

17th Nov 2011 Issue 2: Term 4

FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK.....

A few weeks ago in the newsletter I wrote about 'managing self', an aspect of the curriculum that we have to teach, but one that is often best learnt in the playground rather than the classroom. At that time I wrote that the playground was a great place to learn about managing self, because as a child 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.

I had many parents comment positively on our attempts to get children to 'manage self'. The 'scooter experiment' was a case in point. Many of us, parents, grandparents and teachers, were a little wary about what might happen when children were allowed to ride their scooters in the playground. Yes there have been some bumps, scrapes and collisions, not to mention some thefts and some disagreements. But as I have said on a number of occasions: rudeness is rudeness and theft is theft. Whether or not they involve scooters they are not acceptable and they need to be dealt with. Apart from having fun, the students riding the scooters have learned to look out for others, while the students on foot have learned to look out for themselves! Both have had to manage self.

This term I would like to try something different again. In our efforts to keep kids sun safe, at this time of the year we would normally be insisting that all students wear hats. Those who don't wear them would normally be withdrawn from the playground. This sounds simple, but is far from it. Should the child sent to school without a hat be withdrawn from the playground? What about the child who has lost his hat? What about the child who spends her lunchtime playing in the shade? What about the child who is so active that her hat keeps falling off!

This term we are going to experiment with leaving the matter of hats to you – the parents. We will educate children so that they realise the importance of being sun safe. We will even encourage our younger students to wear hats more so than our older students, because the littlies often need this kind of reinforcement of parental expectations at school.

As I wrote last term: A school's job is to educate kids and switch them on to learning. 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? What do you think?

Kia kaha

Bruce McLachlan

Lost Property

We have accumulated a MASSIVE amount of clothing and footwear in our lost property room. If your child is missing an item of clothing or a pair of shoes, please come and have a look. The lost property will be removed from school on **30th November 2011**.

Timeline

- 17 Nov - Arataki Trip (Rms 5&6)
- 18 Nov - Rainbows End Trip
- 18 Nov - Arataki Trip (Rms7&8)
- 24 Nov - Pohutukawa Show - **1.30 pm** (kids4drama)
- 2 Dec - Jandal Day
- 6 Dec - Xmas concert - 5.30 Start
- 8 Dec - BOT Meeting - 7.00 pm start
- 8 Dec - Xmas Concert (Rain Day)
- 9 Dec - Helpers Thank You morning tea
- 12 Dec - Leavers Assembly
- 14 Dec - END OF TERM 12.30 FINISH**

TABLE TALK

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD TABLE.

After our latest meeting to start the new term, the Board of Trustees are very pleased to see the school roll is still growing and would like to welcome all new students and new staff members to Swanson School.

A big CONGRATULATIONS from the Board of Trustees, the teachers and the community goes to our Principal, Bruce McLachlan, on being appointed to the Complaints Assessment Committee of the New Zealand Teachers Council (NZTC). The NZTC is the professional and regulatory body for all teachers in early childhood centres, primary schools, secondary schools and other educational institutions. Well done! This doesn't mean Bruce will be leaving us. The Committee meets once a month, and while Bruce is in Wellington the school is being ably led by the Deputy Principals, Robyn Vine and Andrew Neighbour.

We look forward to working hard for the last part of the term and school year for 2011 and look forward to all the great student results and achievements presented to us around the board table at our next meeting.

Please remember Bruce and I have an open door policy for anyone who would like a chat regarding Swanson School.

All the best.

Regards,

Neil Grant, Chairperson, Swanson School Board of Trustees

Citizens Awards.....

Congratulations to the following children for achieving Citizenship awards :-

Taylor ; Alisa (3), Jordan ; Jena Rae (4), Holly ; Sarah (5), Eric ; Dante (8), Hamish ; Connor (10), Trent ; Cory (11), Amon ; Natasha (12), Rongo ; Caitlin (13), Zack ; Deacon (14) Jakeb ; Blake (15), Jade ; Eden (16), Samuel ; Rose (17), Summer ; Jacob (18)



CELEBRATING LEARNING.....

Christmas



Chatter and Cheers

Hip Hip Hooray

Rattle of Toys



Inside making Wishes

Santa coming with Goodies

Toys from family

Mountains of food

At last Santa's here with lots of presents

Santa say Merry Christmas



Poem by Brikshya

Room 16

Children's Gift Making Day
Saturday December 3rd,
Corban Estate Arts Centre 9.00
am – 3.00pm

This is a free children's event, facilitated by Waitakere City Council and supported by numerous community organizations and groups.

The event helps children give back to their parents and learn that Christmas doesn't have to come out of a store.

Registrations are essential as there will be a maximum number of 400 per session.

Parents need to ring the registration hotline on **839 0400**. Alternatively, register online at: www.waitakere.govt.nz/artcul/index.asp#xmasgiftmaking

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Birdwood School Festival & Te Puawaitanga o Te Reo's 10th Birthday 25/11/11

Featuring: **MASSEY PRIMARY**
HENDERSON INTERMEDIATE
DON BUCK PRIMARY
SWANSON PRIMARY
WAITAKERE COLLEGE
MASSEY HIGH
RANUI PRIMARY



BIRDWOOD PRIMARY
KAPAHAKA
PASIFIKA

Food stalls will sell a variety of food for all.

FREE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT -

BRING YOUR FAMILY ALONG TO BIRDWOOD AND ENJOY THE FUN—STARTS 9.00 A.M.

AUDITIONS for 2012 Choir

Summer
Camp
Feb 2012

*Do you enjoy singing?
Have you got what it takes?*



The Auckland Girls' Choir is seeking singers aged 10 to 16 years. No experience required but you must be keen to have fun and share your talents with other like-minded girls.

Check out some of our action packed and fun filled performances this year:

- The Cloud during the Rugby World Cup
- Churches
- TVNZ's Praise Be programme
- Concert at Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Auckland Museum on Armistice and Remembrance Days

Download Audition Form from our Website. It's that easy! www.agirlschoir.co.nz

or contact Mrs Leonie Lawson MNZM on Ph. (09) 570 0841 (leonie.lawson@agirlschoir.co.nz)



Auckland Girls' Choir

www.agirlschoir.co.nz

Pacific in the Park- 2nd December – 3.00 -9.00pm

Moire Park, Massey,

Pacific in the Park is a Free Family event with a pacific flavour!– We have great information and food stalls, and chances to win fabulous prizes. Come along and bring your picnic blanket, and enjoy great entertainment from Three Houses Down, Ria, Hypnotics, Lil Saintz, Karnel Williams and others. There are bouncy castles and activities for the kids. Bring the whole family for a great evening!

Abacus Calendars

Thank you to everyone who bought calendars in our calendar fundraiser. We raised \$1490 for the school. THANK YOU. Calendars, Cards & Diaries will be sent home tomorrow.

Contact Details

We are currently updating our school records. Please let the office know if you have an email address.