



OWHIRO BAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 7

17 March 2010

Important Dates To Remember

School Hangi this Friday	19 March
• One Learning Community Unveiling Celebration 5.30 pm	25 March
• Mulching Day with WCC	30 March
• Three Way Conferences—Learning Conversations	30/31 March
• End of Term—Thursday 2.00 pm	1 April
• Good Friday	2 April
• Board Nominations Close	23 April
• Board Election Date	7 May
• Term 2 begins—8.55 am	19 April

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Kia ora, Nameste, Shalom, Talofa, Konchiwa, Guten Tag, ni Hao, Kia orana, Hello, Hi

It is great to see so many people from our community involved in preparing and coming along to the hangi this Friday. A reminder that the evening starts at 5:00pm with a short powhiri from the children before the hangi is lifted. Your child is a vital part of this, so please can you get them here before the start of the welcome. We are hoping for a fine evening to enable us to spend some time together while enjoying the wonderful kai that comes from the hangi. Just a reminder that as the evenings are starting to cool down you may like to bring along an extra jumper or coat as well as your picnic rug or chair.

Whilst people have varying views about Homework, at Owhiro Bay School we encourage students to share their learning with their parents/caregivers at home. We find this is an important way of consolidating learning, enabling parents/caregivers to find out more about what their child is learning as well as providing an opportunity to support this learning. The school is aware that Home Learning activities are just some of the many activities that children engage in outside school hours. We recognize that many other activities also provide the opportunities for children to continue and consolidate their learning.

At the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings earlier this term your child's teacher would have shared their home learning expectations with you. Your child's class 'Learning Link' also came home for the term. As part of our regular self review we invite you to help us review our school's Home Learning (Homework) Policy.

Please find the policy document attached to this newsletter, along with the procedures for implementing this policy. We welcome your comments and responses so please feel free to contact myself, your child's teacher or the office to share your ideas regarding Home Learning or these documents.

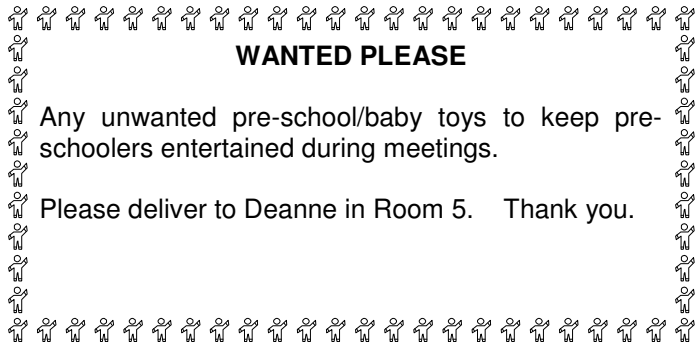
Have a great week. See you at the hangi at 5:00pm this Friday and then again at the Unveiling Celebration with the Kindergarten next Thursday at 5:30pm.

ka kite
Karen



THANKS

To the parents/caregivers who have already returned their time slot preferences for the Three Way Learning Conferences to be held on 30/31 March. Time slots will be coming home next week with your child.



WANTED PLEASE

Any unwanted pre-school/baby toys to keep pre-schoolers entertained during meetings.

Please deliver to Deanne in Room 5. Thank you.

PRINCIPAL/PARENT CUPPA & CHAT

Please remember Karen is available on Monday mornings at 9.00 am for a cuppa and a chat.

If there is anything you would like to discuss/chat about or wish to have clarified—please join her then or feel free to speak to Wendy and make an appointment to come and see Karen at another time if the Monday morning does not suit you.



SAFETY IN THE SUN

During Terms 1 and 4, wearing of sunhats is compulsory in the playground, so please check your child has a named hat to wear at school. We also encourage the use of sunglasses and sunblock during these summer months.



One Learning Community Unveiling Celebration and Main Entrance Way

Just a reminder that on 25 March there is a celebration for the unveiling of our Learning Community – ie: Owhiro Bay Kindergarten and Owhiro Bay School. All parents, caregivers, families and children are invited to this celebration where there will be an unveiling of the new 'maui hook' sign at the front of the school. The celebration starts at 5.20 pm with a few short speeches and songs from the children, followed by a sausage sizzle.

