



30th May 2011

On behalf of the staff and our school community I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and their families.

Ngā mihi o te tau hou Matariki - Greetings for the start of the Maori New Year

The Matariki stars can be seen rising just before dawn in the last few days of May or the beginning of June every year. Matariki celebrations usually begin on the day of the first new moon following its rising.

Matariki, the star cluster that heralds the start of the Aotearoa Pacific New Year, is important to Māori and Pacific people and other cultures around the world as it is said that the stars indicate the warmth and productivity of the coming summer.

Telethon Thank You

I was totally overwhelmed by your generosity during our collection week for the Rise Up Christchurch telethon. As a community we need to be extremely proud of what we achieved. We raised just under \$2,500 – and as the teachers are still contributing to the fundraising efforts we donated exactly \$2,500 to the telethon. The representative I spoke to on the day was blown away with the amount and you may have seen their reaction on your television screen. If you missed it you can catch it on our facebook page. Again, thank you for your support. I especially thank those of you who donated daily in our drop off zone – some of you twice per day – all with a smile and best wishes.

As mentioned the staff will continue to donate to Christchurch this term through our *Casual Fridays* fundraiser. You may have noticed the staff in jeans or other more casual attire. For a donation they can dress casually each Friday over term 2.

Mufti Day/Sausage Sizzle

Don't forget our sausage sizzle and mufti day this Friday. It's a gold coin donation for mufti. Sausage sizzle notices will go home on Wednesday. All profits will go towards the purchase of a school mini van.

BoT

Our Board of Trustee meet tonight at 7pm. Visitors are welcome.

Walking School Bus

Do you walk your children home from school? Are you able to help with our Walking School Bus? We desperately need parent support for this fantastic initiative. You get to walk home once or twice a week with a great bunch of kids whilst helping us minimize the traffic flow along Middlefield Drive. Our 'Walking School Buses' usually take between 10 and 20 minutes to organize and walk children to their designated meeting point.

It would be incredibly sad if we have to stop the buses due to lack of parent help.

We also need a parent to take on the coordinator role.

Please see the flyer on our website for further details.

If you are able to help with the Walking School Bus please pop in and have a chat with me. Thank you in anticipation.

WOW FACTOR

Willowbank School is full of children with amazing talents and we are about to showcase these through our '**WOW FACTOR**' talent competition.

WOW will take place over the rest of term 2 and throughout term 3 & 4, with the finals on Friday 18th November as part of our 10th year celebrations.

Many thanks to Clara Iqbal for her incredible organization of **WOW!**

Your child has been given an information pack outlining the competitions aims and rules. Please fill in and sign the entry form if your child would like to enter. The information sheet and entry form is also available on our website.

Through the WOW Factor, sponsorship and the auction we hope to raise at least \$10,000 this year towards the purchase of a school van.

Cultural Events

This year as part of our 10th year celebrations we would like to give children the opportunity to learn dances from the different cultural groups in our school. Are you able to volunteer some time

each week to teach a cultural dance group? If yes, please pop in to see me. We are really hoping that we can make the dances another special part of our 10th year celebrations showcase.

Entertainment Books

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. Please make sure your book has been either paid for or returned.

Class Wikis

Remember to keep up to date with your child's class activities on their wiki.

Passive Playground – Philosophy

We recently introduced a new lunchtime activity for children who prefer quiet lunchtime activities.

The passive playground philosophy is to provide a quiet, safe, secure and harmonious space to meet the unique social and emotional needs of each individual child.

The area, supervised by a teacher is available Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes.

Sports Results

Next week, on our website, you will notice something new! Our sports results will now be updated directly onto our website.

Lost Items

We seem to have a bit of a problem at the moment with items belonging to children going missing. This is often just a case of mistaken identity and items turn up again a day or two later. However it can also be a case of stealing and we need to deal with this quickly. Please may I ask you to clearly name all belongings, especially shoes, clothing and bags. Encourage children to put their belongings in their bags instead of leaving them on the ground. We do not encourage children to bring toys and sports equipment to school as these items can be lost or broken easily.

Upcoming events

Monday 30 May BoT meeting

Tuesday 31 May & 7 June

Right Start and Parents session

Wednesday 1 June

New Entrant pre-entry parent information evening

Wednesday 8 June

ICAS Science exam

Wednesday 8 June

PTA meeting all welcome – 7pm

Tuesday 14. June

BSA for parents of children in Kiwi

Change of Clothes

As the wet weather approaches children will need to bring a spare set of clothes to wear if they intend playing on the field at lunchtimes.

Children still need to bring their normal PE clothes for PE and sports and wear their school uniform to and from school.

