

## **27<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

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

### **Cupcake Day**

Our Cupcake Day was a huge success. We raised nearly \$1,000 for the SPCA. Thank you to the parents, grandparents and friends of our Year 6 children who baked over 900 cupcakes for the day.

Thank you to Miss Amanda Bell for organising this fun event. Amanda has been a volunteer for the SPCA for many years and knows first hand just how valuable our contribution will be towards the health and wellbeing of so many displaced, hurt and abandoned animals.

I would also like to thank Mrs Michelle Wilson and our fabulous Awhina captains for icing and delivering all the cupcakes ready for morning tea.

### **Canteen Bandannas**

It's great to see so many children (and parents) wearing the Canteen Bandannas. Thanks to all who supported the cause and purchased a bandanna from our Awhina captains.

### **Allergies**

Through the Cupcake Day preparations we learned of more children who have mild to severe food allergies. If your child has or develops an allergy to anything, please let us know. It is very important that we have the most up to date medical records possible, thank you in anticipation.

### **Food Safety**

Reminder: to ensure the safety of all children please do not send food to school to share amongst the children

unless you have discussed your intentions with your child's class teacher at least two weeks prior to the occasion. We have a special letter that needs to go home so that parents are well informed and dietary needs can be taken into consideration.

### **Hands Up for Teachers Day**

This Friday is 'Hands Up For Teachers Day'

We'll be joining thousands of other schools around New Zealand at exactly 12.30 on Friday 30 October to put their "Hands Up for Learning!"

The synchronized countdown is to celebrate World Teachers Day and the power of teaching and learning.

Investing in teaching and learning is fundamental to building a strong and healthy society.

"By putting our "Hands Up for Learning" we'll be celebrating all the great teachers around New Zealand. We're saying that we value teachers and believe they do a great job in equipping our young learners for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

You are very welcome to join us on Friday afternoon from 12.15pm when we will come together for Jump Jam and then the national count down at 12.30pm.

### **The New National Standards**

Last week the new National Standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics were launched by the Minister of Education, Mrs Anne Tolley. The National Standards will come into effect from the beginning of 2010. The standards show what New Zealand children are expected to be able to do in reading, writing and mathematics at each period or year of schooling.

Over the next few months we will be reviewing our current reporting process to ensure we meet the requirements of the National Standards.

#### **Year 4 – 6 stunts/performances**

Our children are trying to find solutions to the inquiry question, 'How can I communicate my ideas to the world?' The Year 4, 5 and 6 children have arranged performance stunts that target unsuspecting audiences and are then communicated to the world through the internet.

On Friday our Year 5 children completed their stunt (performance) in support of the 350 Summit. The children chanted and sung as they shared their message with the Queen Street shoppers. You can view their stunt by going to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReemanNIHpw>

Congratulations to the Team 5 children and staff for their very impressive and well organised stunt.

I look forward to seeing the Year 4 and 6 stunts later this week.

You will be able to view the stunts on-line and at our Arts Festival on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **BoT meeting**

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm.

Are you interested in standing for the Board in the next elections (April 2010)?

Please come and join us next Monday to find out more about the workings of a School Board of Trustees. Please contact Michelle for further information.

#### **Being Sun Smart**

##### **Hats – Reminder**

All children should now be wearing the school bucket hat when outside during the school day.

Children should be encouraged to apply a good quality sun-screen before coming to school and are able to wear sunglasses when outside during the summer months.

#### **Carnival**

Planning is now underway for our traditional school Carnival in mid March 2010.

The PTA Carnival team are working on providing fun, family oriented activities that everyone will enjoy. The carnival will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010 from 10am until 2pm.

#### **Up Coming Events**

- 27.10 Waterwise Room 9
- 28.10 Year 4 stunt
- 30.10 Year 6 stunt
- 30.10 'Hands Up For Teachers'
- 2.11 Board of Trustees meeting
- 3.11 Waterwise Room 26
- 5.11 Somerville orientation
- 9.11 Sun Smart Week

#### **Keys to the Grounds**

On Wednesday we will be sending out contracts to those of you who have requested keys to the grounds for use in the weekends.

If you would like to apply for a key, please ring Michelle in the office for a contract.

**Have a fantastic week,  
Deidre Alderson  
Principal**