PUKEKO POST
NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 7

Thursday, 17th March 2011

Room 17 practising their play
"The Little Old Lady who is not afraid of anything"

Learning Together With ***PRIDE***

Whakāko Pehapeha Tahi Tātou

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Dear families

Welcome back! We have had a very exciting few days. The children have settled well and seem to be really enjoying the routines and time with friends and being back into learning.

Staff have had a training session with the Trauma Incident Support Team from the Ministry of Education. Their advice to us was that the information and support we have put in place for children, staff and families is exactly what they would recommend. One additional piece of advice was to ensure that families who have left the school for a period planned their return carefully – please refer to our school website www.windsor.school.nz for some suggestions and let other families know if you know they are away. Please remember to talk to your child's teacher, Dianna Reynolds or Jacqui Malham in the office if you have any concerns.

Thank you so much for the many offers of support and the words of encouragement that we have received this week. The earthquake of 22 February whilst devastating on so many levels, has drawn our community together and reinforced what a wonderful community we are part of here at Windsor. Many of you have commented on the wonderful work Murray Edmonds did while the school was closed, and we are very thankful we have such a great caretaker.

We have been given three boxes of size 6 & size 8 new Windsor School blue polo shirts with the old logo for any families who need them. These are able to be worn until the end of this year. Please come to the school office if you would like to take advantage of this offer. Limit of 2 per child.

Finally I would like to thank all the staff for the amazing effort they have put in to ensure that when the children returned on Monday that the school was ready to go and that they were able to get into some wonderful learning opportunities.

Kind regards Neill O'Reilly, Principal

What has happened at school this week:

- 510 Windsor School children returned to school on Monday
- 60 children are still temporarily enrolled at other school around the country (most have indicated that they will be returning)
- To date approx 8 – 10 children have moved out of zone and re-enrolled at other schools permanently
- At its peak, our Learning Hub had 94 children from schools who have not opened (this works independent from our school but helps out displaced children and their families)
- Our family Well Being survey confirms that our needs range from people who have lost jobs, homes, friends and loved ones; through to those that have had little or no damage or loss
- Each class has today a received a present from a Windsor School family
- We have had many offers of help from our community- these are being co-ordinated at present
- 40 parents attended a presentation on "Making It Safe" & "Making It Fun!" (our plan forward)
- Thanks for the chocolates and goodies from parents for staff and children – everyone has thoroughly enjoyed them
- We are finishing the week today with a bouncy castle and lolly scramble

We are very proud to present our 2010 ERO Report, which was conducted at the end November 2010. To read the full report please visit our website www.windsor.school.nz

To the Parents and Community of Windsor School

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Windsor School.

Windsor School is a large primary school providing education for students in Years 1 to 6. It is located in the Christchurch suburb of Burwood. The grounds are attractive and well maintained and learning environments effectively promote students' learning. The well-resourced library is also available to parents and local preschoolers.

School leaders, staff, students and parents are focused on everyone as a learner. The school's shared values and vision are clearly evident throughout the school. They are well communicated to students, staff and the wider community. Shared beliefs underpin the welcoming and inclusive learning environment. Positive relationships are evident at all levels of the school.

Students are well supported in their learning. They benefit from effective teaching practices. Achievement information in reading and mathematics show that students are making good progress. Teachers are working to further improve achievement levels in written language. They use a range of positive strategies that reinforce learning and engagement. This includes the development of a values-based support programme. This programme is aimed at enhancing students' wellbeing and has a strong focus on learning for life.

The school has an effective partnership with parents and the wider community. Senior leaders use a variety of ways to regularly consult with the school community.

Parents and whānau are actively involved in supporting extra-curricular programmes. A local kaumatua provides specialist Māori knowledge to assist class programmes and help upskill teachers.

The principal, senior leaders and teachers have developed high trust initiatives that encourage students to take appropriate challenges in and outside of the classroom.

The school leaders, the board and ERO agree that the next steps for ongoing development are to:

- link self review more closely to the school's vision, values and curriculum; and
- develop a framework for monitoring, assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of the integrated curriculum.

Trustees have a very good understanding of their roles as governors of the school. They have sound policies and practices to promote the emotional and physical safety of the students.

We are open and do have a few spaces that will be available in approx 2 weeks time. Come and meet our great team of teachers and see our programme in action.

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"My thoughts go out to all fellow Cantabrians in these difficult times. If you would like any information about what is happening in the current property market I would be happy to email you or talk to you about recent real estate updates"

Calendar/Change of Events :

- All ***Learning Celebration Assemblies*** for Term 1 will be presented in Teams, so previous advertised dates no longer apply. Ask your child or speak to your child's teacher about when these will be.
- ***School photos*** will now be taken on 4th May in Term 2 for the whole school. Class and individual photos will be taken, and order forms will be sent home with your child a few days after photo day.
- ***Senior and Junior Choir*** will be held during Friday lunchtime for the remainder of Term 1. All children involved have been notified.
- ***Orchestra*** will be held during Thursday lunchtime until further notice. This will start on 31st March 2011.
- ***3-Way Learning Conferences*** will now be held in Term 2 on Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th May. ***School will finish at 12.30pm on Thursday 12th May***. More information will be in the next school newsletter.
- ***ALL in school sports*** (ie swimming, triathlon, Hagley summer sport, Broadhaven Touch, Amble & Ramble) ***and class trips*** **<u>have been cancelled</u>** until further notice, however out of school sport, (ie Mini Jammers Basketball, Twilight Netball) is continuing. Parents will be contacted if your child's sport is continuing.

Statement of Account sent home in February

You should have received a statement of your child's account last month, however due the earthquake some of these activities have been cancelled.

The office is currently working through changes to accounts and will be sending updated statements home as soon as possible. In the meantime if you have any questions please contact Megan in the office.

Message from the Canterbury District Health Board

- Students who are sick need to stay at home, and be encouraged to visit their doctors, particularly if they are exhibiting signs of gastroenteritis (i.e. diarrhoea and vomiting).
- Boil all drinking water (bringing water to the boil is sufficient to kill bugs), or add 1 teaspoon of household bleach per 10 litres of water and leave for 30 minutes.
- Ensure water used in food preparation is bottled, boiled or treated.
- Wash hands with soap or use hand sanitiser often, particularly after going to the toilet, and before and after eating.
- Keep away from silt, dust and all open water. Treat all silt, rivers, ponds, puddles or other surface water as contaminated. If people have to work with silt, they should wear waterproof gloves, gumboots and a dust mask; shower or wash immediately afterwards; and wash clothes separately.