

**3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009**

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

### **A HUGE THANK YOU**

With your support Willowbank School had the highest percentage of students participating in Botany Town Centre's Fit2Fly Adventure Course over the July School Holidays.

The prize for winning this event is \$2,000 worth of Botany Town Centre Gift Vouchers. We also have four students, Jack Ashton (who won the individual draw), Josh Ansell (his chosen friend to accompany him), Diara Harryspersadh and Kate Brooks (winners of the school draw) taking off from school on Tuesday for a Fit2Fly helicopter ride and adventure day with Ardmore Helicopters and Bigfoot Adventures.

The helicopter will arrive at school at approximately 9.30am landing in our school field.

You are very welcome to come along to watch this event.

(Please note: due to buses leaving the school on the morning of **Tuesday 4th August our Drop Off Zone will be closed to all traffic from 8.20am**).

### **3 Way Conferences**

Thank you for attending the 3 Way Conferences on Thursday evening. Your involvement in your child's learning plays a very important part in raising achievement. Please remember to keep in contact with your child's teaching if you have any concerns.

### **Are You Able To Help Us?**

We urgently require someone to translate our fortnightly newsletter into Chinese. If you are able to help us do this please may I ask you to contact me on 2711077. Thank you in anticipation.

### **Thank You to Our PTA and JB HI-Fi**

Our PTA has continued to support the ICT development and Inquiry Learning programmes at Willowbank School. This term they have provided the funding to update our cameras. We were able to purchase cameras through JB Hi-Fi at a fantastic price – saving over \$500! So on behalf of the children and staff, a huge thank you to our PTA for making this possible and to JB Hi-Fi for their support of the school.

### **Support Staff Petition and March**

Our support staff are very important members of our staff. They work alongside teachers to provide differentiated learning and teaching programmes to children and within the administration of the school.

It is vital that as a school, we are able to continue to both retain our current support staff and be able to attract the most suitable people to new positions.

If you would like to show your support for our support staff in their pay and conditions bargaining with the Ministry of Education please sign the petition in the office. Members of our support staff and staff will be attending the NZEI march on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Up coming events**

#### **Week 3**

- 3.8.09 Team Kiwi MOTAT trip  
BoT meeting 7pm in the boardroom
- 4.8.09 Hearing and vision testing (new entrant children and children new to New Zealand)  
Team 1 MOTAT trip (**Drop off zone closed in the morning to allow for buses**)  
ICAS English test
- 6.8.09 Mr Ellery and Senior staff from Somerville Intermediate to speak to Year 6 children
- 7.8.09 Year 6 at High School Musical (production)  
Support Staff March

#### **Week 4**

- 10.8.09 ICAS Maths test
- 11.8.09 PTA meeting
- 12.8.09 Mathathon test  
Chinese parents evening
- 13.8.09 Year 6 speech finals
- 14.8.09 Rugby against Point View School

#### **Swine Flu Update**

Thank you to everyone who have either kept their child home from school or collected them quickly when illness strikes. Both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education continue to raise concerns with all schools about the intensity of this virus and the need to keep children away from school if they are at all at risk of spreading the virus or contracting it. A main concern is the health risks to children who have other underlying health issues.

It is vital therefore that we continue to be proactive in limiting the spread of the virus over the next few months.

We really appreciate your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact Michelle or myself if you have any concerns regarding your child's health at school.



We would like to introduce KBB Music to you. KBB are a private company who provide music lessons to small groups of children within the school, during school hours.

KBB will be offering a programme of music lessons and band class at Willowbank next term:

Lessons in flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or percussion (snare drum and xylophone) will be offered.

Music gives proven benefits to a child's academic achievement and emotional development.

Learning an instrument is also great fun!

Students will have weekly group lessons for half an hour during school time, weekly band practice and perform each term.

#### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW BEING TAKEN.**

Cost: \$115 per term for tuition. Book \$25.99

KBB Music rents instruments if you require one.

We hope to begin this programme at Willowbank School in Term 4.

For more information, please see the newsletter 'KBB' (webpage) or speak to Mrs Kathy Danielz or Contact Barbara at KBB Music on:

**09 623 8028** [education@kbbmusic.co.nz](mailto:education@kbbmusic.co.nz)

If you would like paper copies of the KBB information please see Michelle in the office.

#### **Community Events**

**Pakuranga Athletic Club** - welcome to New Zealand's Premier Road Race and Fun Run and walk. Our event is on a fast point to point course with transport provided from the registration area at the Club to the two start lines, but you'll have to get back yourself!!

This event is open to both runners and walkers.

Excellent cash and product prizes totaling \$8,500

Please see the web-link for enrolment at the side of our Newsletter page.

Join us on **Sunday 18th October 2009** for New Zealand's Premier 10k Run/Walk.

#### **Start Times**

Thank you and have a wonderful fortnight,

Deidre Alderson  
Principal