

*Issue 165 04 February 2010*

From the Principal...

Dear All

Happy New Year, I sincerely hope everyone had a relaxing break. I stayed around Wellington the whole time so still have a way to go on my suntan!

We are looking forward to following on from 2009 with another positive and enjoyable year. As outlined in last year's final hui, staff is virtually unchanged and we feel well positioned in terms of the requirements of the revised National Curriculum and National Standards.

As predicted the debate over National Standards has really intensified over the last week resulting in a stand-off between government and the various sector groups. Be assured that this will not effect the daily operation of what is happening in our classrooms or school. Seatoun teachers will continue to teach all areas of the curriculum, assess against expected curriculum achievement levels, modify their programmes on the basis of their assessment data, and report to you, both on the progress your child has made and where he or she sits in relation to levels expected for their age (i.e. above, at or below expected level). This is exactly what we have been doing for many years.

As in the past, in addition to this newsletter, syndicates have also sent out their newsletter today. I suggest they are kept for future reference. In the next edition of Steeple Rock there will be a complete calendar and the regular Board and PTA contributions.

A special welcome to Tobias and Samuel Preston, Lewis Jury, Zoe Scott, Sinead and Caitlin Greagan, Felicity & Darsey Hogan, Sophie Henkel, Ella Horrell, Romond Oberon, Robbie Barnsley, Henry Pickering, Kate and Maggie Shapland, Mohi Kahui, Queenie Scott Murray, Jasmine Bhula, Efraim Tsourapas, Zachary Purcell, Max McGuigan, Libby and Oscar Watson, Madeleine Meech, Davide Lubich, Megan MacKenzie, Louie Hardy, Ashton Wratt, Ned Bacon, Emma Gadsby, Imogen Beard, Tulsi Patel, Josh McRae, Daniela Aharoni, West De La Mere, Nicholas Kan and Kate Burnham. We will all be working to ensure these 37 new children have a great start to our school.

Please note the following:

Website: Last year our website was significantly upgraded and we are working very hard to keep it current and informative. Please use it as a first point of call when wanting to find out about school matters.

Sun Hats: All children are expected to own, and be wearing a school House Sunhat by next Monday, 08 February. Hats should not be covered in graffiti.

Physical Education & Sport: Year 1&2 swimming programme started today and Y3&4 starts on February 17.

We have pushed the date of the school cross country out to week 4 of term 2 to bring it closer to the zone and regional races. Children will not commence training as part of the daily fitness programme until after the fair.

The school Sport Booklet will be distributed to each family within the next few weeks; this will provide you with detailed sport information for the year.

TRUMP Challenge - Home Learning: A reminder that the TRUMP Challenge programme will replace much of the previous homework set at years 3-8. Full details of the programme are available on the school website. Children that opt into the programme will be provided with their personal Challenge booklet next week.

Cell Phones & MP3 Players: Mp3 players & iPods are not permitted at school. We also actively discourage children from bringing cell phones to school. If they do need to bring their phone then a note is required from the parent. Phones must be handed to the class teacher on arrival at school and collected at the end of the day. Phones will be confiscated if these guidelines are not followed. In this instance a parent must collect the phone or MP3 player.

Activity Fee & Voluntary Donation: Once again last year we reached our budget figures. Your on-going financial support is greatly appreciated and so important given that we are reliant on voluntary donations for around 35% of our total operations income. This money pays for our librarian, additional teacher-aide hours, learning resources and some programmes. Nearly all families generously contribute at least the suggested donation, and we are hopeful that this will still be the case. Invoices will be posted by the end of the month.

The school activity fee (Y0-4 \$80 p.a. Y5-8 \$90 p.a.) pays for activities such as trips and swimming (approx \$60 per child). We are not funded for these activities. Options of payment range from the full \$80/\$90 year payment to payment each term, regular direct debits or payment by activity. It is expected that the activity fee for every child will be paid in full.

Family Information Update & Generic Permission Slip: Next Thursday (11 February) every child will bring home a form showing all the family details that we currently have. Please check this carefully and clearly make any changes required. Indicate on the form if changes have or have not been made. There is also a generic permission slip for each child - this covers permission to go on school trips and to have their photo in Steeple Rock posted on the website. Please complete each form and return:

To the class teacher in the envelope by **the following Monday, 15 February.**

It is important that both forms are completed for each child.

Family Contact List (previously PTA Families List). Updated information gathered from the update forms (above) is required before the booklet can be published. Parents have the option of having their contact details included. We aim to give a copy of the booklet to all participating families in early March.

Attendance: In the morning children should arrive at school between 8.00 and 8.45, ready to start at 8.50am.

Many of our children are fortunate enough to go on amazing holidays to all sorts of incredible places - these experiences provide awesome learning opportunities. We do ask that parents are mindful of school programmes and responsibilities. The next three weeks are especially important as children settle back into routines, get themselves established and teachers carry out the required start of year, base-line assessments.

Traffic, Parking & Road Safety: Please exercise caution when driving within the vicinity of the school, especially during the peak times. This is especially important at the beginning of the school year when children may have forgotten basic road safety and also have lots on their mind with all the excitement of the new school year.

Compared to most schools we have a generous amount of parking. Please be conscious of other users and try to vacate parks as quickly as possible at peak times. Please refrain from parking within the actual school grounds.

A good safety rule is not to sit in your car waiting for your children at the end of the day. Sometimes in the excitement to see you they run across the road without stopping to look.

