

# Belmont Primary School

Newsletter 10 February 2010

## Principal's Comments

*Dear Parents, Families and Friends of the School,*

Welcome to our first official newsletter of the year. I know there have been notices coming home recently requesting information which we require and the completion of these is appreciated. It will be our aim to send newsletters home on Thursdays of even school weeks, so please check your child's bag. We are also setting up an email contact list to email newsletters home. There has been a newsletter about a new txtng message service which the school will control and which I think is a must.

Thank you for your understanding regarding the increase in school donations to \$250 a child. If possible we would like all donations as soon as possible as the beginning of any school year is very busy and we have a lot of resource expenses which need to be paid. I appreciate that some families also have other school commitments which they need to budget for.

A very special welcome to the 32 new children who have started and to their families. I know that you will enjoy our school and the community. I believe we have a friendly, family orientated culture that promotes students' development of positive values and attitudes. Please feel welcome to discuss any issues with the classroom teacher. All our teachers have a lot of enthusiasm, are wonderful teachers and have high expectations for progress, achievement and social behaviours. We know that you have the same expectations. The leadership of the Senior Management Team will provide support and guidance to all staff and families.

We have welcomed two new staff to our school, Miss Mandy Carwell-Cooke who is teaching Year 3 in Room 15 and Mr Asher Kora who is teaching Year 5 in Room 4. Mr Thorne is the new Middle Syndicate Leader and teaches Year 4 in Room 13 and Mrs Aislabie teaches Year 5 in Room 1.

The Board of Trustees will meet on 10 February and 10 March. Parents are welcome to attend. Information will follow regarding the Board elections this year.

The PTA also meets once a month. This committee plays a very important role in our school community; they think of fund raising ideas, co-ordinate these events and donate the money raised to the school. This group of parents is always looking for new parents to join them and I encourage you to get involved. Contact Julie in the office for contact details. Their next meeting will be on 24 February at 7.30pm in the staffroom.

One of our school objectives is to encourage children to be confident, actively involved and to enjoy school. We will provide opportunities for this to occur, however we also rely heavily on parent support. There will be plenty of opportunities for mums and dads to be involved in sports coaching or managing, performing arts, class trips, camp or overnight stays, waterwise, parent help in the class, working bees and committees such as the PTA.

We assess all children at the beginning of the year. We have always done this – it is not National Standards. Please do not be worried at the levels they achieve at the beginning of the year in their spelling or basic facts. This gives the teachers an indication of their strengths and areas of need so they can plan programmes to suit their particular class. We will teach basic facts in the classroom as well as spelling rules. This process for our Year 3 children, for example with basic facts, could take another two years, maybe three before they achieve 100% in addition, multiplication, subtraction and division combined.

We require a parent to coordinate the Walking School Bus service. Suzi Moore has done this job before and is willing to share her knowledge with the new coordinator. If your child is absent from school please contact Julie in the school office. This will

save her time trying to track you down. We need to account for all children every day.

Finally, the school year has started very well. The children are settled, learning is already occurring and there is a lot of noise and excitement at the breaks. The children already know their new teachers routines. Thank you for ensuring your child is ready with their stationery so their learning can start.

Some dates to note:

**Thursday 18 February 7.00pm.** There will be an information evening in the hall run in conjunction with the police, called Keeping Ourselves Safe.

**Thursday 4 March 6.30pm.** The staff and I will present an information evening on National Standards for one hour. If you wish to find information on National Standards go to [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz) and click on National Standards. There has been much media and union attention given to National Standards recently and I would like to reiterate that the only changes you will see as parents are how we prepare our written reports. We already assess using many different tools, analyse and use this information when planning. We have always had academic standards at Belmont Primary.

**Thursday 11 March 1.30-8.00pm.** Our first meet the teacher conference. **Please note school will be finishing at 12.30 on Thursday 11 March.** More details to come.

The Year 6 children have a camp starting March 15 and the Year 5 children also have an overnight camp on 30-31 March at the Arataki Centre in the Waitakere Ranges. There will be more information regarding this soon.

We have certificate assemblies every even school week (same week as newsletter) and all families are invited to attend these assemblies, which start at 9.00am. There will usually be a performance from a group of students, a class or Mr Thorne!

OUR BEST ALWAYS

**Bruce Cunningham**  
**PRINCIPAL**

## TERM DATES 2010

**Term 1** Wed 3 Feb to Thurs 1 Apr  
**Term 2** Tues 20 Apr to Fri 2 July  
**Term 3** Mon 19 July to Fri 24 Sept  
**Term 4** Mon 11 Oct to Thurs 16 Dec

## Welcome Students

Welcome to our new students Ishbel Vergara, Torrynne Flores, Chloe Cole, Emily Cole, Campbell Jones, Tyler Jones, Emily Zhou, Sharon Zhou, Michael Worsfold, Christopher Worsfold, Kei Haley, Luke Patterson, Emma Patterson, Demmi-Lee Tutin, Finn Norton, Amber Mason-Riseborough, Sunny Kong, Kauri Kaa, Miro Mitchell, Kiwa Ria Renata-Kokiri, Stella Files, Hebe Sunderhauf, Aiden Finn, Maia Hemopo, Grace Monkley, Emily Duncan, Alina Karanui-Nicholas, Zoe Minett, Andy Min, Alexis Harrison, Tiffany Andrevski, Jeany Kim and Anna Stuart.

