



Pigeon Mountain School News

NEWSLETTER 7

www.pigeon-mountain.school.nz

AUGUST 2009

Dear Parents,

In my view, parenting is the most important job anyone can do. I thank all Pigeon Mountain School parents for taking the role seriously and for putting effort into doing it well.

The Ministry is interested in the attendance of students in New Zealand schools. They have compared data with schools in the UK and have found that NZ school absentee rate is significantly higher than that of UK schools. We are informing parents if the absentee rate of their children is higher than 10% as it may affect their achievement.



From the Principal's Desk

We would like to welcome all new children and their families to our school this year and hope that new parents join us at the various events and functions we hold and take all opportunities to participate in our school. We know that students benefit most if a healthy partnership between the home and the school is developed and that lines of communication are kept open. New children include Daniel Lu, Hai Dan Wu, Jessica Eades, Angela Jing, Gabrielle Kemp, Aum Sengupta, Capri Burgess, Norman Wong, Brooklynn Harrop, Grace & Ronnie Green, Sophia Leach, David Chen, Minjoo Kim, Haeseo Lee and YeongJae Oh,

3-WAY CONFERENCES:

Our next parent/teacher 3 way conferences will be held on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th August. School will be closing at 2pm on Tuesday 11th August. We have changed to an on-line booking system for appointments. To book an appointment with your child's teacher(s), please go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz **The school code is A55FV** From there it is self-explanatory. If you have any queries, please contact the office either personally or by emailing sharonc@pigeon-mountain.school.nz

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The next Board of Trustees meeting is to be held on **Wednesday, 19th August 2009.**

PARENT SURVEY:

Thank you to all parents who completed our school survey. 110 surveys were completed. The board asked an independent consultant to report to them on the results along with trends and patterns.

PTA NEWS:

The next meeting of the PTA will be held on **Wednesday, 12th August in the staffroom at 7.30pm.** Thanks to the PTA for providing financial support for consumables needed by every class and for the movie nights.

LIFE EDUCATION:

This term we will have the portable classroom on our site for 2 weeks. A trained teacher takes Health lessons in the classroom using visual resources. A **Parents' Meeting** is to be held on **Tuesday 18th August at 2.30pm** to answer questions and give information about the programme.

DANCE FESTIVAL:

This is being held at the **Elim School** in Botany Road, Howick on Monday, 3rd and Tuesday, 4th August, at 7.00pm. We have two teams dancing; a Yr 1, 2 & 3 team and a Yr 4,5 & 6 team. Tickets are \$5.00 each for adults or children and are available from the door at **Elim School.**



Class Photos:

Classroom photos & individual portraits will be taken at school on the 12th August. These are prepaid now and students will have bought home a letter and envelope concerning this. To avoid disappointment, please return the envelope provided with monies to school **before the morning of the 12th August 2009.** Please use the individual envelopes for each child provided.

BBI ENROLMENTS:

Prospectus and Application forms for BBI have been handed out to children intending to attend BBI next year. Further forms are available at the school office. Closing date for in-zone applications is **Friday 28th August.** Closing date for out of zone applications is **Friday 16th October.** Ballot date for out of zone enrolments is **Friday 23 October.**

WANTED URGENTLY:

A kind person to clean the classroom's and office computers on a regular basis. Please ring the school on 534 9765 or call at the office, for further details.

HOMEWORK:

*This is a contentious issue in every school. According to the Ministry of Education, homework cannot be compulsory for primary age students. Our teachers do see the benefit of some types of homework. Practise of skills taught at school is of benefit as is the habit of reading every night. So we say that students of Pigeon Mountain school have **READING** as homework every night. Teachers see Reading **to, with and by** as very worthwhile. When children are very young, it is mainly reading **to** and as they learn the skills they progress to reading **by** the children. Unison reading is also useful so try reading **with** your children. Expectations range from 20 minutes for the young to 40 minutes for older children.*

P.S. Look for the special newsletter coming home soon that tells how your children can reserve books etc from our library from your HOME.

SPORTS NEWS:

Our rugby team is leading their pool with 4 wins and a draw from 5 games. They have yet to play Sunyhills and Bucklands Beach Primary. The final for the season is to be played at Pakuranga United Rugby Club on Tuesday, 8th September. This term there is soccer, netball, gymnastics, chess and cross country. We have a sports exchange from Dilworth School on the 25th August. We will field one rugby team, two soccer teams and one hockey team. Dilworth are providing transport and all games are being played at Dilworth School.



THE GIFT OF MUSIC:

The Head of Music at Macleans College, Mr Nigel Weeks, is keen to grow instrumental music by offering tuition for violin, viola, cello, trumpet and trombone at our school. Mr Weeks also has links with the Howick School of Music. If you would like further information, please ask your child to pick up a letter from the school Office.



Mobile Phone Recycling

For their Enviro Focus this term, the office will be collecting old or unused mobile phones for recycling. These will be sent



on to an organisation who will refurbish them and then forward them to third world countries for use. If you have any mobile phones you wish to recycle, please forward them to the school office (via your classroom teacher). This will be appreciated by the Office Enviro Team.



IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM:

BOARD MEETINGS:

August— Wednesday, 19th at 7.30pm
 September— Wednesday, 16th at 7.30pm
 October— Wednesday 21st, at 7.30pm

PTA MEETINGS and EVENTS:

August— Wednesday 12th, at 7.30pm
 September— Wednesday 9th, at 7.30pm
 October— Wednesday 21st, at 7.30pm
 Ice Skating Party— Thursday, 10th Sept.

AUGUST:

3 & 4 Dance Festival—Elim School
 4th Australian English Exam
 7th Yr 5 & 6 Assembly at 2-pm
 11th & 12th 3 way conferences.
 11th **School closes at 2pm**
 12th **Classroom/Individual Photos taken**
 18th Life Education parents mtg
 19th Australian Maths Exam
 21st Yr 3 & 4 Assembly 2pm
 25th Sports Exchange with Dilworth.
 26th PM Cross Country 1pm
 27th Saving Day PM Cross country
 28th Daffodil Day Mufti for Cancer
 28th **In Zone applications for BBI close today.**

SEPTEMBER:

7th Hocus Pocus Show
 8th Rugby Finals Day
 11th Yr 1&2 Assembly 2pm
 15th Interschool Cross Country
 17th Saving Day Cross Country
 25th **Last Day of Term (3pm)**

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Four Seasons Pet Store Birthday—7th—16th August. Lots of fun events happening like mouse racing on the 15th at 12, and Pooch Pageant at 11 on the 16th August. 137 Apirana Ave, Glen Innes.
Howick & Pakuranga Plunket Baby Fair—Sunday, 23rd August ;10am to 12pm at the Howick Recreational Centre. www.howickplunket.org.nz

NZ Nannies International— Did you know that you can afford a Nanny for the same price you are paying for Daycare? Email - Kristina@nznannies.or.nz website is www.nznannies.or.nz Nannies, Au Pairs & Babysitters available for every circumstance catering to your families needs.

Communication audit. For your child to be in the draw for the icecream, please fill out this return slip. I have received the monthly newsletter from

_____ Room _____
 _____ Room _____
 _____ Parent _____