



OWHIRO BAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.owhiro.school.nz

Issue No. 9

30 March 2011

Important Dates to Remember

◆ Swimming for Rooms 1 & 3	until 13 April
◆ Parentlink Sausage Sizzle	1 April
◆ Three Way Conferences	5 & 6 April
◆ Bike & Road Safety—Constable Duncan visits	6, 7 & 13 April
◆ Last Day of Term 1 2.00 pm	15 April
◆ Beginning of Term 2—8.55 am	2 May
◆ Life Education Mobile Classroom in School	2-4 May
◆ Written Reports Come Home	11 May

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

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

Congratulations to all our Southern Zone Cross Country competitors who raced at the Houghton Valley course yesterday. You were great representatives for the school in the way that you competed, also the way that you demonstrated 'Fair Play' and the virtue of patience when waiting for your event. Thank you for showing how well behaved our students at Owhiro Bay School are. Although I was unable to attend, have received many positive comments about our students and know that all our competitors were fantastic ambassadors for the school yesterday. Those competitors who have made it in to the Wellington Central Zone Cross Country event will be notified once the confirmation arrives at school. Thank you to Shelley Berry who coordinated the school's participation in this event. Also a special thank you to all the wonderful parents and caregivers who provided transport and supported our competitors at this event.

Just a reminder that 'Three Way Conference Learning Conversations' have been confirmed for your child/ren next Tuesday or Wednesday after school. This is a great opportunity to share in discussions about your child's current progress, their next learning steps and ways that you can support them at home. Please check that you have diaried your conference time so that you can make the most of this conversation with your child and their teacher.

Our shared challenge is that we are educating our children for an age that is quite different to the one we grew up in. Teaching and learning have changed considerably since we were students at primary schools. The New Zealand Curriculum has an expectation for children to take greater responsibility for their learning, to question and to learn **how** to think (as opposed to **what** to think). Students learn as they participate in shared activities and conversations with other people – including their families and people in the wider community. Teachers are facilitators who provide a supportive learning environment where they encourage students to be creative and think critically. They work to help children understand what they are learning and why, involve students in decisions relating to their learning and make connections to prior learning or experiences.

As always we encourage you to talk with your child about the things they are doing and what they are learning when doing these things. Here are a few questions that may guide you or you may like to choose a few to ask your child when having conversations about their learning.

- ◆ What is one thing that you did today? What were you learning when you were doing that? How do you think you did?
- ◆ How does it feel to work hard and succeed?
- ◆ So you had some success today. Do you know what you did to be successful again?
- ◆ What is something that you enjoyed at school today? What were you learning when you were doing that?
- ◆ Tell me about something you learned today. Why are you learning that? How do you think that it helps you?
- ◆ How did you think you did when ... (eg: reading, swimming, working with others) today? What helped you be successful in that?
- ◆ What can you do well? How do you know if you are successful?
- ◆ What do you still need to work on?
- ◆ What are you finding difficult? What are you doing about that?
- ◆ What is one good question that you asked today? How did it help your learning?

Enjoy talking to your child about their learning. We look forward to catching up with you at Three Way conferences next week.

Ka kite
Karen



Thanks

A big thank you to the Roberts family for their very generous donation of a flip video camera for the school.

To the parents/caregivers who transported, supported at and helped supervise the students to and from the Southern Zone athletics yesterday. Hope you enjoyed your day.



SWIMMING

A reminder to Room 1 and 3 children to bring their named togs and towels each Monday and Wednesday. Please also name underwear and garments your child is wearing as it helps identify items in the changing sheds.

Buses depart school for the Aquatic Centre at 9.25 am to enable children to be ready for 10.00 am lessons.

Safety in the Sun

During Terms 1 and 4, wearing of sunhats is compulsory in the playground until the end of Term 1.

We also encourage the use of sunglasses and sunblock during these summer months.

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 does not suit you.

NEEDED URGENTLY PLEASE

Boys and girls trousers (size 5, 6 & 7) and tops for when we need a change of clothes. Please drop off in Room 5. Thanks.



Help!

Are you interested in coaching/organising a Netball Team for the school with the Motu Kairangi Netball Club? Thanks to Angelina Schmidt who has contacted the school. Are there any other available volunteers to help organize a netball team.



**STUDENT COUNCIL & STARSHIP FOUNDATION
COLLECTION OF OLD CELLPHONES**

A reminder to ask your friends, family, neighbours, workmates to send their old mobile phones along to school so we can convert them into valuable educational resources for our school such as interactive whiteboards, computers, camcorders, books and sports gear and at the same time raising funds for Starship's National Air Ambulance Service.

Once collected we can swap them from a list of available products. Each reward has a set value (number of phones) that can be swapped (with as few as 50 phones).

A marked collection box can be found in the foyer—opposite the school office.
Please place those unused mobile phones in this box.



FOUND

A green collapsible chair was left at the hangi. If this belongs to you, please contact the office or from the staffroom.

PARENTLINK SAUSAGE SIZZLE

A reminder that on the first Friday of every month Parent Link runs a sausage sizzle at lunch time.

The next Sausage Sizzle is this **Friday 1st April** – children can have a sausage wrapped in bread with yummy tomato sauce for just \$2. **A reminder that orders need to be at school by tomorrow Thursday 31 March and need to be in a sealed envelope with the correct change and child's name and number of sausages required.** Profits will go towards a **new computer cow** – to allow more children access to ICT.

