



From the Principal...

Dear All

Last week Carolyn Macaulay joined Room 9. Carolyn's big buddy is Queenie Scott-Murray. This will be my last newsletter until Term 4. As reported in the 10 April Steeple Rock, I have a Ministry funded sabbatical for all of next term. Marion Hair and Susan Kliffen will be sharing the principal duties in my absence.

The sabbatical is a mixture of work and rest. I am doing some study into what schools are doing to build leadership capability. This builds on the work I have been doing over the last 5 years or so at the Principal Development Centre and as a first time principal mentor. It will include me visiting principals in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and London. I also intend to visit the Public Sector Leadership Development Centre to make some comparisons between what is happening in schools and the core public sector. I am really looking forward to getting this broader perspective. Following on from the 3 schools I am visiting in London, my wife and I are heading off to Europe and the United States for a few weeks R&R and catching up with family.

Congratulations

1. Principal Awards

The following children were awarded Principal Certificates at our last hui.

Rm	Yr		Rm	Yr	
1	7 & 8	Francesca Tate: High challenge Science Fair investigation	10	3 & 4	Bryanna Bhula: Putting in 'heaps of effort'
2	7 & 8	Sabrina Kao: Being positive in everything she does	11	3 & 4	Emma Green: Being so positive in everything
3	7 & 8	Rose Burge: Displaying mature attitude and great time management	12	3 & 4	Christina Manolakakis: Fantastic thinking, especially in maths
4	2	Elizabeth Servos: Hard work in reading, writing, maths and class discussions	13	3 & 4	Caitlin Mitchell: being a spelling whiz and having such a big smile
5	2	Jacob Hodson: Responsible, independent learner	14	5 & 6	Mackay Blaikie: Diligence, always striving to do his best
6	1	Jessie Lousley: Hard work in reading	15	5 & 6	Grayson Croucher: Great thinking, questions and involvement in class discussions
7	0		16	5 & 6	Jessica Patel: Great co-operative learning and group working skills
8	1	Louie Hardy: Fabulous work in reading	17	5 & 6	Max Crowley: Working with focus and sharing his thinking
9	1	Quinn Marshall-McCaskey: Practicing and learning all his reading words			

Bugs, Flus and Viruses:

We have quite a few children away at present. Now is the time to go over all the basic personal hygiene stuff like washing hands, blowing noses into tissues, etc. Please do not send your child to school if they are sick, this is unfair on them and everyone else.

National Standards:

This contentious reform continues to divide the profession, create tension between government and the different sector groups, make lots of work for schools and generate confusion and anxiety for many parents. We are working through the requirements and are confident that we are on track.

Again I want to stress that National Standards are basically a set of indicators that teachers refer to, to help inform them where a student is achieving. It is far from cut and dried, such as having a qualifying time in a race or a pass mark in a test. In those instances it is easy; finish within the time, or score above the mark and you have met the standard. Standards cannot be normed because teachers make an 'over-all' judgement for every student. As stated in the information that accompanied the mid-year agendas, it will be nigh impossible to achieve nation-wide consistency between all teachers and schools. One big change is that in some instances the standard differs from existing normed tests i.e. a child may score within the average band for a test, but still fall below the desired standard.

To sum up, it still comes down to parents trusting teachers that the overall judgements made about their sons and daughters are fair and valid. It also means that teachers have to trust each other i.e. as children move through and between schools, the assessments made by previous teachers are valid and reliable.

Personnel:

Last week we appointed a new librarian, Gerard Murphy, to stand in for Laurina whilst she is on maternity leave. Our commitment is well known within education circles, and this I am sure contributed to attracting a strong field, with many applicants qualified to do the job. Gerard has a Master of Arts, First Class Honours. He is a qualified primary school teacher, with 10 years experience and currently takes responsibility for the library in the school in which he works. Gerard is absolutely passionate about school libraries and children's literature; in fact a key reason Gerard is leaving teaching is to have more time to work on the children's book that he is writing. Gerard is also very interested in the outdoors, being a keen tramper, alpine climber and mountain biker.

2011 Roll Numbers:

Once again it has reached that time of the year when we begin to plan for the year ahead. As always, one of the most critical pieces of information is to get a firm handle on exactly how many children we will have at each year level, as this dictates every aspect of school organisation. Basically we plan on the children from any one year moving through to the next class level the following year. Trying to accurately gauge the number of new entrants is vital - if you have a son or daughter turning 5 over Christmas or next year and haven't informed the office staff, or completed the enrolment paper work please do so as soon as possible. If your family is leaving Seatoun, or for whatever reason your son or daughter will not be returning please let us know ASAP. Out-of-Zone places will be advertised later in the year on the basis of the information you provide us.

On behalf of the staff, thanks for your support over the term, and if you are away over the holiday break, travel safely.

Regards



From the PTA...

Hello all...

The PTA held their AGM on Monday night. The same team will stand again being:

Miriam Heycoop - Chair, Leisa Robb as Treasurer, and Anna Conway as Secretary.

Plans have been approved for the new Pirate Ship to be built in the junior children's playground. This exciting construction will start over the next few weeks.

Thanks to Isobel and her team for another delicious PTA lunch last Friday - please look out for a similar notice early next term for the next PTA lunch on Friday 30 July.

We wish you all a very happy and safe holiday.

Seatoun School values a positive partnership with the community

From the Board...

