

Issue 156, 28 May 2009

## From the Principal...

Dear All

The persistent rain and wind was not enough to dampen the spirits or take the gloss off our very special Grandparents Morning on Monday. Well over 100 grandparents and grand-friends from all over the country spent the morning in classrooms and at the Y3&4 led school hui. It was fantastic to see the children sharing their learning and school with their grandparents - a memorable experience indeed. Many thanks to the PTA for their support and for providing, and serving, morning tea.

**Welcome:** A big welcome to Ben Hewson (big buddy James Smitheman), and Charlotte (Y5) and Matthew Carter (Y3).

### Congratulations:

- **Netball** - Lee-Jean Kahui has been selected for the 'Eastern Zone A' representative team, and Katelyn Featherstone, Alice Walker and Phoebe Baigent have been selected for the 'Eastern Zone Development' team. Magic news girls! Saturday netball has now begun and the school is well represented by a whopping 90 students!
- **Diving** - Millie Barratt-Boyes gained a gold medal at Winter Nationals over the weekend. The gold medal was in the Under 13 Girls Synchrony (with a partner) off the 3 meter springboard and the girls were only 4 points away from a new national record. She also placed 4th in a very highly competitive field including internationally ranked divers. This 4th placing was in the 12/13 Girls 1m Springboard. An awesome effort Millie.

### Mid-year progress conferences:

Conferences are one of the most important times of our educational calendar. They provide a formal opportunity for students, parents and teachers to celebrate achievement, discuss areas for development and set future learning goals.

#### **Two important changes are:**

**1. Conference Timing:** Following on from the success of Y1&2 conferences being held during the day, we consulted widely about extending this idea across the whole school. The majority of feedback endorsed the concept. This year we started a day early to 'free up' a day so that conferences could be held, and we would still meet our legal obligation in regards to the number of days the school is open.

- **Tuesday 23 June- Conference Day:** Conferences are scheduled into 30 minute time slots starting at 8.00am

and going through until 7.30pm i.e. the last conference

will finish at 8.00pm. Teacher breaks have been scheduled over the day.

- **Wednesday 24 June:** This is a normal school day. Conferences will be held after school from 3.15pm - 7.15pm.
- **Thursday 25 June:** Again it's school as usual. Because of the bigger class sizes there is 3.15 and 3.45 time slots for Y7&8 only.
- 2. **Booking a Conferences Time:** This year we are trialling an on-line booking system.
  - Please log onto [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz). Go to 'Parents', enter the school code **TQTEM** and follow the instructions. You will receive an email confirming your bookings.
  - For parents with children in different classes, you are able to view all class schedules and book all conferences. However it may take a bit of persistence to get consecutive interview times. Please **ignore** the warning that you cannot book consecutive times- just keep going.
  - The **on-line booking system is available from Tuesday, 02 June.**
  - If you do not have internet access, our library computers are available between 8.30-9.15am & 3.45 and 3.15 pm from Tuesday 02—Friday 05 June. There is no provision for telephone bookings.
  - Please arrange your conference by **Friday, 19 June** as teachers need to confirm their schedules. More detailed information, including childcare provisions for siblings while you attend a conference is provided in the information sheet included with Conference Agendas. These will come home on **Wednesday, 10 June.**

### Personnel:

- Aimee Elliott R15 maternity leave: Ms Victoria Martin has been appointed to fill in for Aimee during the period of her maternity leave. Over the last year Victoria has been working in our school as a reliever and part-time teacher. She has worked in all areas of the school and is well acquainted with the 'Seatoun Way.'
- Andréa Whitehead will be leaving us at the end of the term. Andréa and Nick, her husband, are moving to Queensland. Andréa has done a brilliant job over the last 3 years, and will be greatly missed. Ms Michelle Cowles has been appointed to the position. Michelle is in her 9<sup>th</sup> year of teaching, predominately at the Y1&2 level. She has an Honours degree from Victoria University and has taught in the UK, Wellington, Auckland and currently

Belgium, where her fiancé is playing professional hockey.

