



From the Principal...

Dear All

Well it's just about time to say goodbye to 2009. We aimed to slow down and consolidate a bit this year, but I'm not sure that has been the reality, and it was probably naive of us to even consider such a notion! It certainly has been a really rewarding year where it counts - teaching and learning. The children have been fantastic and we have much to be proud of. In particular our Y7&8 students have been outstanding, modelling exemplary behaviour and terrific enthusiasm for learning. This has provided such a positive platform for everyone else.

WELCOME: a big welcome to Anita Lambrechsten, Ileshaa Dias and Leon Cui. Buddies are Ursula Salter, Jessica Moore and Crosby Millar.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Principal Awards

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

R1	Shenna Dunn: 110% quality in everything and always done with a smile	R10	Fiona Roper-Caldbeck: Diligence and a kind, caring attitude
R2	Alice Walker: Responsible, mature attitude	R11	Fraser Waterson: Showing strength and modesty in all areas
R3	Edward Eiloart: Using initiative and great work ethic	R12	George Sladden: being an enthusiastic, curious learner, and fun to be with
R4	Elspeth Hallett: always looking on the bright side of life	R13	
R5	Reuben Beard: working hard, listening carefully and being polite	R14 R14	Nico Henneveld: Superb effort in integrated studies Carter Lemmon: deep level thinking and making connections between learning
R6	Jules Appleby: Always giving his best	R15	Mira Karunanidhi: Displaying a positive attitude
R7	Maleah Abbott-Newland: Positive, enthusiastic attitude to learning	R16	Brittany Phai: Stand-out progress especially in maths and great class member
R8	Macy Cook: Writing and publishing her first book!	R17 R17	Josephine Florentine: Being a warm, caring class member Saskia Dyne: Increased confidence and risk taking
R9	Hugo Findlay: Being a caring, respectful and positive class member		

FINAL PRIZE GIVING HUI: Another reminder that the venue for this year's final hui is **St Patrick's College Hall** on **Thursday 17 December. Start Time: 4.30pm.**

All children are expected to attend. We endeavour to make this as short as possible, but it is very difficult to get through everything in less than 80 minutes. As always we have a full programme and you are requested to be seated prior to 4.30. Also if children can please wear their Seatoun School Polo Shirt.

CURRICULUM:

Home Learning & the TRUMP Challenge: Around 50 parents attended last week's information meeting. It was exciting to see the level of support and enthusiasm for this initiative. Now all that is required is that we get everything up and ready for the start of the 2010 school year!

Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC): The horrific weather we experienced last week certainly put a dampener on the Y3&4 and 5&6 EOTC programmes. The way in which the children and teachers handled the disappointment was brilliant. There is a huge amount of preparation and build-up for these programmes, and so it was a real indicator of the strength of these teams to cope so well.

On Monday morning our Y8 children got away on their week to the Sounds without a hitch and I spent a neat day with 41 Y7 children on the initial day of the Amazing Race, discovering some of the sights and secrets of our beautiful city.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL PROGRAMME: We will once again be following our established programme-

- Normal start 8.50am
- "Munch" 10.30-11.00am
- Final assembly then children dismissed from their classrooms at **1.00pm**. The bus company has been informed. We aim for a 'no hiccup' day and a quick clearing of the school, so that the staff can make their way to Christmas dinner! Please ensure children are clear on any after school arrangements.

VANDALISM /DAMAGE TO THE SCHOOL: You will be aware that many schools have already closed for the year and we have had a few problems with students acting irresponsibly in our grounds etc. This week the wooden steps in the playground near R17 were set alight. This is potentially a very serious situation. We urge you to keep an eye on the school and contact the police should you observe any suspicious or destructive behaviour.

SPECIAL THANKS: I would like to formally acknowledge the wonderful job Joanna Simpson has done formatting this newsletter over 2009. Unfortunately Joanna is unable to continue with this job next year. If anyone is interested please contact the school office.

2010 MEET THE TEACHER: Apologies for the glitch when the interview schedule initially came up with 30 minute time slots. We changed it as soon as we were made aware of the problem. Hopefully all is now in order? Parents who made their bookings in the first 24 hours may wish to check their times. We kept to the original times as much as possible, but made sibling times the next consecutive 10 minutes.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Date	Item/Happening	Parent Action Required
Monday 14	Reports home	Celebrate the progress all children have made
Tuesday 15	Lost Property Display Parent & Community Helper morning tea	Check out the mountain of items on display If you have helped out in any way of the year join the staff for morning tea at 10.20 am in the hall
Wednesday 16	Children visit their 2010 classes Y8 Formal - evening	Be positive and reinforce the many new opportunities 2010 may bring Parents of Y8 students welcome to attend. NO siblings please
Thursday 17	Prize-giving Hui, St Patrick's College Hall 4.30pm SHARP	Ensure children are neatly and appropriately dressed and seated by no later than 4.25pm
Friday 18	Last Day	Ensure children are picked up from their classroom at 1.00pm

2010 DATES: Please refer to the term diary. A comprehensive planner will be published in the first Steeple Rock (and on-line) next year.



From the Board...

It is hard to believe there is only one more week of the school year to go. Some may think that learning goes at a slower speed at this time of year, but you just need to be part of an EOTC activity to realise this is just not the case. The learning is high energy and full on (for parents as well as students!). The enthusiasm of the parents, children and teachers alike, (no matter the weather) is a testimony to this. Thank you teachers for all the careful planning, risk analysis, etc. you put into this, whilst writing reports and still planning normal lessons, and to all the parents who are able to help make it possible.

