

From the Principal...

Dear All

Our hearts and love go out to all the people of Christchurch. Most of us have family or friends that live in the city and so have been affected in some way. We had a staff meeting on Tuesday afternoon to go over our own procedures. Teachers went through these with their children on Wednesday morning.

For your information a summary of our procedures are:

Immediate Response:

- "Drop and Cover" drill
- Checking for injuries and hazards and ensuring all present
- Evacuation – main field; if danger of tsunami then up to the garages once all checks have been made

Collection of Children from School

Once the initial shock is over, our expectation is that parents, a nominated emergency contact person, or possibly a friend will collect the children. This is far easier to manage than the staff trying to care for over 400 children in difficult circumstances.

- Children will be kept in class groups
- The adult "collector" must report to the collection point and complete a collection form prior to taking any child. **It is critical that we have an accurate record of who takes every child**
- When a child is collected from the school the responsibility for the child is with the person that collects them

Children that are not collected

We expect that a small number of children may not be collected for some time. These children will be looked after at school until parents or family can be contacted.

Emergency Supplies:

We have emergency supplies of bottled water and tinned food; however for anything over one day we will be relying on the wider community.

The school is a nominated CD centre and as such it may well be used as a collection / shelter point for the wider community.

Like all schools we plan for emergencies. We have a fire evacuation drill every six months and at least one earthquake evacuation drill every year. Families should also have a plan and children need to know it. Families are responsible to inform the school when contact details change.

The House Captains are keen to make their annual charity focus a 'Donation from the Seatoun School Community Fund' to assist those affected by the earthquake. I am aware that already there are many avenues for people to donate money, but this does seem a very real and relevant way for our children to help others in need. Families would be free to donate whatever amount they wanted, but if a Y3-8 student decided to earn \$5 or more doing jobs around home and then donate it to the fund then this would count as a TRUMP Challenge. Further details to follow.

Prior to 1.00pm Tuesday I wrote that we are enjoying a fantastic start to the year. That remains the case; staff and children are refreshed and keen, and even the virtual dismantling of the school around us is being taken in our stride.

Since the last newsletter, Zachery Thomson, Emily Koyama, Vishal Dinamani and Charlie King have started school. All are new entrants; their big buddies are Billy Bouzoukis, Ella Glynn, Georgina Moore and Mohi Kahui. We also welcome Mary Nesbitt in Year 5.

Congratulations:

Cricket: We had two teams play in the Eastern Zone Competitions last week. Both teams won all of their games.

2010 NIWA Wgtn Science & Technology Fair: Last year our senior students achieved very highly, winning a number of awards in this competition. Special certificates recently arrived from the Royal Aeronautical Society recognising Fraser Hallett and Crosby Millar for their aeronautical themed research projects. Both boys have been made student members of the Wellington Branch.

Principal Awards:

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

Rm	Yr		Rm	Yr	
1	7 & 8	Gianni Bouzoukis: A positive start to 2011 - being very good role model	14	3 & 4	Emma Burnham: Careful planning to produce quality writing
2	7 & 8	Madeline Piesocki: Positive attitude, fantastic start to the year	15	3 & 4	Madison Hanlon: Being a conscientious, hardworking student
3	7 & 8	George Ninness: Positive, enthusiastic student-fantastic role model	16	3 & 4	Fionn McKenna: Sharing ideas, big effort, great start to year
4	2	Yasmin Kesry: Being a fantastic role model, following instructions & helping others	17	3 & 4	Lucy Jefferies; being a helpful, focussed & organised learner
5	2	Megan MacKenzie: Following instructions & working hard	18	5 & 6	Marco Solakof: Dedication in finishing work to a high standard
6	1&2	Esther Richards: Fantastic reading	19	5 & 6	Luke Tapsell: Showing initiative &
7	0	No class yet	20	5 & 6	Josh Bates: Displaying a positive attitude
8	1	Max Cran: Following the right process when sharing his thinking	21	5 & 6	Matt Carter: Being such a positive student
9	1	No class yet			

Remedial Building update: It's hard to believe the scope of this work. It is a challenging project in so many ways. Opening the building every morning and then having to make it secure and weather tight at the end of each day is very time consuming. The full extent of the problems only become apparent as the work progresses, solutions and pricing must be agreed to for every new issues, and then every stage of the work must be inspected and signed off. Things are progressing pretty well and fairly soon there will be internal scaffolding erected in the administration foyer to access the roof in this area. It is likely that our hall will be out of commission for a few weeks longer than originally planned- all we can do is go with the flow and be flexible.

TRUMP Home Learning:

Whilst specifically targeted for parents of new children (Y3 and above) to the school, and parents of Y3 children who have not been involved in TRUMP before, all interested parents are invited to an information evening on Wednesday 09 March at 7.00pm in the school library.

General Information Evenings:

We had planned to hold Y1-4 and Y5-8 information evenings, outlining how things work, expectations, how you can help at home, assessment etc this term. However with our hall out we do not have a venue. These will be held in Term 2 as soon as we have access to the hall.

