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Newslink No 4,

25th February 2010

Nga mihi nui ki nga whanau o to tatou kura

Parent Engagement Evening

Around 100 parents and staff attended Monday evening's event. Information giving the context for school organisation, learning programmes and assessment and reporting for 2010 was shared. Bill Courtney, BOT chair, covered the topics of property development, National Standards and Board of Trustees elections to be held within the next few months. The Board will be writing to the community next week with more information about National Standards.

2010 Assessment for Learning

Assessment	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Data Gathering	Assessment evidence to inform teaching decisions and learning programmes			
Assessment To Learn	Formative Feedback based on evidence from assessments acknowledges what has been achieved and identifies next steps based on success criteria			
Portfolios insertions	Teacher / Self / Peer Assessment of Learning			
Reporting to Parents	Parents are essential partners in the learning process Identify achievements against expectation / future actions for school / home			
Reporting to BOT	Monitor performance against targets to maintain high standards Recommendations & Resourcing decisions based on evidence Reporting to community and Ministry of Education			

The model above formed part of the presentation and outlines our commitment to using assessment primarily to inform teaching and learning. We intend reporting formally to parents on student achievement through the following processes.

- Term 1 Information Evening; Meet the Teachers; Portfolios
- Term 2 3-way learning conferences; Portfolios
- Term 3 Portfolios
- Term 4 Portfolios containing End-of-Year Summary

Informally, teachers and parents are encouraged to make contact to discuss achievements, concerns and other relevant information whenever the need arises. As essential partners in the learning process, it is extremely important that parents understand, support and contribute to what we are working on at school.

We encourage all contact between parents and teachers to model that we, as a school community, "value people and treat each other and ourselves with respect, honesty and integrity" (Khandallah School Charter).

Wheeling to School

A number of our students cycle and scoot to school. This is to be encouraged, as is walking, for three reasons.

1. The benefit to children's general health and well-being
2. The benefit to the environment
3. The reduction in traffic congestion around our school

A recent query about school policy on cycling has prompted me to outline our expectations for everyone. Student safety is our main concern at all times.

Bicycles should be street legal and ridden by competent cyclists. For this reason, only children 8 years or older should ride bikes to and from school unless accompanied by an adult. Cyclists must wear an approved helmet. All bikes must be walked to the bike stands which are now situated near the pool changing sheds.

For safety reasons, cycles and scooters are not to be ridden in the school grounds between 8:30am and 3:10pm.

Road Patrol – special meeting

We are extremely grateful to parents who have generously offered to supervise children crossing at Box Hill while we work through the safety issues identified by the Police.

The council is not prepared to install lights (estimated at \$150,000) because “this school and its crossing have already received a considerable amount of engineering work to make it as safe as possible”.

A meeting to discuss the options available to us as we work to ensure student safety has been arranged. One option includes putting the student patrollers back on with the adult being more actively involved than in the past. There are other options to consider.

We strongly encourage parents who have volunteered to supervise, whose children use the crossing and others interested to attend on **Monday, 1st March, 9:00am**, staffroom.

School Donation Requests

Accompanying today's newsletter is a letter from the Board of Trustees and the request for 2010 donations. Andrew Croad, Finance Committee chair, has clearly outlined the background to the Board's request. We strongly encourage all families to support us provide extra resources to support students and their learning.

Library / Resource Manager Vacancy

Applications for this position close tomorrow afternoon. We trust that a suitable applicant can be found to carry on Jo's great work! While a number of skills are desirable, the love of children's literature and a passion to share this with children and staff is essential. Many other skills can be learnt and developed over time.

Helen O'Grady Children's Drama Academy

To date, I have received no applications for the scholarship covering tuition at the Helen O'Grady Drama Academy (value of \$140). Surely we have some 8-10 year old creative and interested children who would benefit from this confidence building opportunity.

Please send an email with child's name, address, phone number, date of birth, strengths, areas of interest and short statement as to why this opportunity would be beneficial to principal@khandallah.school.nz. The original deadline of Friday 25 February will be extended to Friday, 5 March. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cool Kids Programme

This programme teaches children and their parents ways of better dealing with worries and fears in a small group setting. Children who may be suitable include boys and girls who:

- Are particularly shy in social situations
- Are worried about making mistakes
- Have fears or worries of specific situations or things

Victoria Psychology Clinic which provides practical training for clinical psychology students is starting a programme on 21st April. To enrol or make further enquiries, please contact the clinic on 4636400.

Parent / Caregiver / Whanau Handbook

Over recent weeks we have updated the information distributed to families of new children when they enrol. The updated handbook can be found on the school website under Parent Handbook. Hardcopies are also available from the office.