Please note:

With addition of the new main entrance to our one Learning Community, the existing gate coming in near the bus shelter, will be removed during the Easter/school holiday break.

NITS

Thank you to the parent that advised the school that nits are around. Please check your child's head regularly and treat if necessary.

A reminder that there is a Robi comb available for loan from the school office.



OUR STUDENT COUNCIL ARE PROMOTING

'EARTH HOUR'

Wellington households, cafes, hotels, businesses and schools got behind the spirit of Earth Hour last year and we're hoping even more will support this year's World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF's) global climate change initiative.

The hour-long switch off is set to happen at 8.30 pm on Saturday 27 March

Please support our planet by switching off your lights and appliances for one hour on Saturday 27th March at 8.30 pm



**A NOTE FROM WHAEA LISA AND
WHAEA KAHU**

Kupu Hou (new word for the week)

**Hangi = earth oven (and its
contents)**

Pronunciation :

Hung-ee

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is on Tuesday 23 March at 7.00 pm. Please note that minutes of these meetings are available to read in a folder in the foyer in the office.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Board member, you are most welcome to come along to our next meeting on the 23 March.

ANNUAL SCHOOL HANGI

Although we still have a few tickets left, tickets are selling fast. Tickets are \$14.00 for one parcel of food which includes mutton, pork, chicken, pumpkin, kumara, cabbage, potato and stuffing (sorry no specialist diets can be catered for). You may like to share a parcel between two or more people. Included with each ticket is a child's iceblock ticket—if you would like to purchase further iceblocks for additional children—these are available from the office at 50c.

On the evening of the hangi remember to bring a chair or rug to sit on, warm clothing, utensils (or fingers) to eat with and your own drinks.

We require urgently please:

- Plastic food bins or chilly bins (named) to put vegetables in once prepared ready to put into individual plates.

PARENTLINK

Entertainment Books

Owhiro Bay School is pleased to be offering the new edition of the Entertainment Book to parents/caregivers/friends/relatives as part of our fundraising campaign this year.

Entertainment Books contain hundreds of 25-50% off and two-for-one offers from popular restaurants, cinemas, hotels, the arts and leisure activities. The sale of each book will raise \$12.00 for Owhiro Bay School and contribute much needed funds to our fundraising targets for this year. We have a limited amount of pre-sale bonus offers worth over \$150.00 including offers from Lone Star, Reading Cinemas, Sierra Café, Mondo Espresso, La Marche Francois, The Hurricanes.

Please contact Jennifer Dunn to place your order and snap up these bonus offers. Email kevjendunn@paradise.net.nz, Phone 934.2179 or text 0274 449679.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of Parentlink is held at 2.00 pm in the staffroom on Wednesday 31 March. All very welcome. Hope to see you there.

Health & Physical Education Surveys

Thank you to all our parents/caregivers/whanau/families who responded to the Health and Physical Education survey over the past few weeks. These are currently being collated and responses will be shared with you via the newsletter soon.

VIRTUES

The focus for this week is "Confidence" or "Maia" which means having faith in something or someone.

It is trust also self-confidence when you trust that you have what it takes to handle whatever happens. Confidence is about feeling sure of yourself and enjoying trying new things.

Next week the focus is "Determination" or "hiri-nga".

If you are interested in finding out more about The Virtues Programme developed by Linda Kavelin Popov try looking up www.virtuesproject.com.

YEAR 4/5 NETBALL TEAM—OWHIRO BAY

Would your child be interested in forming a team to play for Owhiro Bay School on Saturday mornings. Please let Wendy in the office know before the end of this week. More information to follow.

SOUTHERN ZONE SPORTS

The southern zone sports is held at Houghton Valley School next Tuesday 23 March. Thanks to the parents and caregivers who are providing transport to and from and supervision on the day.

Individual letters have been sent to each participant with further details.

Good luck to you all.

W F ANDERSON TRUST

A huge thank you to the WF Anderson Trust for their generosity in sending our school a cheque for \$4,500. This will go a long way to provide extra curriculum classroom resources for our school.

WALK OR WHEEL TO SCHOOL NEXT THURSDAY 24 MARCH

To promote our healthy living at Owhiro Bay School, we are participating in a "Walk or Wheel to School" day next Thursday 24 March. More details to follow in next weeks newsletter.