Donations

The importance of the voluntary donation and activity fee to supplement the Ministry of Education Operation Grant doesn't really hit home until you are actually on the Board and see firsthand how the school's income is derived. The school receives \$411,000 from the MOE to pay all operational costs apart from teacher salaries. As a decile 10 school we receive the lowest level of state funding, with an implicit expectation that the school community will be able to make up any shortfall.

Each year the school is required to raise approximately 35% of the total operational budget. The PTA does a brilliant job in contributing around \$20,000 per year. The remainder of the money has to come from the voluntary donation and activity fees; and to date we have always achieved this.

The donations fund a very wide range of activities within the School, most importantly our full time librarian and almost all of the teacher-aide support. Many of the programmes, activities and initiatives that make this School unique, and a place where our children want to learn, are funded by the parents of the School through donations. The activity fee covers the actual cost your child incurs in taking part the activities arranged by the school.

Given its critical importance, the Board monitors donation payments closely. For this time of the year payment rates are falling behind historical levels. Unusually, out of 265 families 127, or 48%, have paid nothing towards either the donation or activity fee.

This is a reminder to those families that your support is absolutely vital for our school to work the way it does. The Board is aware that the last 12 months may have been a struggle for some families. However, we ask that every family contribute as much as they are able towards the donation; and pay the activity, and if appropriate, Y7&8 enrichment fee. Invoices are in the post, and these outline the range of payment options available.

English and Maths

The Board recently received a report on progress in English from Ann Vandendungen and progress in maths from the Maths Team Leaders, Anna Martin and Meg Broadhurst. The statistics makes for impressive reading. The mid-year data collected against the National Curriculum and reported to parents in conference agendas show that the following percentages of students are achieving **at or above expected level**:

	Reading	Writing	Maths
Yr 1 &2	86%	74%	100%
Yr 3&4	87%	80%	78%
Yr 5 &6	95%	82%	85%
Yr 7 & 8	88%	84%	85%

These percentages include all students at the school.

Further data will be collected in term 4 in order to assess achievement during the year and to inform achievement targets for 2011.

Overall the mid-year data shows that our students are engaged, enjoy learning and are achieving at a high level.

Trump Challenge

Pete presented the Board with an update on the Trump Challenge programme.

This programme is only in its first year but has proven to be very popular with 93% participation rate, with no gender difference.

The Trump Challenge programme teaches students to be self managing and self motivating. It is believed that students who learn these skills will always do well in college. Colleges are looking at the results of programmes like ours, where students are learning the key competencies and there is much educational and public interest in our programme.

Parents can share their views on refinements to the programme at the 2010 planning day set for 30 October 2010.

Regards

Richard, Sarah, Mark, Suzie, and Justine.

THANK YOU

We recently received another \$100 cheque on behalf of the St Aidan & St George Parish. Each year we receive a number of such donations. Traditionally this money is used to subsidise extra curricula activities, like school camps and trips, for children whose families are finding the financial side of things difficult.

French Lessons

If you would like to learn French and have fun, come and join Amelie every Thursday next Term - in the school library from 3.10 to 4.55. Amélie Kelder from the Alliance Française will teach you the basics of the language with games and songs. Places are limited (12 only) and will be on a 'first in first served' basis, so if you are interested, send an email to Anna Appleby at vivelesfrogs@hotmail.com (with your child's name, contact phone number, age and address email). Fee: \$90/term

Term 2, 19 April - 02 July

11	July 02	Fri	Last day of Term 2. End of term hui.
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Newsletter

Newsletter contributions and feedback to Anne McLellan at admin@seatoun.school.nz.

Contributions for next issue by Tuesday 20 July by 2pm.

How to Contact Us

Answerphone

School Absences	388 7600	Extn 1
Bulletin board	388 7600	Extn 2

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P. T. A.

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Term 3, 19 July - 24 September

1	July		Y5/6 Swimming Programme begins. Day to be confirmed.
	July 22	Thu	Steeple Rock School Swimming Sports
2	26	Mon	Gardasil Immunisation Y8 Girls
	30	Fri	PTA Lunch
3	Aug 03	Tue	International Competitions and Assessments for Schools. English.
	05	Thu	Additional Mathematics Competition
	11	Wed	Eastern Zone Swimming
5	17	Tue	International Competitions and Assessments for Schools. Mathematics.
6	25	Wed	Eastern Zone Soccer
7	Sept 01	Wed	Eastern Zone Soccer pp
	03	Fri	Fathers' Day Breakfast and Special Hui.
8	8	Wed	Wellington Swimming
10	23	Thu	Wellington Cross Country
	24	Fri	Last day of Term 3

Term 4, 11 October - 17 December

1	Oct 11	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	14	Thu	Steeple Rock
2	19	Tue	School Photos
	20	Wed	Eastern Zone Hockey
3	25	Mon	Labour Day Holiday
	27	Wed	Eastern Zone Hockey pp
	30	Sat	Staff Planning Day
4	2-4 Nov	T,W,T	Eastern Zone Trials
5	10	Wed	Eastern Zone Athletics
6	17	Wed	Eastern Zone Athletics pp
	18	Thur	Y3-8 School Athletics Day
7	22	Mon	Y3-8 School Athletics Day pp
	24	Wed	Wellington Zone Athletics
8	29 Nov - 03 Dec		Y5/6 EOTC Education Outside the Classroom
	1 Dec	Wed	Wellington Zone Athletics pp
9	6 - 10		Y7/8 EOTC
	8	Wed	Y1-2 Athletics Day
	10	Fri	Y1-2 Athletics Day pp
10	Dec 16	Thu	Prizegiving
	17	Fri	Farewell Hui. Last Day of Term 4, 1pm finish.