



Pigeon Mountain School News

NEWSLETTER 1

www.pigeon-mountain.school.nz

FEBRUARY 2010

Dear Parents. Greetings everyone and Happy New Year. I hope that all Pigeon Mountain families have had a pleasant summer holiday. The weather has been lovely. Our roll today is 459, which includes 7 international students. A special welcome to our new children and their families. We 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 positive partnership between the home and the school is developed and that lines of communication are kept open. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any issues of concern. Our email addresses are our first name and surname initial. Mine is gintyb@pigeon-mountain.school.nz



From the Principal's Desk

A special welcome to all of our new children and their families. We hope that new parents join us at the various events and functions we hold and take all opportunities to participate in our school. Welcome to Gabriel & Johannes Schlebusch, Min Ryou, Katelyn Gray, Janet Zhong, Jaydon Chai, Zachary Barker, Shellby & Jayde Rousseau, Ivan Wong, Jessy & Madison Reece, Sarah Huang, Nancy Tang, Harry Singh, Alexander & Brianna Hawke, Jade Firth, Alex McKay, Levi Smyth, Avaneesh Belwalkas, Janice Jiang, Cameron Wickes, Nancy Li, Daniel Weon, Alana Jones, Grace Pickering, Ekai Chiu, Paul Kim, Youn Joo Kim, Abhinav Chawla, Mellisa Chen, Eileen & Kevin Zhang, Luke Corbett, Kelly McKinnon, Oriana Lamprecht, Helen Luo, Mikayla Southern, Zara Sebimohamed, Fraser Parkinson, Liya Lai, Malinda Guan, Haotian Pan, Bridget Ho, Jessica Gu, Wentao Dong, Jamie Thom, Joshua Lu, Maha Alsheikh, Valdry Reynosa, Jasmine & Mandy Chow, Jasmin & Dylan Wiki, and Stanley Chen.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The first meeting of the BOT for 2010 will be held on **Wednesday, 18th February, 2010.** All parents are welcome to attend any Board of Trustees meetings.

Board meetings start at 7.30 and are held in classrooms or the administration area. Look for the sign at reception.

ERO REVIEW:

During the week of the 8th to 12th February, we have officers from the Education Review Office visiting our school.

PTA NEWS:

All parents are encouraged to come along to PTA meetings and participate. This is a good opportunity to meet other parents, learn about the school and have lots of fun. **The next meeting of the PTA is the Annual General Meeting and is on Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm in the Staffroom.**

SAFETY ISSUES:

We would like to inform parents that the school car park is for staff only, unless parents are collecting sick children from the sick bay. Children must NOT be dropped off or picked up after school in the car park.

It is important also that road rules are followed by parents who are dropping off and collecting their children. In particular parking over driveways or on broken yellow lines. This can result in traffic offence notices being issued. Children must cross using the Laloma Drive crossing. Sometimes children are called across the road by parents in a car, and we are concerned that this is a dangerous practice.

LUNCH ORDERS:

The lunchroom will be open on **MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2010.** A new menu will be sent home soon.

SCHOOL HATS:

These must be worn to and from school and at every morning tea and lunch break for safety reasons.



'NO HAT, NO PLAY'

Children without hats, will have to play in a shady area.

All students should be wearing correct school uniform. Hair should be tied back if past the nape of the neck and no jewellery to be worn except for a stud or sleeper in one, or each ear.

MEET & GREET THE STAFF:

We are holding a Meet & Greet evening on Tuesday, 16th February at 7.30pm in the Hall. The purpose is to allow parents and staff to mix and mingle and start to develop a partnership.

SCHOOL DONATION:

Like most schools, Pigeon Mountain relies heavily on parent donations. This year, it is \$220.00, (\$200 if paid by the 31st March 2010).

2010 STAFF:

We welcome teachers Katie Robertson and Brianna Rule to our staff. Katie is teaching Year 5 in Room 21 and Brianna Year 4 in Room 1.

