

11th May 2009

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

Mother's Day High Tea

I hope all our mums were suitably spoilt on Sunday with at least a cup of tea in bed.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our High Tea. We hope you enjoyed your afternoon with us.

Weren't the tablecloths great? Each class decorated a tablecloth with messages and artwork especially for their mums.

Thank you to Lisa Bonniface (team 4 team leader) for organising this event and the staff for providing the food.

Thank you also to our Awhina Captains and the school choir for making the afternoon just that extra bit special. Photos of our High Tea are available on our website.

I can see this event becoming a permanent one on our social calendar.

Community Consultation

A huge thank you to all those parents who braved the first of the bad weather to attend our community meeting on the New Zealand Curriculum last Wednesday. We had a superb evening, with lots of discussion around both the vision of our school and assessment.

You can find the notes from our discussion on our school website.

We also discussed the development of our Guiding Principles. For those parents who attended the evening and are keen to participate in on-line discussions please join our google.doc by emailing Frances on info@willowbankschool.co.nz

Through out this year we will continue with our community consultation around the implementation of the revised New Zealand Curriculum. Our next meetings will be for our parents from Middle Eastern and Asian countries. Letters inviting you to these meetings will be sent home tomorrow.

PTA

Trivial Pursuits Evening – Have you got your ticket yet? Tickets are available from PTA members and Michelle.

PTA meeting – come along to our meeting tomorrow night, 7pm in the e-learning room.

Chocolates – Congratulations to all our chocolate sellers – we are well on the way to raising \$20,000 towards our ICT equipment. Fantastic!

The chocolate sales end on the 15th May. Please may we have all money and or outstanding chocolates returned by this date. Major prizes will be announced on 19th May. We have a few extra boxes of chocolates to sell if you would like to help us even further – please contact Michelle in the office.

Entertainment Book – Thanks to everyone who has purchased an Entertainment book this year – my children have already been through mine and extracted large numbers of coupons! They are not only a brilliant way to save money on outings but to also discover new and fun activities, cafes and restaurants. Happy exploring.

Sports

Soccer Field Days

Unfortunately due to the weather conditions the soccer field day was cancelled. However our interschool competition starts next week, further information on sports events is available on our website.

Learning At School

Our Home learning procedures are now available to you on our Website. By the end of next week all teams will have posted their Home Learning Expectations for week 5 onwards. These will be located on the website in the Learning Environment section.

Testing

Over the next few weeks the Year 4,5 and 6 children will be completing their standardised reading testing. These tests known as PROBE test each child's decoding abilities and their ability to make meaning from text. Children read from a graded (age norm) text and then answer reorganisation, vocabulary and inference questions relating to the text. Once analysed, your child's teacher will combine the data collected from this test with that from the AsTTle Reading and ongoing anecdotal notes to adjust your child's reading programme.

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 children will bring home their AsTTle results in their portfolios in Week 7.

Ministry of Education – Assessment Community Consultation Meetings

Over the next few months the Ministry of Education will be consulting with different Educational groups and communities on the proposed Assessment National Standards. As yet there are no set dates for the community meetings but we will keep you informed as

these will be very important meetings and it will be valuable for our community to be actively involved in this consultation.

Right Start Programme

Congratulations to Kirsty Gray and Jo Thompson for the successful first day of the **Right Start Programme**.

In association with SKIDs (before and after school programme) Kirsty has developed an excellent pre-entry programme which will help children establish the skills they need to transition easily into school on their 5th birthday. This programme is open to all children aged 4.6 months and over who are pre-enrolled at Willowbank School. It does not replace the traditional two morning pre-school visits but adds a new dimension to how we transition children to school. For more information on this programme please contact Michelle in the office.

ESoL Parents Open Afternoon

A reminder to our parents of children who are in the E.S.O.L classes with Mrs Cullen, Mrs Christensen and Ms Harris that there is an informal afternoon tea in the E.S.O.L classroom at 2pm on Wednesday this week. Everyone is welcome.

Changes to our Newsletter

As we develop our digital capabilities and encourage children to use ICT more we are learning ways to communicate more effectively and limit the impact on resources. Part of this has been through the successful launch of our website and the Year 4 to 6 children using their flash-drives instead of printing out draft documents.

