

## Hutt Central School Newsletter No 37 - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The end of the 2009 school year is almost upon us - only one week and three days left.

**School finishes on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 1.00pm.**

Alicetown After School Care will be operating in the Hall from 1.00pm on this day. If you require this service please ring Sue Blackett on 938 4038 or 021 2126321.

School reopens for 2010 on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 8.55am

### Upcoming Events:

- Whole school swimming begins Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December
- Talent Quest Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1.15pm - School Hall
- Community Christmas Carol Evening - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December - School Grounds - 5.30pm - 7.00pm
- School Swimming Sports - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Huia Pool - 10.10am start

### Swimming

Our school swimming programme begins on Monday (7<sup>th</sup> December), and runs every day until Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Please ensure your child brings their swimming togs and towel each of the eight days swimming is on.

The cost of this programme is **\$20.00 per child.**

If you haven't already done so could this be paid at the office before the swimming programme begins.

### Staffing Update

- Sadly Lisa Leader from Room 10 will be leaving us at the end of this year. Lisa is leaving us to travel overseas. Lisa has been at Hutt Central for five years and has made a huge contribution to the school. We will certainly miss all the extra work and hours she puts in to our school sport along with many other events around the school. We wish Lisa all the best and look forward to hearing about her adventures.
- Jane Kenworthy, who has been teaching in Room 5 for part of this year, is leaving her fulltime position but you will be seeing Jane back in a part-time capacity next year. Thank you Jane for stepping in to the fulltime position at such short notice.

### Appointments

We have short listed some very strong applicants and will be announcing the appointments next week.

### National Standards

No doubt you have heard a lot about the National Standards already. The media seems to be full of the positives and negatives debate between the Government, Anne Tolley - Minister of Education, and the various unions, Principals' Federation and academics. To fill you in on the debate would take a number of pages. The bottom line at this point is that next year National Standards will come into effect.

Quote from National Standards Information for Schools flyer:

"Schools will report to parents twice in the year in writing in some form, about their child's progress and achievements in relation to the National Standards".

Hutt Central School to a certain extent already does this. We have been reviewing our reporting system and forms during this year, and will have a changed format next year which will line up with National Standards reporting.

Teachers are still very much in the dark as to the details and finer points about National Standards re testing and presentation of results.

The Ministry of Education and Government has rushed these Standards into place without a lot of the necessary detail and resources for teachers to implement them.

We will be doing a lot of work over the summer break and the remainder of Term 4 to put the necessary processes and systems in place. All this is dependant on the Ministry backing us with the necessary resources and support for what they want.

Main issues schools and academics have with National Standards are:

1. National Standards have been rushed into place with very little consultation and input from teachers (the people who have to implement them).
2. Lack of resources and support material to successfully implement National Standards - so far!
3. Validity of tests, lack of researched based evidence about benefits to student achievement.  
Looking at similar National Standards in Australia, United Kingdom and the United States National Testing does not work or show huge benefits.  
The United Kingdom have this year abandoned National Testing due to a number of factors - one being achievement levels not showing any significant change (if anything some areas of the curriculum have shown a fall in achievement levels).

For further and more in depth detailed information about National Standards and some of the background to the debates you can go to the following websites: [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz) or [www.tki.org.nz](http://www.tki.org.nz) (then go to Curriculum and/or National Standards or Google "National Standards NZ").

We do have "The National Standards Guidelines" booklet and information available to be viewed/read in our main office.

### **Junior Education Outside the Classroom**

A very big 'thank you' to the great team of parents/grandparents who have helped with the Junior Syndicate's E.O.T.C. activities.

### **Senior School News**

- Thank you to all parent/grandparent helpers during the Senior Syndicates E.O.T.C. activities
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Senior Social (separate notice coming home shortly)
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Outing for Year 6 leavers (separate notice coming home shortly)

### **Loaned Clothing**

Could all spare clothing that has been loaned out this term please be returned to school as soon as possible.

We have a list of where the clothing went, but it would save Penny a lot of time if it was returned without us having to do follow up letters.

### **Fundraising**

The fundraising team have organised three Christmas raffles. These can be viewed and/or paid for at the school office. Tickets cost \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

The fundraising team would like to say thank you to all of the families and friends who have supported our school over the year with the various fundraising ventures.

We are sorry to be saying farewell Sandy Moore and Jeanette Waller as both their children are moving on to Intermediate.

Their years of assistance on the fundraising team are truly appreciated as is their contribution to helping make this a great team.

### **Sports News**

Well done to Nathan Hartley, Chay, Kathleen and Jennifer Laurence who all rode in Hawera and New Plymouth BMX tournaments in the weekend.

Nathan rode in two classes receiving 1st and 3rd on Saturday and on Sunday 3rd and 3rd

Chay - 4th on Saturday and 5th on Sunday

Kathleen - 3rd on Saturday and 4th on Sunday

Jennifer - 3rd on Saturday and 3rd on Sunday

### **Kids Summer Holiday Fun at TheNewDowse and Petone Settlers Museum**

**TheNewDowse** - Santa's little helper's workshops

Mon 21 & Tues 22 Dec/ 10am-12 Noon or 1.30-3.30pm - (make pressies for family and friends)

**Petone Settlers Museum** - Beach Sculptures - Mon 25 Jan / 10-11.30. Beach Jewellery Wed 27 Jan 10-11.30

Kite Making & Beach Games - Fri 29 10-11.30

The programmes will be creative and will be lead by TheNewDowse education team and each workshop costs \$10 per child (Ages 5+).

Booking for each programme is essential, please either email [newdowsebookings@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:newdowsebookings@huttcity.govt.nz) or phone 570 6500.

Tony Horsfall - **Principal**