Here is the staff for 2010.

Year 1 Carol Dickinson (T/L 1&2)
 Kristy Benjamin
 Sheryl Farmer

We will need to start another Y1 class possibly in Term 2.

Year 2 Sandra Patterson **Year 5** Marie Wai Poi (T/L 5&6)
 Susan Matalavea Ella Dunn
 Alice Lee Katie Robertson

Year 3 Jill McIntyre (T/L 3&4) **Year 6** Kevin Wroth
 Carol Frear Dawn Walker
 Balvinder Kaur Sheree Barker
 Jane Davies

Year 4 Joanne Hughson
 Michelle Russell
 Brianna Rule

We have some part time teachers, e.g. Roger Whatman 2 days per week as a PE/Sports Specialist; Gigi Milea (Maori Studies/ Kapahaka) and Kathleen Marich (Music Specialist)

ELLS - Pauline Perkins (English Language Learners)

Office - Lea Bryant and Sharon Clark

Librarian -Jan Rooke

Caretaker - Bruce Murray

Teacher Aides—Janelle Sloane and Babette Maas

It is generally expected that teachers are in their classrooms from 8.20-am until 8.50 am talking to children, getting ready for their day and are available to meet with parents. Again, from 3pm until 3.30pm rooms are open and this is also another opportunity to visit the classroom and discuss issues with the teachers. We have staff meetings usually on a Tuesday after school until 4.30pm Parents are able to contact teachers either by email or by phone to discuss issues or make an appointment.

CLASSROOM RELEASE TIME (CRT)

In the Primary Teachers Employment Contract 2008, all teachers are entitled to release time for planning, marking, assessments etc. This means that your children may report to you that they have had a different teacher for maybe PE or Music We are fortunate to have some excellent release teachers in our school— Roger Whatman—PE & Sport, and Kathy Marich—Music. Laurence Clifford, Gigi Milea and Jill McIntyre will be releasing teachers beginning teachers and also doing team leader release.

RECORDER LESSONS:

In 2010 all students from years 3-6 will be involved in recorder lessons. They will be taught the theory of music and the technique of playing the recorder. For hygiene reasons each student must own his/her own recorder. Usually they retail at \$13.95 but because the school will be placing a large order, they will be available for \$8.50 from the school office. These are good quality Yamaha recorders. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL YEAR 3 STUDENTS PURCHASE THEIR RECORDER IMMEDIATELY AS CLASSES FOR THEM START NEXT WEEK. Please send \$8.50 to school in an envelope marked 'recorder'. Thank you for your cooperation,
 Kathy Marich (music teacher).



SAFETY ISSUE:

We have a child at Pigeon Mountain who comes with serious anaphylaxis who is allergic to nuts or eggs. We ask that everyone respects his special needs. He is in Year 3. This student will get very sick if contact is made with nuts or eggs—peanut butter is one of the worst.



ABSENTEES:

If your child is absent from school on any given day, their absence must be reported to the school in the morning before 8.50am. There are various ways of doing this—by phone, leaving a message on the absentee line; by fax 534 9760; emailing the school at general@pigeon-mountain.school.nz When leaving a message on the absentee line, please state the reason for the absence. The table below details the percentage of attendance and the time lost. Attendance will have a large affect on student achievement.

DATES TO NOTE:

Mon Feb 8–12th ERO review for that week.
 Wed 10 Feb PTA Mtg 7.30pm
 Wed 17 Feb BOT Mtg 7.30pm
 Wed 17 Feb Cricket Field Day
 Wed 17 Feb Enviro trip to Tiri Tiri Matangi

TERM DATES:

Term 1 Wed 3 Feb to Thurs 1st April
 Term 2 Mon 19 Apr to Fri 2nd July
 Term 3 Mon 19 July to Fri 24th Sept
 Term 4 Mon 11 Oct to Thurs 16th Dec

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 _____