Vandalism: We received some minor vandalism over the break mainly in the form of graffiti on the garages and volley wall - always frustrating and wasteful. We appreciate everyone keeping an eye on the school and informing the police if you see anything suspicious.

Fair: Planning is well underway for our biannual school fair scheduled for Sunday 21 March. Please keep an eye on out for information from the PTA and contact Miriam Heycoop if you can help in any way

Best Wishes: This weekend Michelle Cowles is getting married to Kyle. We wish them a great day and every happiness. Michelle will return next week as Mrs Pontifex.

Reta Rubin

From the PTA...

Welcome back everyone! Our first PTA meeting this year will be on MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY at 7.30pm in the staffroom. If anyone is new to the school and would like to join please just come along. Otherwise call Miriam and I can chat to you first about what the PTA involves. All welcome, new parents or existing!

Our major focus for the first part of this year is the SCHOOL FAIR which is on SUNDAY 21st MARCH 11am - 3pm. Again for those new to the school this is our main fundraiser for 2010/2011 so it is really great to get the whole school community involved. Its also a great way to meet new people so if you would like a job then please call Miriam or Caroline to get your name down. Obviously first in best jobs so it is a good idea to get in early! Its a fun family day for everyone and always largely supported by the whole community. This year seems for be shaping up to be just that again!

GARAGES are open each FRIDAY 2.30pm - 3.30 from now till the big day so please bring along all your pre-loved household goods, linens, books, DVD's toys and more.....please make sure they are in fairly good re-saleable condition. Most things sell as long as they aren't broken. If anyone has any large items which they cant bring to us we can collect from you so please call one of the names below.

We will keep you all updated on a regular basis between now and March 21st so please keep an eye out for notices in your children's school bags.

Miriam 3808005 heycoop@xtra.co.nz

Caroline 3881925 caroline.sarfati@gmail.com

2010 School Fair : Auctions & Raffles

Names and emails for reference

Term 1—03 Feb—01 April			
11	Feb 4	Thu	BOT Meeting
2	10	Wed	Y3-4 Swimming
	11	Thu	Y1-2 Swimming
2	11	Fri	Y5-8 Enrichment Starts
3	18	Thu	Steeple Rock
	19	Fri	Hui
4	24	Wed	E.Zone Cricket
5	Mar 01	Mon	Gardasil Imm. Y8 Girls
	03	Wed	E.Zone Cricket p.p.
	04	Thu	Steeple Rock
	05	Fri	Hui
7	15	Mon	Dylan Elise Drummer 1.15pm
	18	Thu	BOT Meeting Steeple Rock
	21	Sun	Fair
8	22	Mon	X.Country Training Begins
	24	Wed	E.Zone Miniball
9	Apr 01	Thu	Last Day Steeple Rock
Term 2 19 April—02 July			
1	Apr 19	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	22	Thu	Steeple Rock
2	26	Mon	Gardasil Y8 girls
3	May 5	Wed	E.Zone netball
		Thu	Steeple Rock
		Fri	Hui
4	11	Tues	School X Country
	12	Wed	E.Zone Netball pp
	13	Thu	School X. Country pp
5	20	Thu	Steeple Rock
	21	Fri	Hui
6	25	Tue	Australasian Computer Test
	26	Wed	E.Zone X.Country
7	Jun 02	Wed	E.Zone X.Country. pp
		Thu	Steeple Rock
		Fri	Hui
8	07	Mon	Queen's Birthday
9	15	Tue	Wn. X.Country
	17	Thu	Wn. X.Country pp. Steeple Rock

9	18	Fri	Hui
10	22	Tue	Aust. Science & Writing Tests
11	29	Tue	Progress Conferences
	July 1	Thu	Regional X. Country
Term 3 19 July - 24 September			
2	Jul. 26	Mon	Gardasil Y8 girls
3	Aug 03	Tue	Aust. English Test
4	22	Wed	E.Zone Swimming
5	17	Tue	Aust. Maths Test
6	25	Wed	E.Zone Soccer
7	Sep. 01	Wed	E.Zone Soccer pp
8	8	Wed	Wellington Swimming
10	23	Thu	Wellington X. Country

Term 4 11 October—17 December			
1	Oct 11	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	14	Thu	Steeple Rock
2	20	Wed	E.Zone Hockey
	23	Sat	Planning Day
3	25	Mon	Labour Day Holiday
	16	Thu	Prizegiving
10	17	Fri	Farewell Hui Last Day of Term . 100pm finish

How to contact us			
Answerphone			
School Absences	388 7600	extn 1	
Bulletin Board	388 7600	extn 2	
Principal			
Pete Pinton	388 7600		peterp@seatoun.school.nz
P. T. A.			
Miriam Heycoop	380 8005		heycoop@xtra.co.nz
Board of Trustees			
Helen Taylor	970 0000		helen.taylor@paradise.net.nz
Letizea Ord	388 1531		letizea@ordlillico.co.nz
Sandy Baigent	973 7234		sandy@capitalchambers.co.nz
Simon Novak	976 8648		simon@novakmiddleton.co.nz
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Catherine Tate	938 6320		the.tates@paradise.net.nz
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Newsletter	
<p>Newsletter contributions and feedback to Anne McLellan at admin@seatoun.school.nz. If anyone is interested in editing the newsletter next year please let me know. Contributions for next issue by</p>	

Seatoun School values open, effective and regular communication