



1st February 2011

A very Happy Chinese New Year to our families celebrating the Year of the Rabbit.

On behalf of the Willowbank staff and the Board of Trustees welcome to the 2011 school year.

A very happy birthday to George our mascot and Willowbank School!

We turn 10 this year and plan to celebrate in style! We have a wiki that you are able to join to meet up with old friends, keep up to date with events and to share your ideas or memories. Our wiki address is <http://willowbank10.wikispaces.com> If you know families who have now left the school please pass our wiki address on to them. We look forward to a great year of celebration!

Staff Changes

A very warm welcome back to Mrs Verna Cameron and Mrs Bianca Brook, both teachers are returning from maternity leave and it is wonderful to have them with us again. Verna is with our new entrant children in Kiwi Awhina and Bianca is teaching Year 4 in room 6. We also welcome two new staff members, Miss Gina Grant who will be team teaching with Verna in Kiwi Awhina and Mr Sean Moran who is teaching Year 6 in Room 29. It is however with regret that we lose Mrs Michelle Wilson soon. Michelle will leave us on the 18th February to take up a new position at Maraetai School. Michelle has been an important member of our school since 2002 and she will be sadly missed. We wish Michelle much success in her new job. Mrs Chris Day will take over the role of executive officer from the 21st February.

Our Staff List

Our staff list is available on our website at willowbankschool.co.nz.

ERO Review

Our brilliant 2010 ERO report is available on line at <http://www.ero.govt.nz/Early-Childhood-School-Reports/School-Reports/Willowbank-School-Howick-07-12-2010>

School Uniforms

Our children looked fabulous today in their school uniforms. If you are unsure about our uniform requirements you are able to view both the summer and winter uniform on our website. Reminder: children must wear black school shoes or sandals. The school hat is compulsory during term 1 and term 4, you are able to purchase the to

school hat from the office for \$13.50.

Second Hand Uniform Sale and Year 4 to 6 PE uniform.

The Second Hand Uniform stall will be open tomorrow morning from 8.30am until 9am and Thursday 3rd February from 2.45 – 3.30pm in the staffroom.

This year we are changing the way the PE uniform will be sold. The uniform will be sold in Week 1 and Week 5 of each term. The PE uniform can be purchased from the uniform stall tomorrow and Thursday and again in Week 5. If you are unable to call in to purchase the uniform children are able to bring their money and order form to school on Thursday morning only and it will be delivered to their classroom.

A huge thank you to Mrs Barbara Cross for her organisation and supervision of the uniform store. This year Barbara ran our first ever second hand uniform sale, which was well received and highly successful.

Starting Right

Our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Thursday 17th February will provide you with the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to find out more about the learning, special events and activities your child will be involved in over the coming year. If you would like an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher before this date please call in or send a note to school to set up a time to meet.

School Opening Hours

Although children are welcome to enter the school grounds from 8am, teachers are not in their classrooms until 8.30am so children in the grounds before this time are unsupervised. SKIDS provide a comprehensive before and after school care programme for children who require supervision outside of school hours. Please contact Clare Williams on 021 702 490 for further information.

Bell Times:

Our classes start at 8.55am. All children are expected to be in their classrooms, prepared for the day prior to the first bell. This preparation is extremely important as it ensures children have organised themselves for the day, have met with friends and have spoken with their class teacher. Children arriving late to school often interrupt the learning of others as they rush to join in with the classroom programme.

ZeroWaste School

As a 'ZeroWaste' school we ask that children take

all lunch wrappers home with them in their lunchbox. We only provide bins for food waste and plastics. A good way to cut down on landfill waste is for children to bring their lunches in re-usable plastic containers or zip-lock bags instead of plastic wraps.

Paper Recycling – ‘Paper From Homes’ Initiative

The Paper from Homes initiative is a fundraising partnership between our school and Fullcircle Recycling – New Zealand’s leading paper recycling company.

To support this fundraiser all you have to do is bring your used paper (including newspapers, junk mail, magazines, books, and flattened cardboard boxes) to school and place it in one of the two large ‘Paper From Homes’ bins we have beside the front entry gates to the school.

Fullcircle Recycling will empty the bins and pay the school for the paper placed in them. So, the more paper from homes, the more money the school will earn whilst helping to create a better environment for us all.

Parking in and Around Willowbank School

Parking within the school grounds is restricted to staff only. The drop off zone (the driver must remain in the vehicle) is open to all parents and caregivers in the morning but due to the volume of afternoon traffic we are only able to admit parents with parking permits. Please do not park in the staff parks opposite the drop off zone.

Permits are available to parents/caregivers who:

- Have infant children in the vehicle and are collecting Year 0/1 children
- Have mobility stickers
- Are collecting children with mobility disabilities.

Applications for Parking Permits are available from Calleigh in the office.

Walking School Bus

A great way to relieve the stress of driving to the school and having to spend an age finding a legal park is to sign your child up for the Walking School Bus. Our Walking School Buses operate each afternoon and leave the school grounds at approximately 3.05pm. We have 3 buses, each providing children with adult supervision as they walk home from school or to meet up with parents away from the school gate. Our 3 bus routes are: along Middlefield Drive to Kilkenny Drive; Middlefield Drive to Rialto Court; and Gracechurch Drive to the traffic lights on Chapel Road.

If you would like to support this wonderful

programme by becoming a Walking School Bus Parent please contact Mr Brett Munro in Room 32.

PTA

Our fabulous PTA will hold their first meeting for the year on the Tuesday 8th February at 7pm in the e-learning room. Our PTA work extremely hard on behalf of the students and staff of our school and we really need your support. New members are very welcome! Please come along and meet the wonderful members and find out a little more about what they do.

School Lunches

School lunches are available daily. The current menu is included with this newsletter. Please send lunch orders to your child’s class teacher in an envelope clearly labeled with your child’s name and room number.

Up Coming Events

- 3.2 Chinese New Year begins
- 3.2 Second hand and PE uniform sale 2:45-3:30pm
- 8.2 Triple P Parenting Through Separation session
- 8.2 PTA meeting
- 17.2 Meet the Teacher Evening
- 18.2 Team 5 leading Yr 1, 3, 5 assembly
- 19.2 Willowbank Netball Club Trials

2011 School Year Dates

Term One dates: 1.2.2011 until 15.4.2011

Term Two dates: 3.5.2011 until 15.7.2011

Term Three dates: 1.8.2011 until 7.10.2011

Term Four dates: 25.10.2011 until 16.12.2011

Please note term 2 starts on Tuesday 3rd May to allow for teacher training.

Reminder:

If you are taking a holiday during term time it is important that you complete an absence form for your child/ren.

Due to education regulations concerning the number of days children are expected to attend school, holidays longer than 5 school days must be discussed with me.

We look forward to seeing you all soon at our Meet the Teacher evening. Remember to check out the Willowbank School 10th year celebration wiki.

Deidre Alderson
Principal

Reminder: our newsletters go online on a Monday once a fortnight. Our website address is www.willowbankschool.co.nz

If you would like the newsletter emailed to you please complete the form on our newsletter page.