

25th Aug 2011 Issue 2: Term 3

FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK.....

Managing Self

Schools in New Zealand must teach the New Zealand Curriculum. It just so happens that our curriculum is one of the most interesting and forward thinking curriculums in the world. We sometimes forget how well we compare with the rest of the world in terms of education, and it is good to remind ourselves of that fact.

One aspect of the curriculum I wish to write about today is one of the five 'Key Competencies', managing self. People use these competencies to live, learn, work, and contribute as active members of their communities, and teachers have a responsibility to teach them.

We all recognise that teaching and learning happens in classrooms, but we sometimes forget that teaching and learning happens in the playground, and before and after school as well. In fact the playground is a great place to learn about managing self. In the playground, as a kid, you are largely in control. Sure the teachers are wandering about on duty 'supervising', but it is mostly up to you whether you have fun, get hurt or get into trouble.

As adults we want kids to have fun, but we don't want them to get hurt or get into trouble. This is why we often mistakenly wrap kids up in cotton wool. We make up all sorts of 'don't's' that kids have to follow in order to make sure they are safe:

- Don't play in the rain
- Don't tackle or play fight
- Don't climb trees

Why is it, therefore, that despite our best efforts for hundreds of years, kids still persist in playing in the rain, tackling, and climbing trees?

Answer: because it is about having fun and it is about learning. If we are actually encouraging kids to manage self they should have the opportunity to get hurt or get into trouble. It is, in fact, great learning to get hurt. When you get hurt you tend to try and avoid getting hurt in similar circumstances again!

In the process of trying to keep kids safe we are not teaching them to manage self. In unsupervised play situations kids don't tend to get seriously hurt unless they have not learned to keep themselves safe. We want kids to learn to take calculated risks. When they are calculating they are learning to manage self.

What do you think? Should we rush about shooing all the kids in when it rains, or watch and see which ones are managing self and then talk to the wet ones about the possible consequences of their actions? If kids do things at school that parents don't want them to do, should teachers deal with that or should we just let you know so that you can deal with it? Email me at principal@swanson.school.nz and tell me what you think.

Kia kaha

Bruce McLachlan

Timeline

- **25/26 Aug** - PHOTO Days
- **26 Aug** - Last Day for Lucky Book orders.
- **7 Sept** - Y7/8 Girls HPV Immunizations
- **7 Sept** - Norwest Cross Country Yrs 5-8
- **9 Sept** - School closes **2.00 pm**.
- **22 Sept** - BOT Meeting—7.00 pm

SCHOOLSHOTZ

A reminder that school photos are being taken today and tomorrow.

Class photos on Thursday and some individual. Further individual photos on Friday. **Please note: Individual photos will only be taken if a pre-order form has been completed.**

Proofs of individual and sibling photos will then be sent out with a price list and order form on **8th September**.

On return of completed order forms and payment, photos will be delivered to school for **5th October**.

Citizens Awards.....



Congratulations to the following children for achieving Citizenship awards :-

Kiana ; Michael (2), Tyriq ; Kayana (3), Izaiah ; Yasha (4), Lily-Rose ; Seth (5), Jaekib ; Ngarhere (6), Keira ; Ryan (7), Ira ; l'arna (8), Benjamin ; Willow (9), Connor ; Isabel (10), Hayden ; Mia (11), Chenee ; Benjamin (12), Tremaine ; Heidi (13) Aaron; Brikshya (16)

Congratulations

To an ex Swanson School pupil, Liam Rooke, who was selected for U13 Nationals in Ice Hockey

The Auckland team travelled to Christchurch Aug 11-13, won all four games played and won a gold medal .

Notice

After 3 playgroup now has an email address if you need to contact Sandra. swansonleisurelink@msn.com

CELEBRATED LEARNING.....

Swanson Inter House Cross Country

On Tuesday of this week we held our school Cross Country Competition. It was a great opportunity to dress and compete in our new House colours. Many Parents came to support the children and enjoyed the fun and competitive atmosphere. Thanks to Mr Maharaj for organising a Great Day!

Winners were: Boys: Lorenzo (Gr), Luke (Bl), Jakeb (Red), Kavana (Yel), Jevan (Red), Shane (Red), Maika (Red), Nicholas (Red)

Girls: Aimee (Gr), Tuhi (Gr), Ashleigh (Yel), Acacia (Bl), Chynna (Yel), Schweta (Gr)



Turbo Touch

Turbo Touch is the new game that kids of all ages just can't get enough of. We are really excited to now bring the very first Turbo Touch competition to the Trust Stadium.

Games will be played at **Waitakere Trust Stadium**. Games will commence at 4pm from Wednesday Aug 31st with a **FREE TRY- IT on 24th August**.

Any questions please contact your school co-ordinator.

2011 Speech Finals

Well Done to two of our students for making it to the 2011 Waitakere Speech Finals.

Wednesday —Henry V111

& Kyran —Red Haired People

School Closing Early

The school will close at **2.00 pm** on **Friday 9th Sept** as has been suggested due to the opening ceremony of the World Cup.

Snow Poems (1)

Snow is like... a big bowl of rice

Snow is like cold milk

Snow is like a slippery slide

Snow is like a white sheep

Snow is soft white rain.

By Jaylee, Raina, Danielle, Vaimaila (Room 18)

Snow Poems (2)

Snow is like a fluffy poodle

Snow is like white candyfloss

Snow is like a soft sheep

Snow is like crunchy cereal

Snow is a freezing ice-block

Esther, Keira, Rhys, Chloe, Scarlett (Room 18)



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