School Trustees Board Elections

Nominations are now open for election to the Board of Trustees. Nomination papers came home with the youngest child in your family on Monday. Spare nomination forms are also available from the school office.

The new Board will be elected in May for the next three year term. Maybe you would like to be part of this team or you know of someone else who you think would be great in the role; if so please encourage them to think about standing for our Board.

What's Involved?

The role of the Board of Trustees is to guide and support the Principal, teachers and our community to provide a fantastic learning environment for our all children.

Ideally, trustees will have a mixture of skills, knowledge and experience. The sort of attributes that are desirable include financial know-how, communication and consultation skills, minute-taking skills, strong community links, and experience in working as part of a team.

Previous Board experience is useful, but not essential. However, trustees do need to understand and accept that their role is to guide and govern. Day to day management is the responsibility of the Principal; teaching is to be left to the teaching professionals.

The Owhiro Bay School Board of Trustees comprises of up to seven parent/caregiver representatives, along with a staff rep and the Principal.

If you would like to find out more about what being on the Board entails, please feel free to contact me on 021 534 010

Regards
Chris Roberts
OBS Board Chair

Nominations

Board nominations close **on 23 April** and may be accompanied by a candidate's statement.

The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

If there are more than seven nominations an election will be required, with the poll closing at noon on **7 May 2010**.

If you have any questions about the election process, our returning officer is Jan Bergquist, 029 9347147.

THREE WAY CONFERENCES AND GOAL SETTING MEETINGS

These learning conversations are taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday 30 and 31 March. Your confirmation slips will come home with your child on Monday, along with an information sheet about the meeting and a preparation sheet for parents and caregivers to help in preparing for this meeting.

It is important that all parents/caregivers and their children attend your scheduled conference. Each conference lasts 15 minutes. The school will provide supervised activities in the library for siblings to attend while you are at these meetings.

Your child will have an active role in these conferences. The week before they will be preparing with their teacher, to share some of their work and next learning steps at your meeting. As you fill in your preparation sheet you may like to discuss this with them too.

Following the conferences a written report will come home to you on Friday 30 April recording the new goals, next learning steps and ways of supporting these. We will also be asking you for your feedback about the new reporting format.

HOME LEARNING (HOMEWORK) POLICY
Owhiro Bay School

RATIONALE: Home learning activities are provided by the school to consolidate and enhance school learning. The school encourages children to share their learning with their parents/caregivers to gain support and encouragement for their learning. Home learning activities are designed to support children's learning, and to help keep parents in touch with what their children are learning at school.

PURPOSE:

- 1 To foster parent/caregiver involvement in student learning by keeping them in touch with what students are learning at school.
- 2 To assist children progressively to develop independent study routines and the effective management of their own time.

GUIDELINES: Home learning is

- 1 Guided by NAG 1, by the values, goals and targets of the school charter; also by current pedagogy and research into the place of homework in primary school years.
- 2 Undertaken in partnership with families. The rationale for home learning is clearly and publicly explained, consultation about home learning practices and information about changes to practice are shared with the school community in advance of changes.
- 3 Communicated through the class teacher's 'Meet The Teacher' meeting at the beginning of the year and other meetings with parents/caregivers; also through the class "Learning Links" each term and the school newsletter.
- 4 Set by the class teacher and designed to be relevant to children's learning needs ie: directly linked to ongoing school learning
- 5 Expectations are clearly communicated in oral and in written form so that children and their parents/caregivers understand the teachers' expectations.
- 6 Acknowledged/marked at school each week.
- 7 One of the many activities children engage in outside school hours that the school recognises will support their school learning programme. The school accepts that some parents/caregivers have strong views on homework and are open to hearing these.
- 8 The school accepts that there may be times when Home Learning activities may not be completed due to other commitments or family activities, and ask that parents/ caregivers communicate with teachers about this.

MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS:

'Owhiro Bay School Home Learning Procedures' is a document that is in the school to guide the school's Home Learning practice. This document is regularly reviewed and is available on request.

