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Newslink No 11,

29th April 2010

Nga mihi nui ki nga whanau o to tatou kura

3-way Learning Conferences

THIS Tuesday & Thursday

!!! On-line booking !!!

Now you can book learning conferences for the times that suit *you*. Simply visit

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Enter the school code **3FL8H** and press **"Go"**

Within one week of the on-line booking system being available, families / whanau of 80% of our children had already booked Learning Conferences. This is a very positive response and we thank parents for the great feedback we have received!

Please remember that those *without internet* access, can either call into our ICT Suite between 8:30 and 9:00am or 2:55 and 3:15pm to access the website or phone the office so we can schedule your conference on your behalf.

Conference Time

The time spent talking with your child and teacher about learning is extremely valuable. We ask that siblings wait outside. The ICT Suite will be open and children are very welcome to spend their waiting time under Annette Colls' supervision. Parents who would like to talk to Annette or view this awesome new resource, are very welcome to call in.

Individual Assessment Portfolios

We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the contents of the portfolio with your child. I understand that some have had difficulty understanding the Reading Summary which was included in Y4-6 portfolios. This document shows how your child is doing compared to the national norm and identifies areas of strength and gaps. The information is really useful for informing the teaching and learning that follows the assessment and will be discussed during the conference.

National Standards

There has been a lot of media coverage about the expectation that schools should be reporting on student achievement against the National Standards. As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are not able to do this because we have not yet received professional development. The Lead Teachers and I have the first training workshops for Literacy and Numeracy in May and June respectively. Any parents / whanau wishing to ask questions,

discuss or make comments about National Standards and / or reporting processes are very welcome to pop into the office to speak with me on Tuesday or Thursday.

Board of Trustees Meeting - tonight

Agenda items include Achievement Data; 2010 Charter and Annual Plan; Principals Appraisal; Traffic Safety; Personnel and Health & Safety Policy approval.

This Monday - Paid Union Meeting

Paid union meetings for teachers to discuss their collective employment agreement which expires in June are underway. Attending such meetings is an employment right. Meetings have been scheduled to create the least disruption to children's learning.

Some teachers attended a meeting yesterday while the remainder will attend a meeting next Monday afternoon. The ability to attend more than one meeting has also minimised inconvenience for parents. Children will be dismissed at the normal time – 2:55pm. If you collect children from classrooms, please collect them from the hall after the dismissal bell.

Tuesday – Afternoon Arrangements

Learning Conferences begin at 2:15pm on Tuesday. All children will be in the hall for a whole school activity in preparation for our ERO visit at the end of May.

Children with Learning Conferences between 2:15 – 2:45pm can be collected from the hall. All other children will be dismissed from the hall at the usual time – 2:55pm.

Wednesday – New Parent Information Meeting

“Spread the word!” Please tell new families who are considering Khandallah School for their child about a parent information meeting this Wednesday, 9:00am in the staffroom.

After introductions and an update on our school and what we hope to achieve for our children, visitors will be taken on a tour, returning to the staffroom for questions.

Swimming

Thank you to all families / whanau who have paid the activity fee for swimming. The fee of \$50 equates to \$5 a lesson; much cheaper than the commercial rate of around \$14. The gold swimming caps have been popular. These are available from the office for \$7.

We are sometimes asked if a child can be excused from swimming because s/he has lessons. We could ask, can a child be excused from other school learning programmes for similar reasons.

Swimming is an important aspect of our curriculum and, as such, there are no exemptions other than in unavoidable circumstances. Lessons go beyond learning to swim and include essential water safety and survival elements. There could also be other social and emotional implications when any one child is the “odd one out”.

If payment is difficult, *please* talk in strictest confidence to Judy Cosgriff in the office.

Cross Country

Children have set themselves personal challenges and are practising hard for this event scheduled for Wednesday, 19th May. The junior school will run at 11:45am; middle/senior

children at 1:30pm. Year 2 children in Room 6 have been given the option of which group to participate with. Families / whanau can help by including a run in weekend family activities. Have fun!

Electronic Newsletters

Electronic newsletters will continue to be sent to the school email address of children in Rooms 13, 14, 15 and 16. This week system will be extended to families with children in Room 6.

Winter Illness

The heavy rain, darker evenings and cooler temperatures this week warn us that winter is just around the corner. These simple but effective strategies for maintaining good health and limiting the spread of illness are provided as a timely reminder.

- ✓ Wash hands before eating and after using the toilet.
- ✓ Cover coughs and sneezes
- ✓ Dispose of tissues carefully
- ✓ Stay home when you are sick

Crossing Clark Street

We expect ALL children to use the kea crossing when it is operating. Parents sometimes ask why they cannot cross children over Clark Street on the western side of Simla Crescent.

When making decisions of this nature, we take advice and consider the safest practice for children when crossing independently.

Crossing Clark Street at the top of Simla Crescent, close to the T- intersection, is problematic for children. It involves looking out for turning traffic as well as traffic travelling in both directions. There are significant issues with volume, parked cars blocking visibility and narrow thoroughfare. Drivers must negotiate parked cars and oncoming traffic which makes watching for pedestrians difficult.

On the other hand, when children cross the top of Simla from west to east they can concentrate on traffic coming up Simla in the first instance and have the median island in which to stand should they be caught out by traffic turning into Simla. The visibility at an intersection is usually unobstructed and cars slow down as they approach and when turning which means they are more likely to notice a child pedestrian and stop if required.

Neither solution is ideal. However, we promote the option which is less likely to cause harm to students and create fewer problems for motorists. Our aim is to teach children the safest way to cross independently. We expect parents to be good role models and thank you for supporting this expectation.