Right Start Programme

Right Start is a transition to school programme to help your child get a head start on their learning and support the starting school process. It is a series of 6 sessions where the children work with Julie Cowan (Deputy Principal) on foundation learning skills and early literacy and numeracy. During the session parents work with the members of the school's leadership team on how they can support their child's learning.

Right Start is one afternoon a week and children can attend in the term before they start school. There are strictly limited numbers and there is a small cost (\$60.00). Check out wbsrightstart.wikispaces.com or email Chris or Julie at rightstart@willowbankschool.co.nz for an enrolment form. Bookings for Term 3 & 4 are now open!

Supporting Children's Learning – Sessions for parents. These sessions are open to all parents and are held on Tuesday afternoons from 1.35 until 2.45pm in the staffroom.

-Supporting your child with maths
(Wk 5)

-Learning support/extension & differentiation
(Wk 6)

-Getting involved in your school (BoT/PTA)
(Wk 7)

-Assessment in school (Wk 8)

Student Led Conferences

We look forward to our student led conferences on the 14th July. During the conference your child will share discuss their progress and achievement against the goals set in Term 1 and their new learning goals for the remainder of the school year. You will receive a written report outlining these achievements, learning goals and the support you can give your child to further enhance their learning.

The bookings for our student led conference will open on 4th July. Thank you.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Instrumental Course – APPA

Applications for the 3-Day Instrumental Course for this year's APPA Music Festival are now

open. This is an excellent opportunity for the musicians in your school to participate in large orchestras and bands with children from all over Auckland.

This is open to all interested children from Year 4 – Year 6. The registration form is available on the APPA website.

For all enquiries, please contact Anne Thomas: Phone 444 0587, cell 021 2926988; email annethomas@xtra.co.nz

[3-day course registration 2011.pdf](#)

Kind regards, Anne Thomas.

SPCA Auckland

SPCA Auckland Education department is pleased to release the details for the next school holidays.

Please find attached (on our website) the July school holiday schedule. As there are limited sessions in the July school holidays, these are bound to fill up fast. If you would like to make a booking, please contact myself by return email. Bookings will be taken on a first received basis.

When a space is confirmed, you will then be sent a confirmation email along with information on permission requirements and payment.

Just a reminder of our poster competition we are currently running. Furthermore we are now facilitating SPCA Auckland birthday parties. Please see attached forms for entry and booking details.

If you have any questions or would like to book please do not hesitate to ask.

I hope to see your child/children during our July school holiday programme. Also please do not forget to look up Chester on Facebook below, to find out what is going on the SPCA farm and any SPCA Auckland events.

WANT TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE SPCA AUCKLAND?

AND FOLLOW "CHESTER THE KUNKUNE" ON FACEBOOK

AUCKLAND ORGAN DISCOVERY: FREE FAMILY OPEN DAY

Auckland Town Hall 10am - 5pm, Saturday 4 June 2011

A unique free opportunity for young people and their families to find out anything and everything about the pipe organ, "The King of Instruments", through fun, hands-on activities and displays. Includes at 2pm "*Carnival of the Organ Pipes*" – a narrated stage show for children with music from the new Town Hall Organ. More details at: <http://www.organz.org.nz/kingsbirthday>

KBB

Would your child like to learn to play a musical instrument? KBB AllStar Band Programme is proud to offer lessons for a wide range of instruments at Willowbank School in 2011.

- For Clarinet, Saxophone, Trombone, Glockenspiel, Flute, Trumpet, Snare Drum lessons and enquiries please contact:

Leon Dumper Ph:021 366 443

Email:leon@allstarbp.co.nz www.allstarbp.co.nz

Look forward to hearing from you, Leon.

GUITAR LESSONS

KBB will soon be offering guitar lessons here at Willowbank school. Further details about lessons will be available on our website soon.



SCHOOL SHOES

School shoes are one of the most important thing that you can purchase for your child. It is an investment into the health and wellbeing of their feet, muscles & joints. Your child will be in these shoes 5 days a week for 2 whole terms (minimum). They must be made to last, must be made of a quality leather, give them support in the right places, be comfortable and fitted correctly by a trained fitter. At STOMP KIDS SHOES we have an extensive range of Clarks, ecco (Danish), McKinlays (NZ), Teva & New balance. With the Clarks shoes we offer shoes from new school starters to seniors offering full, half sizes and various width fittings, from narrow to wide. Every child's foot is different and they come in all shapes and sizes and it is imperative they are fitted in the right school shoes. You can look on the various websites below to view more

details. Please note that we carry a large range but due to NZ ranging, storage capacity and the ability to get stock, we do not carry all products from these suppliers.

<http://www.clarks.com.au/About-Us/default.asp>

<http://www.ecco.com/nz/en/>

<http://www.mckinlays.co.nz/about.html>

*Have a wonderful fortnight,
Deidre Alderson
Principal*