**HOME LEARNING (HOMEWORK) PROCEDURES
OWHIRO BAY SCHOOL**

- 1 Class teachers regularly share Home Learning expectations with students in their class.
- 2 Class teachers share Home Learning expectations with parents/caregivers at the beginning of the year in 'Meet the Teacher' meetings, also at 'Three Way Conferences' and at other relevant meetings during the year.
- 3 Class newsletters called "Learning Links" go home to parents and caregivers at the beginning of each term to outline learning foci for the term. Further notices about homework may come home in the school newsletter.
- 4 Home Learning activities and work is explained to pupils. The required skills are taught as part of the classroom programme.
- 5 Children are expected to share their Home Learning activities with parents/caregivers. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to share "Learning Link" activities with their child but are NOT expected to do Home Learning activities for their children.
- 6 Teachers may need to adapt home learning expectations and activities to suit individual learning needs or talk with parents/caregivers about these expectations.
- 7 The school expects children to spend approximately the following amount of time on their Home Learning or activities each night:

10 minutes	-	New Entrants – year 2
15 minutes	-	Year 3 and Year 4
20 Minutes	-	Year 5 and Year 6 (plus reading)
- 8 If children are unable to complete Home Learning activities parents/caregivers are asked to contact their teacher about this.
- 9 Teachers acknowledge/mark Home Learning activities each week.
- 10 Regular Home Learning and sharing learning activities is part of our school policy. Children are expected to read every day as part of their Home Learning.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

*Every effort is made to present accurate information.
The Board of Trustees does not accept responsibility for any inaccuracies.
The Board is unable to accept responsibility for guaranteeing the goods or services advertised.*

KIDSCO HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

KIDSCO: HANGOUT WITH US: April Holiday Programme; We'll be creating individually and together as a team - Masterpieces in Motion! If it flies, sails, rockets, whirrs and whizzes it's in our plans. See our website for more details: www.kidsco.co.nz and to enrol. Located at Owhiro Bay Primary School.

Capital City Futsal Under 10's and Youth Futsal League

After the enormous success and popularity of our futsal leagues in Term One, we are pleased to offer the opportunity to enter our leagues for Term Two. Futsal is a fast, five-a-side, FUN football game played by superstars such as Ronaldinho and Cristiano Ronaldo when they were young. Don't miss this chance to advance your soccer skills, get exercise and have a great time with your friends. All matches are overseen by qualified, experienced coaches who have played representative futsal. Capital City Futsal is proudly affiliated to New Zealand Football, providing both a high quality standard of football and the opportunity to represent your city and country in the future. To register interest or ask any questions, please contact us at david.plowright@futsal.net.nz. All information regarding our leagues and coaching opportunities can be found at <http://www.futsal.net.nz>.

School Holiday Computer Classes

Wellington and Lower Hutt 1 to 5 day holiday computer classes for students aged 5-15. From essential computer skills to advanced classes in game creation, animations, graphics, web design, filmmaking and video editing, program or build and upgrade computers. For further information call Ed Brown on 499 2211 or www.grandtraining.co.nz.

PENGUINS INLINE HOCKEY (as demonstrated to children at OBS yesterday)

Like skating or want to try it?

Great team sport, fast and fun, gear supplied for all beginners, we train to teach you to skate fast, turn, stop, how to score goals, how to stop them, pass and skate with the puck. For more information have a look at the website www.pensuinhockey.co.nz or ring Claire 934.1344. More information on the school noticeboard.

Plunket's annual appeal week is rolling around once again and we need your help!

This is an opportunity to give back to an organization that has helped all of us so much in those precious early years. You need only give one hour of your time to collect for us, either door to door in the street of your choice or outside New World right here in the bay.

Appeal week runs from 22 - 28 March and you can fit your collecting time around your own schedule anytime during that week.

We need as many volunteers as possible to help us continue to offer the service residents of the south coast and Berhampore have enjoyed for so long. Every cent we raise during this week will be used within our community, so you can be sure you're doing the very best for your neighbourhood.

Drop us a line as soon as possible with your preferred street or day/time preference to collect outside New World. You can either call Angela on 383 4090 or email her at wellingtonsouthislandbay@plunket.org.nz.

Thanks so much for giving back to your community.

Yvonne Trask
Secretary
Island Bay Plunket