“Kiwisport” Funding

Parents are reminded that funding is available to help children participate in organised sport beyond school. Those who would like help to pay some or all of the season’s subscriptions are invited to email me, principal@khandallah.school.nz, in confidence. Please include your child’s name, the sport your child wishes to play, the subscription rate for the season and a list of any other sports and activities the child is involved in.

Thanks

- Everyone paying middle/senior school swimming activity fees.
- 47% of families / whanau already paying school donations.
- All parents volunteering for classroom representatives.

Coming Events

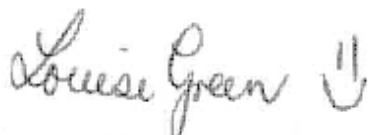
- 29 Apr **Board of Trustees Meeting**, 7:00pm, staffroom
3 May Primary Teacher Paid Union Meeting
4 May 3-way learning conferences, 2:15-5:45pm
5 May New / prospective parent information morning, 9:00am, staffroom
6 May 3-way learning conferences, 3:15-6:45pm
10 May Home & School Meeting, 7:00pm, staffroom
12 May Ladies' Movie Night
31 May ERO visit

Finally,

In last week's Home and School newsletter we learnt that some classrooms were still without parent representatives. This role is extremely important for maintaining social links between families, disseminating information about school and classroom happenings and mustering support for priority fundraising activities such as the annual school gala. Without working bees to maintain our extensive school grounds, the role is definitely less onerous than it has been in the past.

I would like to thank all parents who have put their hand up to take on this role during 2010 and strongly encourage parents in Rooms 9, 13 and 14 to step forward.

Arohanui



Louise Green
Principal

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools

Thank you to those year 4-6 students who have registered for these. The dates for the exams are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Computer Skills | - Tuesday 25 May (term 2) |
| Science | - Wednesday 9 June (term 2) |
| Spelling and Writing | - Tuesday 22 June (term 2) |
| English | - Tuesday 3 August (term 3) |
| Mathematics | - Tuesday 17 August (term 3) |

To assist your child in preparing for these sample practise questions can be downloaded from the website: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au

Any questions please see Karen Grant.

Home and School news

WANTED - for H&S a new Treasurer. Grete Hindsberger, who has been on H&S for 4 years as our treasurer is leaving for warmer pastures in Australia and so we are in need of a new face for the team. Please get in touch with Grete for more information. Email Hindsberger@clear.net.nz

MOTHERS MOVIE NIGHT

Wed 12th May 8pm @ the Lighthouse Theatre, "A Single Man", starring Colin Firth and Julianne Moore. Please cut form off last week's H&S newsletter or download and place in the BLUE box at school. \$25 tickets selling fast so be in.

PARENT REPS

Come on people. This is not a big ask this year and we still have 3 classes without so please put your hand up and be a Rep for your Child's class - Rooms 9 Judy Hampton, 13 Beccy Haley and 14 Sara Wilson. Thank you to those who emailed me last week. For the last 3 classes. If you are interested, email me at themorders@clear.net.nz

Board of Trustee Elections

Five nominations have been received

2010	SCHOOL TRUSTEES ELECTIONS	28 April,	Voting papers distributed
		7 May,	Voting day
		13 May,	Votes counted
		14 May,	New Board takes office
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strong leaders make strong schools	20 May,	First meeting of new Board

Raroa Open Days for Parents

Please note that the Open Days for parents are 22 and 23 June and that the Year 6 Parent Information Evening is set for Wednesday 23 June at 7:00pm.

ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL
"WAKE UP YOUR WARDROBE"



Friday 14th May 2010 at 7.15pm
at the Khandallah Town Hall
11 Ganges Road, Khandallah

Tickets \$30.00 per person – or why not get a group of friends together
Tables of 8 available for \$25.00 per person

If you have heard of Trinny & Susannah and thought how useful it would be to gain some personal styling tips of your own, then St Benedict's School "Wake Up Your Wardrobe" fundraiser night is just for you.

Lisa O'Neill is a well known stylist and guest speaker, who educates and inspires women to love the way they look and how to look the way that they want!

Fun, informative and informal, Lisa covers body shapes, colour, clothing styles, and many other tips to help you with your own style sense.

Tickets can be purchased from the following places in the Khandallah Village – Rosa Cafe, or Harveys Khandallah, or by phoning Catherine Rundle on 479-1416.

Onslow Kindergarten Kitchen Tour 2010

Onslow Kindergarten is again organising a Tour of 10 Khandallah Kitchens, after the success of their 2008 Kitchen Tour. Ten new Khandallah Kitchens (not previously seen on the 2008 Kitchen Tour) will be open to the paying public on Sunday 2 May from 11am-3pm. Tickets \$25.00 available from: Mischief shoes, Lambton Quay; Rosa Café, Khandallah; Boxhill Fashions, Ngaio; Trends, Johnsonville Mall; Inky Pinky, Marsden Village Karori and via the sponsor, Kitchen Elements, Porirua. More information available at:

<http://www.kitchenelements.co.nz> <<http://www.kitchenelements.co.nz>>

Artsight's Term 2 After School Art Classes

Artsight's Term 2 After School Art Classes begin this week. We offer a range of fun and inspiring Art classes for 5-10 years and 10+. All classes are taught by a registered Visual Arts teacher in a spacious and light art studio at Toi Poneke Arts Centre, Wellington. For enquiries and to book check out our website: www.artsight.co.nz or contact Fiona 04 3862908, 021786629, email fiona@artsight.co.nz