



From the Principal...

Dear All

Happy New Year, I trust everyone has enjoyed a relaxing holiday break.

It was good to see so many parents taking advantage of the meet the teacher day. The first couple of days have been really good - the children are bright eyed, bushy-tailed and a real joy to be with.

Despite the economic gloom we are looking forward to a positive, fruitful and enjoyable year. As outlined in last year's final hui, although our staff is virtually unchanged, quite a few teachers have changed class levels. In addition, this year we have the best over-all teacher/student ratios the school has ever enjoyed.

Accompanying this newsletter, teaching teams have also sent out their newsletter today. These provide a lot of information which should be kept for reference. In the next edition of Steeple Rock there will be a complete calendar and the regular Board and PTA contributions.

Please note the following:

Ordered Lunches: As yet we have not found a suitable replacement caterer to provide school lunches. This service will not be available until further notice.

Sun Hats: All children are expected to own, and be wearing a school House Sunhat by next Monday, 09 February.

Physical Education & Sport: Some swimming programmes and all PE programmes kick off next week. Daily fitness will include running as part of the build up to the school cross country scheduled for 7th April. Please ensure children have appropriate clothing and footwear. The school Sport Booklet will be distributed to each family 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: Our billing software has been updated and we are planning to get invoices out by 20 February. We are reliant on voluntary donations for around 35% of operations income. This money pays for our librarian, additional teacher-aide hours, learning resources and some programmes. Most families generously contribute the suggested donation, and we are hopeful that even in the current economic climate this will still be the case.

The school activity fee (Y0-4 \$80 p.a. Y5-8 \$90 p.a.) pays for activities such as trips and swimming (approx \$40 per child). We are not funded for these activities. Options for 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 Monday 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 **Thursday 12 February.**
- It is important that both forms are completed for each child.

Family Contact List (previously PTA Families List): This year the school administration team is responsible for publishing this handy booklet. 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. A copy of the booklet goes to all participating families.

Attendance: It would be great to start the year off as we mean to continue and have all children at school no later than 8.45am ready to start at 8.50am.

From the Principal cont...

Many of our children are lucky enough to go on amazing holidays to all sorts of incredible places - awesome learning. All we ask is 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.

For absences please inform the school office, not the classroom teacher.

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.

School Values - RESPONSIBILITY & RESPECT: This term, school-wide, teachers will be paying particular attention to these two values. We want children to take greater personal responsibility for their own belongings, decisions and learning. We also want them to demonstrate respect for other people, their beliefs and property. You can help and be involved with your child/ren by talking about these values with them and setting some expectations at home.

Regards



COMMUNITY NOTICES (printed as space permits)

Sharing of After School Care

We are looking for another child to share costs for the following nanny arrangement - Mon - Fri 3.00pm pickup of our 5 yr old girl from Seatoun School until 6pm (returning to Breaker Bay or alternative can be discussed). Our nanny, Carol, has a car, clean drivers licence and likes cats. After school activity can be discussed. Please call Andrea Tindle 388 7508 or 021 511 674

Seatoun Football Club - Junior Registration

Registration for junior players will be held at the clubrooms Wednesday 11 Feb from 6-7.30pm and Sunday 15 Feb from 12-2pm

Term 1 2009 02 February—9 April			
Wk	Date	Day	
2	Feb 11	Wed	Swimming starts Y 1-4
	12	Thurs	Student Update and Generic Permission forms due back at school
	13	Fri	Y7/8 Enrichment starts
3	16	Mon	PTA Meeting
	19	Thu	School Swimming Sports Y3-8
4	23	Mon	PAT Testing commences
5	M a r 02	Mon	Y1&2 Dental Checks all week Family Contact List due home
	05	Thu	Steeple Rock
	06	Fri	Hui
7	M a r 18	Wed	Y5-8 Arts Festival
8	23	Mon	Y3&8 Dental checks commence
9	Apr 2	Thu	Steeple Rock
	3	Fri	Hui
10	7	Tue	School X Country
	8	Wed	School X Country PP
	9	Thu	Huis Last day of Term
Term 2: 27 April- 3 July			
Term 3: 20 July - 25 Sept			
Term 4: 12 Oct - 15 Dec			

Wellington Football Club - Junior Rugby

Player Registrations: Sat 21 Feb 12-2pm or Thur 26 Feb 5.30-7.00pm. *Players Pre Season:* Fri 13, 20, & 27 March 5.30-6.30pm. *Season Starts:* Sat 4 April.

How to contact us

Answerphone

School absences 388 7600 extn 1
Bulletin Board 388 7600 extn 2

Principal

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P.T.A.

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Newsletter contributions and feedback to

Deirdre McCarthy on 380 9119 or daltonmcc@xtra.co.nz or to the school office.

Contributions for next issue by noon Tuesday 17th February please.

Seatoun School values co-operation and teamwork