

BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter 7 April 2011

Principal's Comments

Dear Parents, Families and Friends of the School,

Thank you for your support at the Belmont Fun Night last Friday. The PTA made a profit of \$3000 which will go towards materials for the Junior Fitness Trail. The first working bee has been postponed until is Sunday 8 May as we are still coordinating the materials and equipment needed to make this successful. Thank you to all the PTA members and helpers for making the fun night a success.

On Friday 15 April, children who have been at school for 1, 2 or 3 years will receive an 'anniversary report.' This will indicate what your child's current attainment levels are, compared to the National Standard. If you wish to discuss any aspects of this report please see your child's teacher, Chris Bioletti or me.

A reminder that school closes for the holidays on April 15 at 3pm and reopens Monday May 2. The children have had a very good term. The academic results are mostly very pleasing, the behaviour has been very good and most children have been fully involved in the life of the school, especially the senior children.

Chris Bioletti and I will not be at assembly on Friday as we are in Wellington for the annual Principals' conference (Wednesday-Sunday). This will focus on leadership, how successful schools can remain successful, and the challenges which lie ahead for the 21st century learner. The international speakers look promising and through my post graduate studies I have read some of their books and completed many literature reviews so we are looking forward to hearing their presentations.

Biking Policy: Due to many parents and teachers asking questions and wanting to know about our biking policy, the Board have reviewed and made significant changes to it. To view the policy look on our website under *Our School, BOT, Policies*.

I want to stress that the police highly recommend that only Year 6 children cycle independently. Our Board recommends that Year 5 and below bike with an adult. The Board, however, have worded the policy so that parents have the final decision and if you think your child is **capable, responsible, mature and has excellent road sense** you may allow your child to bike to school independently. The wearing of a helmet is compulsory when biking. Regarding riding scooters, children may ride to school and once more the Board have left the decision to parents regarding age and the wearing of a helmet. As far as storage at school goes, the Board is looking to build a bike shed at a cost of \$4-\$5K. Some families have

TERM DATES 2011

Term 1	Wed 2 Feb to Fri 15 Apr
Term 2	Mon 2 May to Fri 15 July
Term 3	Tue 2 Aug to Fri 7 Oct
Term 4	Tue 25 Oct to Thu 15 Dec

indicated they would contribute to this building and if you are one of these parents please let me know so I can start this dedicated fund. Currently we can cater for 15 -20 bikes on a first in first served. basis. The school will no longer check bikes or carry out road safety sessions. Parents will now be fully responsible for ensuring the safety and skills of their children. We want to encourage children coming to school walking, biking or riding a scooter as this reduces the number of cars around the school and encourages a healthy lifestyle, but we are fully aware of the need for the children to be safe. **No children** are to ride their bikes or scooters in the school grounds.

Behaviour Policy: Recently in the media the issue of bullying has been raised. There have been some horrific incidents in a few schools and their communities from children with very poor values and complete disregard for others. We have received our letter from the Minister of Education asking the Board to review our Behaviour Policy. We have done that. I want to reiterate that we do not accept bullying of any nature, including physical, verbal and emotional. If your child is experiencing any form of bullying, we can not act unless we are informed. Hopefully most children will tell their teacher or myself, and if not, hopefully they will tell you. Please inform your child's teacher and if it continues please see the Senior Teacher or me. Overall our children's behaviour is very good and the majority of our children have excellent values. However we do realise that a very small minority of children resort to unacceptable behaviour which the school and families need to act quickly to stop. We want all children to be safe in our school environment. Please talk to your children and discuss acceptable values and behaviour.

Congratulations to all the swimmers who represented our school at the interschool championships. Many children made the finals, including Emma Stubbs who was placed 2nd in the 9 year old girls' freestyle and breaststroke and 3rd in the butterfly and backstroke. Sabrina Strydom was placed 3rd in the 10 year old girls' backstroke and Patrick Calver was placed 3rd in the 9 year old boys' backstroke.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents who have volunteered for coaching and/or managing winter sports teams for next term. This is very much appreciated. I know the children appreciate your time and knowledge.

Bruce Cunningham

PRINCIPAL

Fitness Trail

Construction of the Fitness Trail has been POSTPONED from this Sunday. We are still coordinating the materials and equipment needed to make this successful.

DAD's Please mark Sunday 8 May in your diaries.

New students

Welcome to our New Entrants Natalie Wilson, Holly Jeffries, Matthew H and Kent Davies.