If you can spare an hour or so to help at a sausage sizzle – any first Friday of every month – please contact Rachel 383 955 or e-mail rachandchris@xtra.co.nz She is setting up a roster and would appreciate all offers of help.

**PARENTLINK FUNDRAISING
THE 2011/12 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK**

The 2011 / 2012 Entertainment Book has just been launched and is available to purchase through Jennifer Dunn, text 027-444-9679, ph 934-2179 or email kevjdunn@paradise.net.nz. Jenn will be selling Entertainment books in the school office foyer on Fri 1st & Mon 4th April from 8:40- 9am & Wed 6th April from 2:45 - 3pm.

The Entertainment Book offers great discounted rates at Wellington cafes, restaurants, family attractions, services, cinemas plus accommodation in NZ & Australia.

A sample of the book for you to look over can be found in the school office foyer.

The books cost \$60 and can be used immediately, expiring June 2012. \$12 from each book sold goes to Owhiro Bay School. You only have to use the book a few times to recover the cost of purchase.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME!

As the new chairs have arrived for Room 5, there are some small children's chairs—perfect for desks etc., for homework.

If you would like one (or more) of these old desk chairs at the back of the hall, please come and collect them before Friday 8 April.

**THREE WAY CONFERENCE – LEARNING CONVERSATION MEETING
5 and 6 April**

At Owhiro Bay School our goal is for parents/caregivers and teachers to work closely together with children to help them to learn and achieve. Research clearly shows that students who are successful in their learning have families who are proactively working with their child and the school to support learning. We continue to encourage you to talk with your child and their teacher about their goals, next learning steps and progress. 'The Three Way Conference - Learning Conversation Meeting' is one of the opportunities to do this.

All parents/caregivers should have received their confirmation of meeting time for either Tuesday 5 or Wednesday 6 April. It is important that all parents/caregivers attend these scheduled conferences. Each meeting lasts 15 minutes. The school will provide supervised activities in the library for siblings while you and your child are at these meetings, and will ring a bell to indicate the end of the conference.

Owhiro Bay school uses a variety of assessments to help teachers know where your child is achieving and to guide their next learning steps. Some of these are standardized or have been standardized for NZ children. At your meeting reference will be made to these along with discussion of their reading, writing and mathematics next learning steps.

Following the conference a written report comes home to you on Wednesday 11 May. These reports record the new goals/next learning steps and ways of supporting these at home as discussed at the 'Three Way Conference – Learning Conversation Meeting'.

NEW ENTRANTS BEGINNING SCHOOL

As we are currently looking at future school organization, we are keen to know of children who are likely to start our school in 2011–2013.

Please could you notify the school if you have a child starting school, a sibling of one of our existing students or a neighbour, relative that you know may have a student who will be starting at Owhiro Bay School over the next three years. Thank you.

A note from Whaea Lisa

Kupu Hou (new word for the week)

Korero ako = learning conversation

Pronunciation : core-rare-ror ar-kor

VIRTUES

The focus this week is "Patience" or "Manawa-roa" which is quiet hope and trust, expecting things to turn out right. Patience is being calm and tolerant when difficult things happen. It means showing acceptance when you or others make mistakes. Patience is doing something now so that later it will bear fruit, like planting a seed and waiting for it to grow. Patience is a commitment to the future.

The focus next week is "Perseverance" or "U-tonu-tanga".

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

HELP WANTED – WORKING BEE - HELP NEEDED

Hi Caregivers + Parents + Pupils + Community,

At Owhiro Bay School we're looking to organise a working bee on **Saturday**
Sunday 8th May 2011.



7th &

The biggest project is to replace the bark in the junior playground but at the same time we want to do a general tidy up around the school.

We have a variety of jobs to tackle and we need people with specialised skills, as well as those willing to grab a shovel, wheelbarrow or gardening fork – there will be a way that you can help!..

- ◆ **General helpers** – Replace bark in junior playground, trim trees along fence line, clean guttering, hose down buildings, general clean & tidy, remove concrete path.
- ◆ **Gardeners** –Tidy and improve existing gardens.
- ◆ **Plumbers** – Replace two hand basins, guttering repairs, fix toilet overflows.
- ◆ **Builders** – General repairs & maintenance to make the school safer.
- ◆ **Painters** - General repairs & maintenance to keep the school looking sharp!
- ◆ **Electricians** – Install & replace exterior sensor lighting and other minor works.
- ◆ **Engineers** – Help to design/draw future projects for consideration eg: volley wall.
- ◆ **Cooks** – BBQ sizzle. To help fuel the kind considerate people who have pitched in and given their time and their skills for our children.
- ◆ **Gophers** – Just help fill the gaps, to make the day easier for all!

Should you want any further information please feel free to contact George Theodorou 021-760 847 or 383-8407 or georgetheodorou@clear.net.nz

If you are able to help out with any of the work & another day suits better than the weekend working bee, please contact George direct or make note on slip below.

If you could complete the form & return to school offering your services it would be greatly appreciated!

Name/s -

.....

Home Phone -.....

Mobile Phone -..... e-mail -.....

Service & skills you are offering:

.....

Any equipment or resources you may have available or access to, e.g. Tip truck, trailer, chain saw, concrete breaker, sky hook, garden hoses, wheel barrows, anything you may consider helpful.

.....

Other preferred day(s) to offer my services are.....

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On behalf of the students of Owhiro Bay School Board of Trustees, teachers/staff & community we thank you in advance.