Personnel: Today we said farewell to Persephone Georgiakakis. Persephone leaves a big gap; she has been a dedicated teacher-aide, a capable office receptionist and a very efficient editor of Steeple Rock.

December 2010 'Reporting to Parents' Effectiveness Survey: We received 174 responses. A summary of the responses are outlined below:

Number of ratings by Question – showing strongly agree, agree and combined agreement total from 174 Responses

Rating

		1. Strongly Agree	2. Agree	3. Disagree	4. Strongly Disagree	
#	Survey Statement	Response Rating				
		1	%	2	1+2	%
1	The report is written in language that I understand and clearly informed me of where my child is achieving against expected levels for children of a similar age/time at school in the core areas of reading, writing & mathematics	104	58	61	165	95
2	The report provides me with meaningful information that supported the teacher's judgements, and gives me a good understanding of my child's strengths and needs in the core subjects	102	59	65	167	96
3	The report gives me meaningful information about my child's progress over the year, in the core curriculum areas	86	49	69	155	89
4	The report gives me clear information of my child's achievement, strengths & attitudes in the broader curriculum i.e. Integrated Studies (social sciences, science & technology), health & PE, the arts	105	60	63	168	97
5	The report gives me clear and meaningful information of my child's strengths and development in the Key Competencies	94	54	63	157	90
6	The report 'captures' my child well. I could 'recognise' my child and relate to the comments that the teacher made	116	67	52	168	97
7	My child's self - review is useful and provides me with their perspective	107	61	53	160	97
8	The report contains 'no surprises.' It builds on the information I have been provided with earlier (e.g. mid-year, other meetings & communications)	112	64	51	163	94
9	In this report, and/or over the year, I have been offered appropriate support and suggestions about how I might be able to support my child's learning at home	90	52	63	153	88
10	Overall Seatoun School has an effective integrated reporting process that keeps parents well -informed of their child's progress & achievement. It is holistic and values the whole child; acknowledging strengths & achievements as well as identifying areas for development	89	51	66	155	89

Analysis/ Comment:

Overall very high satisfaction rate, with 7 of the 10 questions scoring 90% 1 or 2 (strongly agree or agree).

Only 11 responses across the whole survey scored a 4 (strongly disagree)

Highest satisfaction: Questions 4, 6, & 7 (97%). Endorses that teachers are capturing the student well, provide excellent information about strengths/needs across the curriculum and that the student self-review provides the child with a voice.

Lowest satisfaction: Question 9 (88%), 3 & 10 (89%). 12% of parents did not agree that they were provided with adequate information about how they might help their child at home. 11% of parents did not agree that their child's report adequately showed progress over the year. The same response was received for question 10. Extrapolated out, given the response for Q9, at least the same figure would appear for Q10.

The strong majority of parents were very enthusiastic, satisfied and appreciative of the reporting process and the effort teachers make. Parents appear clear about where their child stands against national expectations and they were not surprised by the information they received. The two areas to consider for further improvement appear to be; being more explicit in communicating progress made over the year and providing ideas about how parents might support their child's learning at home. The lowest number of responses for a class was 5 the highest 16.

Rita Rubin

Seatoun School values open, effective and regular communication

From the Board...

Work is continuing on the remedial project. The focus to date has been on the hall although the contractors will start removing sections of classroom exterior shortly. The Principal is keeping a sharp eye on the works as they proceed and is paying particular attention to health and safety issues. Mr Pointon is being ably supported by Mark Bates (board member).

The new garages are almost complete. Again, thank you to Mark, Chris and Clyde. A painting working bee is to be held on **6 March 2011 at 10am**. Please email a Board member if you can attend.

Board members will be undertaking training this year on various topics including the implementation of National Standards. A thorough understanding of the National Curriculum, Key Competencies and the National Standards (and other methods of assessment) along with their relationship to each other is necessary in order to understand the workings of a school in 2011. The Board all feel that the information gained about these concepts has assisted us in not only in carrying out our Board functions but also as parents of school aged children. If you would like to learn more about these concepts there are some good on-line resources including:

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/>

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/National-Standards>

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-documents/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum/Key-competencies>

<http://www.tworedapples.com>

Sarah, Richard, Mark, Suzie, Justine, Susan and Pete

From the PTA...

The year is off to a flying start and we've been doing some planning for our fundraising efforts over the next couple of years.

2012 marks the 10-year celebration of Seatoun School on the new site. We will be celebrating that with a special Seatoun School Ball. 2012 is also our Fair year.

The PTA has two big fundraisers planned for 2011 and we would really like (and need) your support

Major PTA fundraisers for 2011

Saturday June 25 - Major fundraiser for adults

This will be our big fundraiser for the year, which will be a fun night for adults. These nights are always great - meet people, come with a group of friends and raise money at the same time. Please put this date in your diary now. Details to follow.