## Belmont Music Centre

Belmont Music Centre still has some spaces in the following beginner classes: recorder, cello, clarinet, keyboard, and violin. Classes start on Saturday, 13th February. Costs per class are only \$100.00 per year. For enquiries please call the Manager on 444 5096.

## Performing arts groups

These will be established during the next few weeks. Meetings for Belmont Bravos (recorder ensemble) Big Band and Bellbirds (the Year 4-6 choir), have already taken place. There will be auditions for children interested in the Rock Band – guitarist and vocalist only. Interested children will be given information about this next week.

## Parent Information Forms

Many thanks for completing these forms at the end of last year. They are being passed on to your child's 2010 teacher and the information is being used alongside teacher observation and testing to decide which children need extending beyond the classroom. Some parents will be contacted to follow up on the information provided. Most children's learning needs can be met in the classroom through ability grouping in literacy and numeracy, individual goal setting and monitoring. If you would still like to hand your form in, please do so by Monday. There are extra copies in the rack in the office.

## Learn Music at School

We are fortunate in being able to offer specialist musical instrument lessons at our school. Many parents and grandparents regret they were never given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. If your child is Year 3 or above, he or she will have received an enrolment form from the 'Music Education Centre' which offers lessons after school on a range of instruments. **Enrolments for this close tomorrow.** Forms should be sent to the Office. If your child is in Year 2 or 3, you will receive a form from the 'Modern School of Music' about individual piano or keyboard lessons, during class time.



## Upcoming Events

Friday 12 February	Assembly in the Hall at 9am
Thursday 18 February	Keeping Ourselves Safe information evening, Hall at 7pm
Thursday 4 March	National Standards Information Evening 6.30pm
Thursday 11 March	1.30-8.00pm. Our first meet the teacher conference. Please note <b>school will be finishing at 12.30</b>
Monday 15 March	Year 6 Camp
Tuesday 30 March	Year 5 Camp

## Community Notices

**We have a brochure display unit in the office area. Notices on display are as follows:**

Bubbledome, Kidactive Parties, Devonport library's Rakau Summer Reading Programme, Holiday Fun, Swimsation, Helen O'Grady's Childrens Drama Academy, Shotokan Karate, Hip Hop Dancing, Dance Expressions, Elite Group Training, Kids Athletics in Devonport, Marimba Family Camp 2010, Circus Skills Training, Martial Arts – Kumgang Taekwondo, Yoga at the Rose Centre, Music Education Centre, Art Classes – Belmont Baptist Church Hall, Devonport Community Harvest Festival, Belmont Primary Parent Information Form, Summer Fun Preschool play, City Nippers surf lifesaving, Kumon Maths and English.

### Swimsation Swim School

Devonport Swimsation have lessons for preschool, school age and adults of all abilities. Lessons at Devonport primary's heated pool. Phone 4804493, email [Devonport@swimsation.com](mailto:Devonport@swimsation.com) or enrol on [www.swimsation.com](http://www.swimsation.com)

### WELCOME to the DEVONPORT PENINSULA!

Are you new in the area? New to New Zealand? We look forward to meeting you! Morning Tea @ 11:15 am or Drinks @ 7 pm on February 8, March 1, May 3 June 7, August 2 (Midwinter Christmas), September 6, November 1, December 6, Devonport Community House, 32 Clarence Street, 445 9533 445 3068 [dportcomm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dportcomm@xtra.co.nz) [devonportcomhouse@xtra.co.nz](mailto:devonportcomhouse@xtra.co.nz)

### BELMONT PARK RACQUETS CLUB JUNIOR SQUASH PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAYS 4-5 PM & 5-6 PM, Starting 17<sup>th</sup> Feb (7 weeks). Beginners-Advance , Fun/Games, Giveaways \$70 per person. Contact Manu Yam 021886583 – Level 2 Accredited Squash Coach [www.squashcoach.co.nz](http://www.squashcoach.co.nz) Rain or shine... Squash is on!!!

### BELMONT RACQUETS CLUB WOMEN IN SQUASH PROGRAMME

WED 10-11 AM - Intermediate & WED 6-7 PM Beginners. Starting 17<sup>th</sup> February – 6 weeks \$60 Call Manu Yam 021886583. Level 2 Accredited Squash Coach [www.squashcoach.co.nz](http://www.squashcoach.co.nz)

### DEVONPORT JETS 5km RUN

Every Wednesday during Daylight Saving. Register from 5:30 pm for 6 pm start. Devonport Squash Club, Wairoa Rd across from Narrowneck Beach. A community event to appeal to runners/walkers of all abilities. Each participant will be provided with a number and will receive an official finishing time. Route is marshalled to improve safety. Entry fee \$2:50/school child and \$5/adult. This includes a free soft drink. For more info, contact Fiona Ferguson @ 446 0134