

31st August 2009

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and their families.

Our Newest Baby



Congratulations to our lovely Teacher Aide, Romie, her husband Oliver and daughter Sophia Sanders on the arrival of their gorgeous baby boy, Callum James Sanders last week.

New Staff Members

A very warm Willowbank School welcome to our two new members of staff – Mrs Sarah Nancolas (Room 9) and Miss Natasha Hsu who will start our next New Entrant class in term 4. Sarah takes over teaching the children in Room 9 from Ms. Amanda Isgrove as she is taking off for her big OE in two weeks time.

Changes to the Office

Thank you for your patience as we make changes to personnel in our admin area. We are currently advertising our front office secretary/receptionist position. To help relieve the pressure on our current office staff please may I ask you to ensure that you call the office prior to 8am in the morning if your child is going to be away from school. Thank you in anticipation.

Principal For The Day

Last week we had the privilege of hosting Mrs Maggie Burrill as our *Principal For The Day*. Mrs Burrill is a Manukau City Councillor on the Botany Community Board.

The *Principal For The Day* programme is organised through COMET (an Educational Trust for Manukau City) with the aim of developing relationships between businesses and local schools.

Mrs Burrill had an amazing day working along side children in their classrooms. She commented both on the prefect manners of our students and of the high quality of learning in the classrooms she visited.

Mrs Burrill was escorted during her visit by two of our wonderful student leaders, Rayner

Clark and Jack Aston (Awhina captains). She was full of praise for their excellent guidance.

2009 Mathathon

The 2009 Mathathon has been a huge success with our children raising \$10700 to date, which is fantastic! However we have only received 280 forms back and we really need to account for all sponsor forms. Please may we ask for all sponsorship forms and money to be back to us by Wednesday of this week, thank you. This money will contribute to the ongoing resourcing of information technology at Willowbank School.

Teachers report an increase in children's basic facts knowledge and this will impact on their maths learning throughout the year. Thank you to the children, parents and sponsors for supporting the children while they learned their basic facts.

Thank you also to the PTA who have collated the sponsorship money and organised the prize draws. We will announce our overall prize winners at Friday's assembly. One child in each year group received a prize in the lucky draw for the children who learned the most facts in each year group.

Thank you all for a great effort this year.

Thank you to Mrs Jane Danielson for her organisation of the Mathathon.

Children Late for School

We continue to have a number of children arriving at school close to or after the 9am bell. It is very important to your child's learning that they arrive at school at least 15 minutes prior to the morning bell. This gives them time to organise themselves for the day by meeting and greeting friends, getting their equipment ready or by chatting to their teacher. Children who arrive late are often disadvantaged through being ill prepared for the day and sometimes find it difficult to settle.

Over the coming weeks I will be making contact with the parents of children who are late to see if together we can solve the problem.

Daffodil Day

Thank you for your wonderful contributions throughout last week and on Friday with our Cosy, Comfy Day. Daffodil Day has been a

charity that Willowbank School has supported since we opened in 2001 and its great to see that as a community we continue to see this as a very worthwhile cause.

Congratulations to Rooms 10 and 22 who did an awesome job of singing outside the National Bank on Friday to raise the awareness of shoppers to Daffodil Day. Our children's daffodil art is on display at the National Bank (Botany).

Cross Country

The children have spent many weeks training for our school cross country which will be held on Thursday the 10th of September.

Morning tea will start at 10.30 and finish at 10.50am on the day so the cross country can start at 11.00am sharp, starting with the Year 0 girls then boys and so on until year 6 children. You are very welcome to come and watch this event.

Congratulations to our cross-country team who finished 3rd in the Pakuranga Cross Country Relays on Sunday. We had the most teams of any school - 8 - and every child finished the course successfully, a great team effort! Thank you to Mrs. Joshua-Bargh and Mr. Wilcock for coaching our teams.

HAIKU poem about the Helicopter visit

It is ENOURMOUS.
Roars like a MAD TORNADO.
Blades run on full speed.

The wind is freezing.
It's way smaller than I thought.
It's a crime searcher.

By Shu Xian Ong
Room 31

MEASLES

Measles is very infectious and can have serious complications. The Ministry of Health urge parents to check their children's measles immunisations are up to date.

Even casual contact with a measles case can be a risk for those not immune and we are particularly concerned about any children who have not been immunised.

Any parents unsure about their children's record can check with their GP or practice

nurse who will arrange for any catch-ups or necessary immunisations.

Measles spreads easily through the air, especially from coughing and sneezing.

The first symptoms to look out for are fever, runny nose, cough and sore, red eyes. After a few days a red rash appears on the face and moves to the rest of the body. Measles may be difficult to diagnose early in the illness because there are many other viruses, including influenza, that cause similar illnesses.

If measles is suspected then call your GP or practice nurse.

Up Coming Events

- Sept 2,3,4 Team 2 visit to the Bird Rescue Centre
- Sept 4 Father's Day Breakfast (Gold Coin Donation)
- Sept 7 KBB – Music Parent Information evening
- Sept 8 PTA meeting
- Sept 10 Whole School Cross-country (11am)
- Sept 11 Young Writers and Illustrators Seminar (group of children with Mrs Cowan)

Celebrating Success

Another huge congratulations to Jessica Croy who came 3rd in the Auckland Road Championships. Jessica was also a member of the team that won gold in the championships.

Community Notices

SKiDs holiday programme is only 3 weeks away and our enrolments are now open. For enrolments or enquiries please contact Claire Williams on 2734229 or 021702498 or email willowbank@skids.co.nz

Animates – Team 2 would like to thank Animates for their support and sponsorship of the Team Budgie.

Animates provide all you need for your pet's special care.

We look forward to seeing all you dads and granddads at our **Father's Day Breakfast** on Friday morning (7.30am).

Deidre Alderson

Principal