## LOOKING FORWARD- The Month of June

Day/Date	Event	Parent Action
Mon 01	Queen Birthday	Holiday
Tue 02	On-line booking conferences	Log onto <a href="http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz">www.schoolinterviews.co.nz</a> . Go to 'Parents', enter the school code TQTEM and follow the instructions.
Thu 04	PTA 'Kids Disco"	Ensure children are all set for a great time. Ensure pick-up arrangements are clear and sorted.
Tue 09	Wgtn East Girls Orchestra Y7&8 Science Fair	9.45-10.30 performance in our hall. All children will attend. A great opportunity to see some high quality science exhibits.
Wed 10	Conference Agendas home	Please fill in your agenda comments and return one copy to school. Conference times can be made personally at the school office.
Thu 11	Science Fair ends	
Tue 16	Deadline - copy of agenda	Please ensure one copy of your child/ren's agenda is returned to the class teacher.
Tue 23	Conference Day	School is closed except for conferences.
Wed 24	Conferences	After school.
Thu 25	Conferences	After school Y7&8 only.

### Parent Information Opportunities:

- **Starting School @ 5:** A sizable group of parents attended this meeting. Many thanks to the House Captains and teachers from the junior team for giving up an evening to run this valuable session.
- **Y5-8 Open Morning:** It was great to see parents seizing the opportunity to see our enrichment/options programmes in action. The parents that attended Rongotai College also appreciated the opportunity to meet with Kevin Carter, the new prin-

*Reta Rubin*

## From the Board...

### **AGM and Regular Meeting**

It was lovely to see some parents at the Board's recent AGM. Thank you for coming and we hope it gave you a bit of an insight to the running of the school. As the Board is already fully familiar with the content of the Annual Report, it is not a long meeting, but it is part of the ongoing self-review process of governing the school. Copies of the Annual Report are available from the school office. Immediately following the AGM, the Board had a full agenda for its regular scheduled meeting. In the next Steeple Rock we will focus on the curriculum reports delivered.

### **Surveys**

Included as an insert in this newsletter, there is a summary of the work that has been done following the feedback from the parents, whanau and staff surveys taken last year.

### **Donations**

The Board would like to acknowledge all those parents who have already made their donations and/or have made a commitment by setting up an automatic payment. We are encouraged by the fact that donations and activity fee payments received to date are well above what had been paid by the same period last year. School donations make up a significant component of the school's curriculum budget from which all children benefit.

### **Wider Education Community**

It is great when the results of the hard work documented in the Annual Report continues to be recognised and valued by the wider educational community. Some of this recognition includes:

- The Education Gazette (the principle media document in education) visited the school last week to write a feature in a series centred on exemplary science teaching. This article will include photos and discussions with children and staff.
- Pete is one of a small team that was assembled to review and plan for the curriculum development aspect of the Royal Society's programme for the first intake of Primary Science Teacher Fellowships.
- Yesterday 9 lead teachers from the Wairarapa spent a couple of hours observing class maths programmes and talking with our lead teachers around its delivery.
- 2 to 4 American teachers will visit in July as part of the Fulbright Hays Seminars to NZ.
- Pete continues to be sought after as a mentor for other Principals.

It is a great compliment to anybody when your peers recognise your accomplishments and wish to learn from you. Congratulations staff for your ongoing commitment, not only to your personal professional development, but to that of your peers. It is ultimately our children who benefit from this professionalism.

### **New Editor for Steeple Rock**

The Board would like to say a BIG thank you to parent, Joanna Simpson, who is now the new Editor for Steeple Rock. The regular time commitment is not insignificant and your input is very much appreciated.