November 2011 - golf day for clients and friends

Entertain your clients and have fun with your friends - all while raising money for the school. Look out for details closer to the time.

Other important dates

Every Friday - sushi lunch - download order forms from the Seatoun School website

Friday 16 March - BBQ sausage lunch

BBQ sausage lunch. Once a term the PTA puts on a special lunch for the children to raise funds and give mums and dads a day off making school lunches. Look out for the order form which will come home with your child/ren.

Thursday 30 June - school DISCO

This is the date for our much-anticipated annual school disco. This is a fun event for the whole school which the children really look forward to. Look out for details.

Next Meeting - Monday 28 March, 7.30pm in the staffroom

Our next meeting is a special meeting with a glass of wine thrown in (!) and we invite everybody to come along just to see what the PTA is all about. No commitment - we'd just like to meet you and welcome new members. Some of our members don't come to meetings - they help out when and where they can. Everybody is welcome, however small or big your time commitment is...we look forward to seeing you there.

Seatoun School values a positive partnership with the community

Student Responsibilities

School Librarians

We've been librarians for 2 years now. We both enjoy being in the library once a week. Being a librarian is a fun way to finish off our year at Seatoun School. A highlight is getting to spend time with Mr Murphy.

Laura Heycoop & Holly Blakely

Back row Left-Right: Isabella Moon, Georgia Cutfield, Joseph Ivory, James Smitheman, Austin Leone

Middle row: AJ Gregan, Charlotte Carter, Mira Karunanidhi, Madeleine Piesocki, Queenie Scott-Murray

Front row: Claire Davis, Laura Heycoop, Holly Blakely, Megan Prentice, Saama Dias



Netball

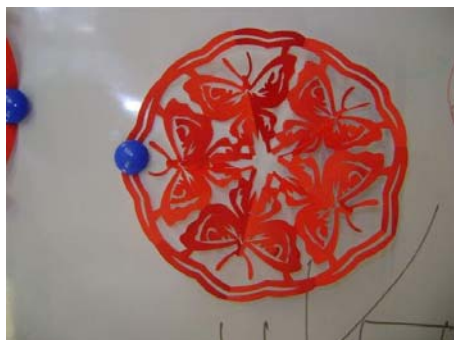
Just a reminder that the netball meeting scheduled for Thursday 3rd March, 7pm. The hall is unavailable so we will be holding this meeting in rooms 6 and 7. We are also seeking coaches and managers. If you are able to volunteer, can you please contact me as soon as possible.

Kind regards, Teresa Keeley. Teresa.Keeley@seatoun.school.nz

Paper Cutting Workshop

On Tuesday, 15 February, Year 5/6 students had the privilege of having Mr Wang, Mrs Dong and their translator Lydia teach us the Taiwanese art of paper cutting. We were shown three amazing designs, a window flower, which is a piece of paper folded three times and cut three times to make repeating symbols or animals; a 3D animal made by folding a long thin piece of paper and then cutting out the shape of an animal then folding to make them more lifelike; and finally a 3D card that when it's opened a house or pattern pops up like a pop-up book. Two classes made a simplified version of the 3D cards and two made window flowers. Overall, everyone had an amazing time and we were very lucky to have them.

Baxter Robb



Wanted

Editor for Steeple Rock

With Persephone's departure, we are looking for a new editor for Steeple Rock.

This requires a couple of hours once a fortnight to prepare the newsletter.

Please speak to Anne in the office if you are interested in . Ph 388.7600. admin@seatoun.school.nz

Newsletter

Newsletter contributions and feedback to Anne McLellan at admin@seatoun.school.nz.

Contributions for next issue by **Monday 7 March 2011, 2pm.**

Community Notices (printed as space permits)

JUNIOR RUGBY REGISTRATION DAY

Wellington Football Club— under six years to under 13.
Wellington football Club Clubrooms, Hataitai Park, Ruahine St. Thursday 24 Feb 5.30-7.30pm, Saturday 26 Feb 12-2pm, Saturday 5 March 12-2pm. Reg Fee \$40per player or max \$70 per family. WWW.AXEMENJUNIORS.ORG.NZ or max \$70 per family. WWW.AXEMENJUNIORS.ORG.NZ

Eastern Bays Scout Group

Kea Club on Thursday 3rd March, meeting times will be from 6.15 – 7.15pm. Our hall is located in Worsler Bay at the bottom of Awa Road, between the Surf Club and the Yacht Club. Morris van Voornveld
Group Leader, Mobile Ph : 027-4958289.

How to Contact Us

Answerphone

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We have responsible family members from Remuera coming for a family reunion first weekend of the holidays and are looking for house sitting accommodation in local community if possible, call Jason/Irene on 3808848 if interested.

Learn to Play Hockey

Every Tuesday after school 3:30 - 4:30pm until end of term
Year 5 & 6 boys & girls welcome

Email hockeypractice@gmail.com for more details