Literacy Aid

We wish to restart our Literacy Aid programme in Term 2. We are looking for volunteers to come in to school and take individual children for ½ hour sessions. The aim is to increase the student's reading mileage and to help improve their fluency, comprehension and confidence. Teachers provide the reading material. If you have a free hour and would be happy to help, please contact Chris Bioletti.

Kitchen garden

Do you have wooden trellis in your garden or shed that needs a new home? Last week the Year 3s planted sweet peas and they need to train the young plants to grow up some trellis. Please see Mrs Dobbinson in Room 14 if you can help out.

We are also growing lemons, passionfruit, carrots, parsley, courgettes, strawberries, silverbeet and capsicums.

St Leo's Easter Egg Hunt

The St Leos PTFA are doing an Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday 14th April at St Leos (5pm -7pm).

The rest of the schools on the peninsula are welcome to attend. Cash bar and BBQ. For \$5 the kids get a bag with a torch, a chocolate egg, and a sausage.

Tickets can be purchased from our school office next week.



Certificate Winners 25 March

Room 1	Niko-Moon Mihailovic-Birchfield
Room 2	Paris Fale
Room 3	Sean Allen
Room 4	Eva Sumner
Room 5	Ben Taumoepeau
Room 6	Brooklyn
Room 8	
Room 9	Alfie Mackenzie
Room 10	Connie Waine
Room 11	Lenny
Room 12	Lucy Travers
Room 13	Joshua Bowyer
Room 14	Elizabeth Dooley
Room 15	Andrew Crotty
Values	Senior School

Busking

10 brave buskers started the ball rolling last Friday as we hold three Friday lunchtime 'Busking for Christchurch' sessions.

On the next two Fridays we have more keen buskers. If everyone sent a silver coin or two with their child tomorrow and next Friday, we could do really well for Christchurch.



Holiday Programmes are advertised on our website, on the Newsletters page.

Upcoming Events

Friday 8 April	Assembly by Room 10
Friday 15 April	Anzac Assembly, Senior choir perform School closes for holidays at 3pm
Monday 2 May	School reopens at 9am

Community Notices

NZ FOOTBALL ACADEMY APRIL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

For all football fanatics! Our main goal is to provide quality coaching to get the best out of our youth, whilst keeping games and skills fun for girls and boys of all abilities to develop. Games, skills, competitions, tournaments and much more, all under the guidance of our great team of qualified coaches and players of the beautiful game. Indoor and outdoor facilities available.

Venues - Takapuna Grammar School OR Murrays Bay School from 9am - 1pm.

For more info contact **Chris Bryson** on 021 0676700, (09) 489 4872 or email nzfootballacademy@gmail.com

CALLING ALL ANIMAL LOVERS! Animal Care Workshops this Easter.

Take part in the ultimate interactive animal experience this holidays. Students learn practical care and handling skills amongst hundreds of pets and exotic animals. Lots of hands-on zookeeping plus enclosure design, grooming, feeding, vet checks, reptile wrangling and more. We have lizards, frogs, rabbits, birds, exotic fish, an axolotl and newt hatchery, chinchillas, creepy crawlies, puppies and more! Junior classes, full day workshops, Pet Parties and after school Pet Club. Visit www.hippo.co.nz or phone Oracle Education on 376 2024 for information.

BELMONT PARK RACQUETS CLUB HOLIDAY SQUASH PROGRAMME

Starts 19/21 & 26/28 April 2011 - Tues/Thurs 1-4pm \$80 (4 days)

Contact Manu Yam 021886583 - visit www.squashcoach.co.nz

North Shore Hospice

We urgently need volunteer help in our shops. If you have 3 to 4 hours to spare per week and would like to join the valued friendly group of North Shore Hospice volunteers, we would love to hear from you. Please contact either Nadine Powell, phone 485-3581 or Teresa Conway, phone 485-3536 or alternatively by emailing volunteerinfo@nshospice.org.nz.

We have a brochure display unit in the office area with a huge range of notices. Please pop into the office and have a look. There are brochures for :

Bubbledome, Kidactive parties, Holiday fun, Swimsation, Helen O'Grady's Children's Drama Academy, Elite Group Training, Yoga at the Rose Centre, Music Education Centre, City Nippers surf lifesaving, Kumon Maths and English, Art classes after school, NZ Modern School of Music Ltd, Skids After School Care, in2it street games brochure, Learn to Surf brochure, Football Kidz NZ, Awataha Young Mariners, Wynton Rufer Soccer School, Devonport Fun Ferns Netball, Devonport Peninsula Neighbours Day, Brainwave, Takapuna Athletics Club, Harbourside Childcare Centre, Belmont Primary School Dads working bee, Smashtennis School Holiday Camp, NZ Football Academy School Holiday programme.