*Seatoun School values a positive partnership with the community*

# From the PTA...

The next important event on the social calendar is the disco on Thursday, 4 June (see insert for further details). For those families who are new to the school, the PTA has the following two guidelines for discos:

1. Discos are held by the PTA primarily as an entertainment and social experience for the school children and secondarily as a school fundraiser. For safety and information reasons, the following guidelines have been drawn up from past experience.

- The disco is for current school pupils only - parents please ensure that your children do not 'invite' non-current school pupils as they will be asked to leave.
- No child is to leave the hall without a parent or caregiver during the disco. At the end of the disco, all children will remain in the hall until a parent or caregiver collects them.
- The disco is for dancing and is not for roughhousing, wrestling or chasing games.
- Parents or caregivers will be asked to collect their child if they behave in an unacceptable manner.
- Only age appropriate music will be played.
- PTA committee members and co-opted helpers will be present at all times. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

2. PTA members always appreciate assistance from parents and caregivers to help run the disco and to clear up the hall, both in the 15 minutes between the junior and senior discos, and at the end of the senior disco. Please email Anji Foster, [anjif@xtra.co.nz](mailto:anjif@xtra.co.nz) if you are able to help with the running of the disco or the clearing up.

Planning is underway for the adults evening on Saturday, 1 August 2009. If anybody would like to offer their organisational skills, use their creative skills for some hall decorating on the day, or assist on the night, please email Miriam Heycoop, [heycoop@xtra.co.nz](mailto:heycoop@xtra.co.nz)

## Wellington Zone Swimming

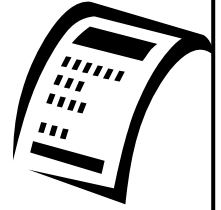
On the Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 22 Seatoun students competed at the Wellington Zone Swimming Competition in Kilbirnie. They all competed to a very high standard and participated with enthusiasm and determination. It was a very difficult competition with a lot of talented swimmers competing. All the children did very well. Congratulations to these swimmers who gained placings:

Anton Jenkins - 2<sup>nd</sup> = place, 25m Freestyle  
Rosie Dossor - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 25m Freestyle  
Ben Wynne - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 25m Breastroke  
Dominic Barratt-Boyes - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 25m Breastroke  
Sarah Blaikie - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 25m Breastroke



## The Startroopers need your New World receipts!!

The Year 8, "Startroopers", netball team has entered the NEW WORLD "Get Sponsored Like the Silver Ferns" competition and THEY NEED YOUR HELP!!



To win, the team needs to collect as many New World supermarket dockets as possible to create the **longest docket** in their region. The prize includes a VIP experience at an International Test Series match, a training session with a Silver Fern, personalised Adidas gear and a team physio kit - very cool! **SO WE NEED YOUR DOCKETS!!** If you have any New World supermarket dockets, please pass them on to any team member (Lee-Jean Kahui, Sarah Blaikie, Millie Barratt-Boyes, Maddy Tew, Korero Williams, Lucy Marsland, Katelyn Featherstone, Abbey Cartmell, Alice Walker and Charlotte Hewson), or their parents', or contact Adrienne Linney on 0274223350 or 9738245. The competition closes on 14 June, so we only have 3 weeks.

Thanks  
Adrienne Linney

## Yummy Apple Stickers

Once again, Seatoun School will cash in **Yummy Apple Stickers** for Sports Equipment. More than \$850,000 dollars worth of sports equipment has been given away to schools since the program was launched six years ago.

All that is needed is for teachers, parents, grandparents; friends and children to collect the Yummy cut out labels from 2kg bags and/or stickers. Bring them to school and we will send them off. The stickers can be collected all year round and entered in the continuing year.



We greatly appreciate your support.  
Ann Vandendungen  
2009 Co-ordinator.

## A Celebration of Visual Art

Coming up in Term 3 the entire school will be having a special visual arts focus and celebration. On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September the children will be put in small groups to work on a visual arts focus. We would love children to be able to work with a mix of teachers, parents and artists who have a skill or a passion to share.

