

## From the Principal...

Issue 160, 6 August 2009

Dear All

The new term is now in full swing and we are all enjoying ourselves. On the personnel front, it's nice to have Tim Kong back on deck after returning from Ireland. Victoria Martin has settled into R15 replacing Aimee Eillott who is now on maternity leave. Ms Nima Pemerika, a trainee teacher from VUW, began a seven week placement with Catherine Miller in R1 on Monday.

**Bugs and Germs:** Many thanks everyone for following Health Department advice re flu. We have had some children away, but overall we have fared very well. We have been advised that there is a probability that two of our students may have Whooping Cough. This is another very infectious condition. Please read the information in this newsletter and seek medical advice should any family members display symptoms.

**Parenting Evening:** This was a great evening. Roz Broadmore shared her vast knowledge and experience in a humorous and engaging way; giving practical advice and reassurance to the many parents that attended. A comment that stuck with me was: "If you don't want conflict, use contraception!" Parenting inevitably involves some conflict and battles; it's how you manage these that count. There are no easy answers, but setting boundaries, sticking to your guns and sometimes saying 'no' is ok. Many thanks to the PTA for sponsoring this evening and putting on a delicious supper.

**String Quartet Performance:** Many thanks to Annemarie Meijers and her fellow musicians for putting on such a wonderful concert for the whole of the junior school earlier this week. I was most disappointed that I was unable to attend what was reported as an absolutely super concert.

**School Hui:** Tomorrow's hui is being lead by the Y7&8 team; all reports indicate we are in for a treat? All welcome.

### Reminders:

- **Staff Professional Learning & Development Day:** Remember the school is closed next Monday 10 August for staff professional learning and development.
- **Library Week:** Next week is 'Library week.' We have a couple of low key competitions organised to highlight the week. It's worth taking a few moments now to celebrate what a fantastic library we have, the great job Laurina and her team do, and the high level of use our children (and those from the kindergarten) make of this wonderful facility. Laurina and I were speaking at a National Library workshop last week, and the participants from the many schools represented were very envious of what we enjoy, but never take for granted! It is important to remember that we can only operate our library to such a high standard because of the generosity of parents through your contributions of the voluntary donation. Thank you.
- **Y5-8 Oral Language Extravaganza:** Next Wednesday 12 August, is the annual Inter-House Y5&6 Poetry Recital and Y7&8 Speech Competitions. Everyone is welcome to this brilliant evening.
- **Y7&8 EOTC Week Parent Meeting- Tuesday 18 August:** It is important that at least one parent attends this meeting so that we can ensure everyone gets the important information and all paper work can be sorted out.

Take care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Rubin".

# From the Board...

Hello All

Well done to the PTA for such a fantastic night of chatting and dancing last Saturday. It was great to see so many people from the community getting to know each other and strengthening relationships. Thank you to the staff members who came along.

One of the curriculum areas covered in our last BOT meeting was Maori. Maori is taught at Seatoun School in a number of ways: integrated daily into the classroom programmes, part of syndicate rotations, in Integrated Studies units and specific class lessons. Later in the year the Staff are doing some professional development on the new Maori curriculum. A number of new resources have been purchased, including the new Te Reo Kori kit, geometry set and music CDs.

The BOT also looked at the area of Learning Languages. In the new New Zealand Curriculum the Ministry has set out, for the first time, achievement levels for language learning. All students in the school learn Maori. This year French is being taught to year 7/8 students as part of the Rongotai College enrichment programme. These sessions cover basic French language, culture and history. Year 5/6 students are getting a taster of 4 different languages - Thai, Japanese, Spanish and French as part of their rotation programme. We are lucky at Seatoun School to have a number of staff competent in a second language. The Ministry has introduced compulsory second language learning into Primary Schools but has not provided any funding for teacher training.

Pete gave an outline of what the staff are covering next Monday on the Teacher only day. It is stacking up to be a very full day focussing on the Key Competencies outlined in the revised National Curriculum and assessment. A guest speaker from Victoria University will be presenting a session.

Our next BOT meeting is on Thursday 17 September at 7.30 in the Orca room.

Cheers

# From the PTA...

The Beat the Recession Bash last Saturday night was a huge success. The band 'Nudge' had everyone up dancing and a good time was definitely had by all. Many thanks to Miriam and Judy for organising the evening, Taman and Steve for the tickets, Leisa and Jo for the great hall decorations (all done at no cost in keeping with the spirit of the evening), Sarah for putting together the amazing raffle, members of the school community who generously donated items for the raffle, Matt for a fantastic effort for organising all the drinks and the bar, and Eric and Ian for the food. We have raised approximately \$6,000 which is a fantastic result.

The end of the month lunch last Friday was a hit with the children (and some adults!) - there's nothing like a sausage roll and lamington on a cold day! Thanks to Isobel and Marlies and their helpers on the day.

The PTA is once again organising calendars featuring art by your children, as well as cards, which were particularly popular last year. Look out for further details as the term progresses.

Lastly, thank you to Ice Breaker for giving us such a great deal on winter tops for the children last term and also a generous donation from the sale.

The next PTA meeting is on Monday 7 September. All welcome.