Thanks

- Mark Leggett for organising, and parents transporting and supporting our Year 3/4 Rippa Rugby team on Monday
- Parents offering to supervise Box Hill crossing
- Home and School for organising supper on Monday night

Coming Events

1 Mar	Box Hill Crossing meeting, 9:00am staffroom Home & School Annual General Meeting
2 Mar	Y5/6 Rippa Rugby
7 Mar	National Children's Day
8 Mar	Board of Trustees Elections Information Session, 7:30pm
10 Mar	Assembly, 2:15pm
18 Mar	BOT meeting
19 Mar	ICT Suite Official Opening, 5:00pm
24 Mar	Assembly, 2:15pm
29-31	National Standards Bus Tour visits Wellington
1 Apr	End of Term 1
19 Apr	Term 2 begins

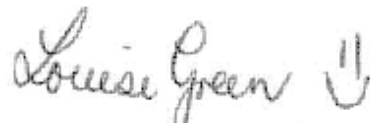
Finally,

Towards the end of last term, we were successful in an application for funding to the Lion Foundation for sound fields to be installed in four classrooms, thanks to the philanthropic efforts of community volunteer, Peter Snow. Peter is strongly committed to improving the learning environment for children. He liaised with us and carried out all the investigative work, sought quotes, provided a report to the Board of Trustees and prepared two applications.

Sound fields can improve student learning outcomes and reduce vocal strain and stress for teachers. If teachers are heard clearly, children are more attentive and learn more. Teachers won't need to repeat as often or raise their voices over the ambient chatter.

The sound fields have been installed in Rooms 13, 14, 15 and 16. After resolving initial "bedding in" issues, these are now in use. We are extremely grateful to Peter for his generous time and energy in support of our learners and our school.

Arohanui



Louise Green
Principal

Y3/4 Ripa Rugby Tournament

On Monday 22 February 15 keen and skilled ripa rugby players travelled to the Petone Recreation Ground to participate in the annual rugby awareness week Ripa Rugby tournament.

The team was placed in Pool 4 and played against 4 other teams representing schools such as Epuni, Maungaraki, Paremata and St. Brendans.

The results showed that Khandallah was the winning team in the pool, receiving the Pool 4 certificate, and a match rugby ball! The team won 3 matches and drew their last one.

The players had a fantastic day being entertained by the rugby mascot called Rugger, Captain Hurricane was there and there were air castles as well. Everyone received an envelope with tattoos and rugby registration contacts.



The players were – Oscar Hough, Tavish Dempster, Sean McAndrew, Callum Horne, Tom Knox, Daniel Griffiths, Cameron Healy, Elliot Main-Wilson, Rogier Kerbus, George Buist, Asaf Alazraki, Zacharee Coventry, Peter Morris, Liam Hills, Harry McCarthy.

Khandallah



Home & School
Needs You

Community Notices

Feline Dance

Feline Dance has some availability coming up soon and we have some new classes ahead.

We are a community dance group, and have been running for 11 years locally. We focus on fun dance including hip hop, jazz, creative and a little contemporary all rolled into one class. We are definitely about boosting self esteem, and also team work is a major part of what we do. Everyone, absolutely everyone, gets a chance to shine in our shows. NO need to have had previous experience just a positive attitude to give it a go, all are welcome. We open our doors so to speak once a year for some new spaces. The average stay with Feline Dance is 3-4 yrs and people tell us that what they love is the “feel” so if you are looking for something a bit different around dance for your daughter, please give Fiona a call for more details or to secure a space. First come, first served.

Where: Khandallah School hall
How much: \$80 per term, if she doesn't LOVE it you get your money back
What to wear: Anything comfortable, no formal outfit, no exams
When: Thursdays and Tuesdays after school, Wednesdays in J/ville and Saturday am (for age 4 and 5 yrs only)
Age range: 4 to 14 yrs, mostly same age classes

Fiona Hunter is also a proud sponsor of CanTeen, teenage cancer charity. Profits and show proceeds go to them and have done for 11 years, everyone wins. If you are interested call Fiona on 479 2877 or 021 800 212 or email Fiona @feline-dance.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Encore! School of Music

Encore! School of Music (Johnsonville/Churton Park area) – Our excellent teachers would love to teach you piano/keyboard, singing, guitar, drums, clarinet, saxophone or flute. More instruments coming soon! Call 0497 MUSIC today or check out: www.encoreschoolofmusic.co.nz

Gifted Child? Here's your chance to come and try out **One Day School**, New Zealand's longest running programme for gifted learners. On Friday 19th March 2009 **Mind Adventure Day (MAD) sessions** will be held 9.00 - 11.45am for children aged 6-8 years, and from 12.45 - 3.30pm for children aged 9-12 years. Sessions will be held in our One Day School classroom at Rangikura School, 95 Conclusion St, Ascot Park, Porirua. The cost is \$30 per child. Parents and teachers welcome too. For more information, or to book a place for your child, please phone Shirley on **232 3523** or email shirley.lawn@giftededucation.org.nz