In line with this we are hoping that this will be the last paper newsletter distributed to every family on a Monday. From Week 5 (25th May) our newsletter will be available on-line each Monday on the alternate week. This will effectively cut down on waste and photocopying costs but it will also ensure that the newsletter is more efficiently distributed. It will mean that you are able to access information quickly and refer to previous issues. The number of parents who tell me that they

haven't read the latest newsletter always surprises me. Hopefully this will make it easier for you all.

If you do however still require a hard copy please may I ask you to complete the form below and return it to school tomorrow. Thank you for your support.

Of course we will still send out the occasional important notice when needed.

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Miss Andrea Peterson, Miss Karina Powys, Miss Megan Cameron and Mrs Alana McKay who received their Bachelor of Teaching degrees this month.

Congratulations also to Mrs Jane Danielson who received her Masters in Educational Leadership.

Te Kani Williams (Year 4, Room 7) also has a lot to celebrate, he recently won two tennis tournaments. His accomplishments include winning the Boys' 10 Singles 2009 Northern Easter Open and the Boys' 10 Singles for Auckland 2009 April Tournament.

Te Kani is currently number one in his age group in New Zealand and has just started the Advanced Academy Programme. What a fantastic achievement Te Kani!

Emma Watkins, from Room 4 came to share her amazing achievements in gymnastics with me this morning. Emma gained a 1st in the team event at Waitakere gymnastics competition, along with a 3rd in the individual for the bar and 3rd overall individual placing at level 1B. Congratulations Emma!

Community Notice

Hockey Player Wanted

Yr 3 or Yr 4 child (boy or girl) is needed for the Howick & Pakuranga Hockey Club 6 aside Crimson team. Practice is every Monday 3.45-4.45pm at Somerville Intermediate and competition games are held on Saturday mornings at various hockey venues. The hockey season runs from May through to September & at least one year of hockey experience desirable. "6 Crimson" is great little team that has won their first two games, so if you are interested please contact Pamela on 271-4611 for more information.

Please complete this form IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO OUR WEBSITE AND WISH TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER IN HARDCOPY

Name of eldest child at Willowbank: _____ Rm: _____

Please return this form to Michelle in the office.
Thank you.

Paradice Skate School & Ice Hockey School 6 week classes starting soon! Auckland needs new young Ice Hockey Players & Figure Skaters.

Enjoy the exhilaration of these ice-sports.

Beginners Welcome! Learn to skate the easy way with Paradice instructors. Classes for beginner to advanced skaters from 6 years+ We follow the national skate school programme "Kiwi Skate" with a total of 12 levels.

Childrens Class

Tuesday 4-5pm, starts 26 May.

All Ages Class

Saturday 9.15-10.15am starts 30 May.

Mums & Dad can learn too!

Adults only Class

Tues 10am starts 26 May. Weds 7pm starts 27 May.

Ice Hockey Class

Mondays 5-6pm starts 25 May; Saturday Adult 11.15-12.05 starts 30 May

All fees include admission, equipment hire and tuition. Enrol at Paradice, Cnr Ti Rakau Dr & Botany Rd, Botany Downs. Ph: 273 2999 ext 6, Fax: 274 5551 Email: botany@paradice.co.nz

www.paradice.co.nz.

**THE FIRST EVER
INDOOR
ICE CRICKET MATCH
IN NEW ZEALAND**



WHERE: Paradice Ice Rink
SEATED: 4:45pm

WHEN: 24 May 2009
DINNER: 7:45pm

THE NIGHT!

Opening ceremony and launch of Ice Cricket by
Sir Richard Hadlee

Half time speed chase Celebrity Challenge

Gala Dinner on Ice

Charity Auction in aid of Heart Children

With Mark Sumich (Australasian Champion Auctioneer)

THE PLAYERS!

Shane Bond, Chris Harris, Mark Richardson,
Dion Nash, Dipak Patel

Shane Thompson, Bryan Young, Robbie Hart, Tony Blaine,
Kerry Walmsley, Brooke Walker, James Marshall,
Colin de Grandhomme, Jamie Newth

TICKETS!

GALA Tickets: \$120 per person or \$1000 per table of 10.

Match tickets: \$15 per person or \$45 for a family pass
(2 adults and 2 children w/14 or 1 adult and 3 children w/14)

FAST, FUN & UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENT!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PARADICE ICE RINK BOTANY OR
BOOK NOW AT Howick Pakuranga Cricket Club! PHONE 09-576 5602