The Board would like to thank people in businesses that have supported the school throughout the year. In particular Silicon Systems, Hunt, Davies, Tennent Architects and Emporio Coffee. St Aidan's Parish for their financial donations. Joanna Simpson for editing Steeple Rock, Paul Frederickson and Jane Baxter for tutoring the school band, Miriam Heycoop and the PTA, and all the parents who have helped the school in so many ways.

We would like to farewell Hannah Steel who is leaving us at the end of the year, we wish her well on her overseas adventure. Also farewell and best wishes to Kathryn Wu and Sarah Cobbum.

Thank you to everyone that has made a voluntary donation and paid their activity fees. A reminder, it's still not too late to make a payment to help the school meet its financial obligations for the year.

On a different note, some of you will be aware that since day one there have been some on-going issues with our new buildings that have never been satisfactorily resolved. Earlier this year we liaised with the Ministry of Education and as a result a report was commissioned. Subsequently a meeting with the Ministry was held to discuss the report and actions.

As a result, the Ministry have agreed to manage and fully fund a comprehensive remedial programme. The full extent of the work needed can only be ascertained when the work commences. Exact programme details and timeframe are yet to be confirmed, but we are expecting work will commence in 2010. This will be a significant project that is likely to continue beyond 12 months.

The Ministry are fully committed to working closely with the school to ensure minimal disruption to the children and our teaching and learning programmes. The board will keep parents updated on what will be happening.

To those children and families who are moving on we wish you well for the future, and thank you for your continued support of the school. We wish everybody a wonderful festive break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

P.S 2010 is again a key year as Board elections will be held in May. If you think you would like to contribute to the governance of the school, please feel free to contact any member of the Board to find out more about what is involved. Another good source of information is the NZ School Trustees Association website, www.nzsta.org.nz. Perhaps have a think about it whilst sipping wine in the sunshine!

Merry Christmas.

Letizea, Sandy, Simon, Suzie, Catherine, Pete, Jason and Helen

INTER-ZONE ATHLETICS

Two weeks ago 18 students represented Seatoun School at the annual Inter-zone Athletics competition, at Newtown Park. All the children gave 100% and performed with a healthy competitive attitude. These were the children that won a placing in the top 3.

Year 4 Girls

Katie Oolders - 2nd 1000 metres

Year 5 Boys

Jamie Smitheman - 2nd Vortex

Ben Robertson - 3rd Long Jump

Year 6 Girls

Laura Heycoop - 3rd long Jump

Laura Heycoop - 3rd 1000 metres

Year 7 Girls

Kate Nota- 2nd 1000 metres

Year 7 Girls Relay - Ruby Hague-Smith, Kate Nota, Laura Heycoop - 1st (Laura ran for them as they were short)

Year 8 Girls Relay

- Millie Barratt-Boyes, Lee-Jean Kahui, Charlotte Hewson, Joanne Cook - 2nd

Year 8 Boys

Tom Kimber - 1st Vortex

Also a special mention to Fraser Waterson who, through no fault of his own, was unable to compete in the Year 4 boys events this year. Fraser has been acknowledged as a stand out performer at his Wellington athletics club, winning both the sprints and the long jump at an interclub level. Watch out for him next year!

Term 4: 27 October - 18 December			
10	14	Mon	Reports Home Meet the Teacher Bookings close
	15	Tue	Lost Property Display Parent & Community Helper morning tea 10.20am
	16	Wed	Children visit their 2010 classes Y8 Formal
	17	Thu	Prize-giving hui at 4.30pm. St Patricks College Hall
	18	Fri	Last Day of Term Assembly at 11.00am School ends at 1.00pm

2010 Term Dates	
Term 1	3 February - 1 April
02 Feb	Meet the Teacher
03 Feb	School starts House Sports in afternoon
Term 2	19 April - 02 July
Term 3	19 July - 24 September
Term 4	11 October - 17 December

Disabled Car Park

Can you please refrain from parking in the disabled car park situated outside the main entrance. There is a mother at the school who has a disability with the authorisation and the need to park here.

Newsletter

Newsletter contributions and feedback to Anne at the school office at admin@seatoun.school.nz **Contributions for next issue by 2pm on Tuesday, 09 February 2010.**

SITUATION VACANT EDITOR OF STEEPLE ROCK

Who would like to kindly offer their services and edit the school newsletter?

Seatoun School needs someone to take on the role of editing Steeple Rock in the new year.

The newsletter is published fortnightly during the school terms—so it works out to be approximately 5 newsletters per term and 20 per year.

The newsletter is produced using Microsoft Publisher and the task requires someone who is familiar with Microsoft software to undertake the role.

If you are interested in getting involved and helping out the school, please contact Anne at the office by phone or email admin@seatoun.school.nz

School Fair 2010

Please consider if you own or work for a company who may be able help out in any way with our school fair next year. For example you may be in the "hire" business we always need tents, umbrellas sun shades and wind breakers! You may be in the food / beverage industry, signage, printing.....if you think you or your company could have something to offer please contact Miriam on 3808005 or heycoop@extra.co.nz.

Auctions & Raffles

We are starting to search for fabulous auction or raffle items! Please consider whether you/your company would be prepared to donate something. As well as the live auction we run a silent auction, raffles, rapid raffles and a tombola. Unique, unusual items are very popular, as are prizes that offer an experience.

Contact: Penny Packard on 970 4168 or penny.pete@clear.net.nz

Plant Stall

For our gala preparation and planning we welcome **any plastic pots or potting mix/soil**. These may be dropped to 54 Burnham Street. Any queries regarding supplies or anything that you may be removing from your garden that could be sold in the stall please contact Nikki and Todrick on 388 8242.

Community Notices

Rental/House sitting

We have a 4/5 bedroom house available for short term rental/house sitting from 31 March - 25 May 2010. In turn a small well behaved dog and cat would need to be cared for. Very close to school. Contact Miriam or Eric 3808005.

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.

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year