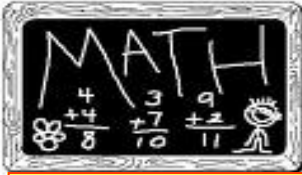
## Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Two students from our school (Rooms 7 & 14) have been identified with probable Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough is usually characterised by a cough lasting longer than two weeks with spasms of coughing ending in vomiting or difficulty breathing. This is often accompanied by a whooping sound. However don't wait until someone has had the cough for more than two weeks before checking it out.

There has been an increase in the number of pertussis cases this year. This can potentially put young babies and small children at risk of this highly infectious disease. In children under one year this can be very serious. Remember adults can also get whooping cough but usually do not have the classical whooping and vomiting after coughing.





# Maths At Seatoun School

Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.  
~Albert Einstein

## Seatoun Classrooms for Term 3

**Year 1&2:** Year 1 has focused on comparing durations of time. This includes seconds, minutes, hours and days. Year 2 have started the term measuring using non standard units and introduced centimetre and metre measuring.

**Year 3&4:** The focus is on multiplication and division and algebra. Learning about time will occur later in the term.

**Year 5&6:** The current focus is measuring area, perimeters and volume. After this the focus is multiplication and division.

**Year 7&8:** Have recently finished a probability unit and are now focusing on multiplication and division and algebraic thinking.

## Did you Know?

### Seatoun School PAT data from earlier this year

Overall more than:

- 80% of Year 4 students
- 92% of Year 5 students
- 87% of Year 6 students
- 85% of Year 7 students
- 93% of Year 8 students

achieved at or *above* the expected level in this national standardised test that covers all strands of the mathematics curriculum, including number knowledge, number strategies, geometry and measurement, statistics and algebra.

## Useful Websites

These websites offer many ideas and activities to help develop your child's maths.

[www.nzmaths.co.nz](http://www.nzmaths.co.nz)

[www.mathletics.co.nz](http://www.mathletics.co.nz)

[www.rainforestmaths.com](http://www.rainforestmaths.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/maths/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/maths/)



## Basic Facts

Basic Facts are an integral part of maths learning. They need to be practised consistently. This is something that can be easily done at home. Quick and accurate and recall of basic facts allow children to solve more complex problems as they progress. Children need to *practise* these problems, not just be tested on them. For example, chanting, writing out, using counters to see, games. These are some of the important basic facts that you could work on with your children at home:

### Year 0-4

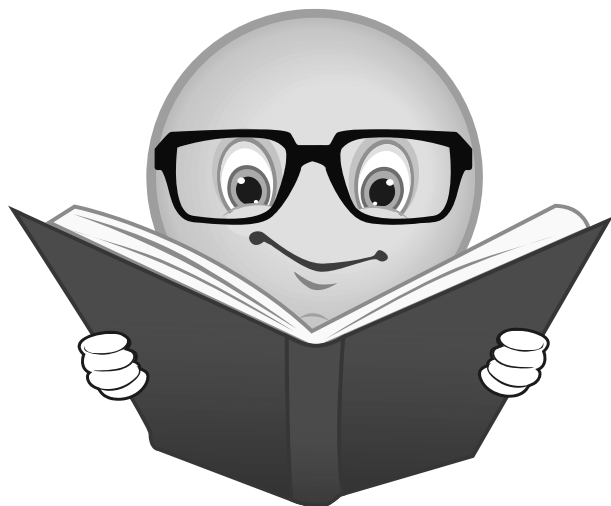
- **Addition/Subtraction:** Patterns and groupings within 5, 10 and 20. E.g. doubles (8+8), patterns (7+3=10, so 17+3=20), teen number facts (10+6=16, 10+2=18), half a number to 20 (1/2 of 14=7).
- **Multiplication/Division:** Skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s (2,4,6,8...). Year 3: 2x, 5x, 10x Year 4: 2x, 5x, 10x, 3x and 4x.

### Year 5-8

- **TIMESTABLES!** It is very important by the end of Year 6 children can recall times tables instantly.
- Yr 5: 6x and 7x, Yr 6: 8x and 9x. Yr 7/8: Instantly recall **ALL** tables. Children also need to understand decimals, fractions and percentages.

Term 3: 20 July – 25 September			
3	7	Fri	Hui
4	10	Mon	School Closed - Staff Only Day
	12	Wed	EZ Soccer pp date Y5-8 Speech Finals 7.00pm
5	18	Tues	Y7&8 EOTC Parent meeting
	19	Wed	ICAS Maths
	20	Thu	Steeple Rock
	21	Fri	Hui
6	26	Wed	EZ Hockey
7	Sep 2	Wed	EZ Hockey pp
	Sep 3	Thu	Steeple Rock
	4	Fri	Hui
8	10	Thu	NZIS Fitness Testing Y5-8
9	14	Mon	School Arts Exhibition 5.30-8.00pm
	17	Thu	Steeple Rock
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



### COMMUNITY NOTICES

#### Lost

Wellington Phoenix soccer shirt, coloured in yellows, white and black, size 10, and brand new...un-named...left in the Library Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, July 22nd or 23rd. Please call Annemarie or Eddie Meijers 3807255 or 0274148168, or see Eddie in Rm 11 if you might have it. Thanks a lot.

### How to contact us

#### Answerphone

School absences 388 7600 extn 1

Bulletin Board 388 7600 extn 2

#### Principal

Pete Pointon 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

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

### Newsletter

Newsletter contributions and feedback to Joanna Simpson at josim@xtra.co.nz.

Contributions for next issue by 2pm Tuesday, 18th August 2009.