We are looking for any interested artists or parents who would be able to give two days of their time to work closely with a group of children to create a piece of art. Ideas could range from: knitting, painting, fabrics, water colour, photography, clay, driftwood art, mosaics...

If you are interested in helping please contact Ansa Kennedy (Rm 14) or Rebecca Power, or email Ansa directly at [ansa@seatoun.school.nz](mailto:ansa@seatoun.school.nz).

The Seatoun School Arts Team

Term 2: 17 April—3 July			
5	29	Fri	Hui Y1/2
6	1	Mon	Queens Birthday Holiday
	2	Tue	Online Conference Bookings Open
	4	Thu	School Disc
7	9	Tue	EZ X Country Wn East College Girls Orchestra Y7&8 Science Fair
	10	Wed	Conference Agendas Home
	11	Thu	Steeple Rock
	12	Fri	Hui Y1&2 EZ X Country pp date
8	16	Tue	Wgtn Zone X Country Deadline—copy of agenda returned
	19	Fri	Deadline—arrange conference time
9	23	Tue	School Closed - Mid Year Confer- ences
	24	Wed	Conferences after school ICAS Spelling & Writing
	25	Thu	Steeple Rock Conferences after school Y7&8 only
	26	Fri	Hui PTA Bought Lunch
10	30	Tue	Wn X Country
	Jul	Thu	Wn X County pp
	3	Fri	Last Day of Term
Term 3: 20 July — 25 September			
1	J u l 20	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	23	Thu	Steeple Rock
2	30	Thu	BOT Meeting
	Aug 1	Sat	'Beat the Recession Bash'
3	3	Mon	Gardasil for Y8 girls.
	4	Tue	ICAS English
3	5	Wed	EZ Soccer
	6	Thu	ICAS Maths (Additional Test) Steeple Rock
	7	Fri	Hui
4	10	Mon	School Closed - Teacher Only Day
	12	Wed	EZ Soccer pp date Y5-8 Speech Finals 7.00pm
5	19	Wed	ICAS Math
	20	Thu	Steeple Rock
	21	Fri	Hui
6	26	Wed	EZ Hockey
7	Sep 2	Wed	EZ Hockey pp

8	10	Thu	NZIS Fitness Testing Y5-8
9	14	Mon	School Arts Festival
10	24	Thu	Talent Quest
	25	Fri	Last Day of Term
Term 4: 12 October - 18 December			
1	Oct 12	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	17	Sat	Planning Day
2	20	Tue	School Photos
3	26	Mon	Labour Day
	27-30	Tue-Fri	EZ Athletics Trials
	28	Wed	EZ Miniball
5	Nov 11	Wed	EZ Athletics
6	17	Tue	School Athletics Y3-8
	19	Thu	School Athletics pp date
7	23	Mon	Gardasil for Y8 girls.
	25	Wed	Wgtn Zone Athletics
9	Dec 9	Wed	Junior Athletics Y1-2
	11	Fri	Junior Athletics pp
10	14	Mon	Reports Home
	16	Wed	Y8 Formal
	17	Thu	Prizegiving 4.30pm.
10	18	Fri	Last Day of Term

How to contact us	
<b>Answerphone</b>	School absences 388 7600 extn 1 Bulletin Board 388 7600 extn 2
<b>Principal</b>	Pete Pointon 388 7600 peterp@seatoun.school.nz P.T.A. Miriam Heycoop 380 8005 heycoop@xtra.co.nz
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	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 Suzie Bognar 388 5953 bognargreen@xtra.co.nz Catherine Tate 938 6320 the.tates@paradise.net.nz Jason Cowan 388 7600 jasonc@seatoun.school.nz
<b>Newsletter</b>	Contributions and feedback to Joanna Simpson at josim@xtra.co.nz <i>Contributions for next issue by 2.00pm Tuesday, 9th June</i>

*Seatoun School values open, effective and regular communication*