



14th September 2009

A very warm welcome to our new children and their families.

Last two weeks of term 3

This is the last newsletter for this term – not sure where the weeks have gone! We have as usual managed to pack so much into the term and I would like to thank you for participating in so many of our events. We look forward to seeing everyone at our major term 4 event – The Willowbank Arts Festival on the 25th November from 6pm. David Wilcock, our Arts Director describes the event...

This event will showcase our Inquiry learning focus of *'How do I share my ideas with the world?'*

The Festival is designed to be a celebration of the children's learning and in particular their artistic achievements. The Festival will include a photography exhibition, an art exhibition, kapa haka and musical performances, as well as Year group performances!

Years 0-3 will be performing a mix of dance, drama and song, based on the different ways to communicate fairy tales. The children are attempting to communicate their 'story' to as many people as possible.

Years 4-6 are going to be presenting a short film each based on their different public theatrical performances in Auckland. The students have selected their type of performance and, as part of their inquiry learning, will subsequently decide on the best way to communicate their idea to as many people as possible.

More information next term.

Portfolios

The portfolio your child brought home last week is a snap shot of their learning achievements over the last term. We hope you enjoyed sharing the portfolio with your child and took time to discuss their learning.

Please ensure your child's portfolio is returned to school by the end of this week. Thank you.

Sports Events

Our children have been involved in many sports events this term.

Our **soccer, hockey, netball and rugby** teams have competed in interschool competitions over the term and in major field days. Congratulations to all children involved in these events.

Our **gymnastic team** recently competed in the Eastern Zone competition.

Congratulations to all competitors. Our winning individuals and teams were:

Emma Watkins - 1st place for Year 4 girls

Keegan Bezuidenhout - 4th place for the Year 4 boys

Year 3 girls - 3rd place overall

Year 4 girls - 3rd place overall

On Friday Emma and Keegan went on to represent the Eastern Zones in the Auckland Gym competition finals where Keegan took 3rd place. A fantastic result! Thank you to our gym team coaches, Miss Varcoe and Miss Copeland.

Cross Country

Several weeks of daily training paid off for our children on Thursday when they competed in the school cross-country finals.

Our top finalists in each year level will compete in the zone finals tomorrow.

I was particularly impressed with the improved level of fitness and general well being of all children who took part in the daily training.

Thanks to Miss Copeland for the organisation of this event, Mr Wilcock and Mrs Joshua-Bargh for coaching our Year 5 and 6 cross country team.

Mathathon

Thank you once again for your support of our Mathathon, to date we have raised more than \$11,000.

Our prize winners for raising the most amount of money through sponsorship are:

Rebecca Patel – Room 28

Grace Alderson-Green – Room 14

Carlos Tarawhiti – Room 32

Casey Stone – Room 32

If you do still have a sponsor sheet or Mathathon money at home, please may I ask you to return it to school as soon as possible. A huge THANK YOU to Mrs Pamela Kirtlan for organising the financial aspects of the Mathathon.

Lost property

We have accumulated a small pile of lost property over the term. This will be on display to be claimed on Wednesday 23rd September on the seats outside rooms 3 and 4.

Buildings

Construction has begun on the new learning space attached to Kiwi Awhina. We expect the construction to take approximately 10 weeks.

At the completion of this project we will begin the construction of the new Awhina space outside Rooms 14, 15 and 16.

For Health and Safety reasons this area and the side entry doors to Room 17 and Kiwi Awhina are blocked off.

Preparing for Term 4

Term 4 heralds in the summer and the need for hats, sunscreen and sunglasses. All children will need to have a hat on when outside from the beginning of term 4. As the weather warms children will also need to change into the summer uniform. Uniforms and the school regulation hats are available from John Russell Menswear in Howick.

In conjunction with the Cancer Society we recommend children apply sunscreen before school. Your child is very welcome to bring a named tube of sunscreen to school to re-apply at lunchtime. Children are encouraged to wear sunglasses when outside. Please make sure that all items are clearly named.

Drop Off Zone

Reminder: please do not park in the drop off zone (this is designed for quick drop offs or pick ups only) between 8.30 and 9.30am and 2.30 and 3.20pm or the admin parking spaces at any time, thank you.

Parking Near The School

Finding a park near the school can be very difficult, however your child is able to join the *Walking School Bus* and meet up with you further along the road. The *Walking School Buses* are groups of children walking with an adult along a particular school route. With summer coming it is an ideal opportunity for your child to join one of our three buses. However if you do choose to park near the school please respect our neighbours by following the parking rules. Please:

- Don't park in driveways
- Don't park in the clearways along Middlefield Drive and Willowbank Close.
- Don't stop on the yellow lines

Thank you for your support.

The Walking School Bus

If you would like to enrol your child on the *Walking School Bus* please pick up an enrolment form from the office. We are also keen for more parents to help out on the *Buses*. If you walk home with your child and would like the opportunity to lead or support a *Walking School Bus* please let us know (talk with Halina Varcoe or Cheryl McCleod).

Kapa Haka Group

The Willowbank Kapa Haka group will be performing on Wednesday 16 September at Edgewater College in the annual Koanga Festival. Our Kapa Haka children have been practicing all year with their tutor Mr Te Kani Williams, assisted by Sharlene Apaipora (our absolute thanks to Mr Williams and Ms Apaipora). We are sure that our Kapa Haka group will do us proud on Wednesday night and wish them all the best for their performance. Should you wish to support them the Koanga begins at 5pm and a gold coin donation is appreciated.

Up Coming PTA Events

Ice Skating – Tickets are now on sale for this special event. We have booked Paradise Skating rink for Thursday 24th September from 6.30pm until 8pm.

Your child has brought home a special notice and ticket order form for this event.

