

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK.....

"Public relations is firstly about doing a good job ... and then making sure people know about it."

We thought it important to share with you what others think of our school because you need to be confident that Swanson School is the very best school to send your children to. We know this because visiting Education Review Office reviewers and education consultants often give us feedback that Swanson is an excellent school. This is pleasing to hear because these people are regularly working in a range of schools throughout Auckland and have a wealth of experience to compare us with.

Swanson School is a large school; in fact 75% of New Zealand schools are smaller than Swanson. As a large school we are more easily able to provide excellent learning opportunities for both teachers and students. For example, staff and students have ready access to ICT. Most schools do not have the number of computers, data projectors and interactive whiteboards that Swanson has. They have become an integral part of our classroom practice.

Our buildings and grounds are well presented and maintained, and we have exciting new developments on the horizon, like new playground equipment and the opening of the Early Childhood Centre. While we would all rather not have leaky buildings to fix, we manage to have them fixed with no interference to the learning of the students.

Our teachers are of a high calibre. They are not only good teachers, but see themselves as learners as well. They make good use of student achievement information to plan learning programmes that challenge and extend your child, and they have access to the best professional development available. We are pleased to share that our school data shows that student achievement in literacy and numeracy is consistent with national expectations. There are of course, for varying reasons, students who are at risk of not achieving, but they are clearly identified and their progress is closely monitored.

It is safe to say that students at Swanson School are not only happy and confident learners but are also proud of their school and feel safe and supported. During breaks, the playground is well supervised. The availability of staff in the playground at these times helps to ensure that students are involved in a variety of activities and that they get support when they need it.

And lastly and perhaps most importantly, at Swanson we listen. Parents who have a concern are encouraged to share and are always listened to. Please, if there is something that concerns you, do not hesitate to come and talk to us about it. It is only by keeping up the communication between school and home that we can continue to make Swanson School the best that we can be for our children.

Kia Kaha

Bruce McLachlan

Timeline

- **13 May**- BOT vote count
- **14 May** – Last day for Lucky Book orders
- **28 May** - Fun Run
- **9 June** – NSW Test (Science)
- **9 June** – Choir performance – 6.30 pm
- **23 June** – School Disco

Spare Clothes to school

Now that we are in the Winter season it would be good practice to send your child to school with spare clothes in the event that they get wet during school time.



Preventing Illness

Please keep your child at home if they are feeling unwell.

The best things you can do to stop the spread of any type of cold and influenza virus is:

- Stay at home and away from others if you are sick.
- Cover your coughs & sneezes with a tissue
- Put used tissues into the rubbish bin.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Be careful to wash hands often with soap and dry them thoroughly.
- Keep surfaces clean at home, school & work

Citizen's Awards

Congratulations to the following children for achieving Citizenship awards this past fortnight.....

Jade , Carlin (R1)
Valerie , Luther (R3)
Luke , Ben (R5)
Keira , Hansol (R6)
Jasmine , Stephen (R8)
Morgan , Amy (R12)
Rose , Hayden (R13)
Jannal , Lisa (R14)
Jordana , Michael (R15)
Noah , Laiba (R16)
Ashley , Ethan (R17)

Board of Trustees Election

Voting papers are now in and the count will be done on 13th May. We had 10 nominations for 5 positions. Results will be displayed in the school from Friday onwards.

Jackie Lea / Tracey Wilson

Triple P-Positive Parenting Programme: Discussion Group

- Are you concerned about your child's behaviour? Is your child aged between 3 and 5 years old?
- Do you experience problems dealing with fighting and aggression OR establishing bedtime routines?

The University of Auckland is conducting research on the effectiveness of two separate 2-hour discussion groups aimed at supporting parents to develop positive strategies to deal with difficult behaviours in preschoolers and improve overall family functioning.

Two groups are on offer: one aimed at managing fighting and aggression, and one aimed at dealing with bedtime problems & developing good bedtime routines. Parents can participate in only ONE of the groups.

The group is FREE of charge and you can keep all the materials that are given to you. You will also be asked to complete a series of questionnaires as part of the study.

For more information or to sign up for the study contact: 09 623 8899 ext. 83042

Or tprg@auckland.ac.nz

CELEBRATING LEARNING.....

Mathematicians Abound



We are fortunate at Swanson School to have on our staff, Mrs Thomson who is an extremely talented Mathematics specialist teacher.

During Term One, Mrs Thomson delivered a series of lessons for students that show aptitude in Mathematics.

Over fifty students ranging from year 1 to year 8 were involved in the programme, taking part in lessons tailored to the varying age levels.

The main focus of the programme was on practical problem solving tasks and exploring how to find solutions in a methodical and logical manner.

The students were given the opportunity to work in groups, in pairs and as individuals.

Mrs Thomson commented that the students were very engaged and she felt that they enjoyed working with and sharing their talent for mathematics with others that shared the same passion.



Fun Run

As you know we are holding the Fundraising Group Fun Run. The run takes place on Friday 28th May 2010 at 9.30 am. (rain day Monday 31st May). There's not much time left to collect sponsors so it's time to get started if you haven't already. Information on prizes and sponsorship forms were sent home in week 1. More forms can be obtained from the school office .