and willing to walk with a bus once a week or more please, please, please let us know – we really

need your support! Please see Mrs Cheryl McLeod in room 32 for more information.

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Te Kani Williams for winning the Auckland 12 year old and under tennis champs in both singles and doubles competitions. Absolutely brilliant Te Kani!

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Willowbank School has a website, twitter account and facebook page which are all ways in which you can keep up to date with parent notices and events at school. Please visit us at www.willowbankschool.co.nz, follow us on twitter @willowbanknz, or like our page on facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Howick/Willowbank-School.

The purpose of our facebook page is to communicate with parents. Please note that we do not condone children having facebook accounts as the terms and conditions of joining facebook clearly state that account holders must be 13 or over. Any comments on facebook from our students will be removed but we welcome comments from parents.

Lunch Orders

At the end of term 3 a new lunch order menu was sent home with the children. There has been a price change to some items due to the rise in GST. Please make sure when ordering lunches that you are using the current price list. If you have misplaced your menu, copies are available from the office.

We look forward to seeing you over the term,

Deidre Alderson

Principal