Our **PTA Disco** on Friday 18th September is themed, *Weird and Wacky* – a great opportunity for your child to wear a funky hairdo and or their weirdest clothing!

The junior disco (Year 0 -3 children) starts at **5.30pm and finishes at 6.45pm**. The senior disco (Year 4 – 6 children) starts at **7pm and finishes at 8.15pm**. Children must be picked up from the disco – no child will be allowed to leave the hall without an adult.

2010 Calendars

Yes we will be doing the wonderful calendar art again this year. Information will come home early next term on how to order the calendars or cards displaying your child's artwork. These make fantastic Christmas or thank you gifts.

No Cell Phones At School

Recently I was asked about children bringing cell phones to school. Our current policy on this is that children should not bring their cell phone to school. Cell phone use is very difficult to monitor and many secondary schools have experienced negative behaviours in their use. Eventually we do see a place for cell phone use in ICT but at the moment the policy remains – no cell phones at school please. If you do need to contact your child during the day please phone the office and a message will be forwarded to your child's classroom. Thank you.

Netball Finals – Wednesday Lunch Time

Wednesday is the **BIG FINALS DAY** for our Year 6 team who, for the second year in a row are in the grand final. You are very welcome to come along to support our fabulous team. A fantastic season girls, good luck for the finals.

Keys To The Grounds

Although we need to keep our grounds and buildings safe from the vandals it is also important to us that our community have the opportunity to use the grounds in the weekends. Next term we will be providing gate keys to the community for use outside of school hours. A key will cost \$25 with a bond

of \$20. If you are interested in further information please contact the school office.

Enrolments For Our Pre-School Programme – *Right Start*

Do you have a pre-school child who will be starting school in Term 1 2010?

In conjunction with SKiDs we offer a pre-start programme specifically designed to introduce and seamlessly transition your child in to school. We are currently taking enrolments for the Term 4 programme (children who will start school late Term 4 or in Term 1 2010). For more information please contact the office.

Community Notices

Pop Star School - Singing/Dancing/Theatresports

(Ages 5-15) COST \$85 (1 day)

Live the pop star dream for a day and learn some valuable skills along the way! We have a jam-packed day full of singing, dancing and theatre sports - all to your favourite Hannah Montana, Camp Rock and High School Musical songs! Taught in a relaxed environment, not only is this educational, we put great emphasis on the fun factor! Seats are limited so don't miss out, book online now at www.partyatyours.co.nz or call us on **441 0202**. **Venue:** Howick Fencible Hall/Library 30 Sept - 9am - 4pm.

Have fun and make new friends in the school holidays. We have an amazing variety of activities for children 5 to 14 years. Join us weekdays from 28 September to 9 October for: pet detectives, rapping and rhyming, Young Entrepreneurial Ventures and outdoor laser skirmish to name a few.

Please enrol early to secure a place in these popular programmes.

Phone Parnell Trust 379 2095 x9724, email pfc@parnell.org.nz or visit www.parnell.org.nz

ANIMAL CARE WORKSHOPS THIS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

The JPK Animal Care Workshop is a unique experience for kids who love animals. Designed by a zoologist and taught by vet nurses, students learn practical animal care

and handling skills at the Animal Learning Centre, Herne Bay.

Interact with a range of pets including lizards, chinchillas, frogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, rats, tropical fish, axolotls, newts, mice, turtles and lots more! Also covers animal careers and animal first aid. Workshops for up to 7yrs, and 8-14yrs. Advanced '201' class also available over the 8-9th of October.

SEPT/OCT 09 HOLIDAY WORKSHOP DATES:

Junior Petkeeper Safari for up to 7yrs (\$49)

Monday 28th Sept 9.30 – 11am

Wednesday 7th Oct 1 – 2.30pm

JPK 101 Animal Care Workshops

(2 day workshop) 8-14yrs (\$125, 6 hrs total)

28-29th Sept Monday/Tuesday 2.30 - 5.30pm
daily

1-2nd Oct Thursday/Friday 9.30 - 12.30pm
daily

1-2nd Oct Thursday/Friday 1.30 - 4.30pm
daily

5-6th Oct Monday/Tuesday 2.30 – 5.30pm
daily

To book please phone Sally at Oracle Education on 09 376 2024, email sally@oracle.ac.nz or visit www.hippo.co.nz for more information.

Somerville Intermediate 2010 Enrolments

If you are intending to enrol your child at Somerville Intermediate School in 2010 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 close at 4.00 pm Friday 16 October and the ballot will be held on Friday 23 October 2009. All out of zone applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of the ballot within 3 school days.

Kelly Sports: After School "Summer Sports Series" Programme at Willowbank Primary School. Kelly Sports is offering a Summer Sports Series Programme at Willowbank Primary School after school on Fridays from 3.10pm to 4.10pm.

Designed especially for year 1 to 6 children.

A whole range of sports are on offer including 'Fast Feet', T.Ball, Touch Rugby and Cricket plus heaps

of other fun games like dodge ball and 'run the gauntlet'. The first 10

enrolments receive a FREE Kelly Sports t-shirt.

Contact Mike or Wendy Speck

on 576 4744 or mike@kellysports.co.nz for more info or visit our website

www.kellysports.co.nz

Kelly Sports Holiday Programme

Kelly Sports is running their multisport Sports Mad holiday programme for

primary school children at Farm Cove Intermediate during the 2nd week of the

school holidays from 9.00am to 12.00pm. For more details or to enroll

contact Mike or Wendy Speck on 576 4744 or email mike@kellysports.co.nz or

visit our website www.kellysports.co.nz

Remember school closes at 3pm on 25th September for the school holidays. The 4th Term starts on 12th October. Have a brilliant school holidays.

Deidre and the Willowbank School staff.