



Pigeon Mountain School News

NEWSLETTER 2

www.pigeon-mountain.school.nz

MARCH 2010

Dear Parents. The Government's introduction of National Standards has featured in the media recently. Please be assured that at Pigeon Mountain, we have an assessment programme that enables teachers to report levels of achievement of our students and are able to identify their next learning steps. At Pigeon Mountain, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning in a supportive environment and within a respectful relationship with their teacher. A positive partnership between home and school has a significant affect on the achievement of students. We encourage parents to contact the teacher, team leader, or one of the senior management team, with any issues before they become a concern.



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 Min Ryou, Gabriel & Johannes Schlebush, Rhys van Rooyen, Chia-Yang Liu, Danyal Mehdi, Solomon Chang, Janice Park, Gahyun & Sunghyan Im, Piljun Choi, Jaehyeong Park, Aimee Thompson, Abdul Sukkar, Amanda Hao, Jae Eun Lee and Frank Yau.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS:

The next meeting of the BOT will be held on **Wednesday, 17th March, 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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS:

These are due to be held in May this year. If you are interested in joining the board of trustees, you are invited to come along to their next meeting on the 17th March to observe. Nominations will be called for shortly.

STUDENT SAFETY:

Some students have special health needs and it is vital that the school has up to date information and action plans in place to satisfy these needs. If your child has any serious medical conditions or allergies, please contact the school office.

It would be appreciated if birthday treats could be shared at home rather than bringing along treats for everyone in the class when it is your child's birthday.

ERO: Parents are probably aware that the Education Review Office (ERO) visited Pigeon Mountain in week 2 this year. (It is like an audit check. There were three reviewers.) They have given a verbal report to the Senior Management Team and to the Board of Trustees. By approximately the middle of March, we will receive a draft written report and we will have a week to proof read and edit it. The report then becomes a confirmed report and it will appear on the ERO website and we will post it on our website. ERO also writes to our community and we will send this home as soon as it is received.

PTA NEWS:

All parents are encouraged to come along to PTA meetings and participate. (22 parents attended the first meeting last month.) 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 on Wednesday 10th March at 7.30pm in the Staffroom.**

Reminders:

- PTA Fish & Chip/Picnic Night this Thursday 4th March on the sports field.
- PTA Chocolate Sales— fundraiser finishes on 15th March.



CONTACT DETAILS:

Please ensure that the school office has up to date details including any legal requirements regarding custody arrangements.

SCHOOL SECURITY:

Teachers draw curtains and pull blinds in the classrooms at night for security reasons. We appreciate our friends and neighbours using our school grounds or even walking through the school and keeping an eye out for potential problems. Please call 111 if you observe any activity of concern out of school hours.

ICAS EXAMS:

The International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (Australian Exams) dates for 2010 are as follows:

Computer Skills	25 May
Science	9 June
Spelling	22 June
Writing	22 June
English	3 August
Mathematics	17 August

A newsletter will be sent home at the beginning of Term 2 regarding these exams.

VALUES TREE:

Our CARE values are the principles and fundamental convictions which act as general guides to behaviour, and the standards by which particular actions are judged as good or desirable. Our CARE values are encouraged, modelled and explored by everyone in our school. This year we have implemented our new values tree. It is based around two main values—responsibility and respect. Each term, we will be focusing on one responsibility value and one respect value. This term our values are:



- **Responsibility**—Kaitiakitanga (Kaitiakitanga is guardianship, care and protection for our environment. It provides the basis for our approach to sustainability, managing our natural, cultural, and built environments for current and future generations).
- **Respect**— Friendship.

SPORT:

CRICKET: Our cricket team to date has beaten Sunnyhills and lost by one run against Mellons Bay. Their next game is against Bucklands Beach on Wednesday, 3rd March at Pigeon Mountain, beginning at 12.30pm.



SWIMMING: Our swimming team is training twice a week in preparation for the Interschool Swimming Sports to be held on Tuesday, 9th March at Howick Intermediate School starting at 11am. Saving day is Thursday, 11th March. Parents are welcome to attend.



SAFETY ISSUES:

Parents are reminded 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.**

Chinese translation

It is important that road rules are adhered to by parents 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 crossing. Sometimes children are called across the road by parents in a car, and we are concerned that this is a dangerous practice.

Chinese translation

Walking School Bus



The school has two walking school buses operating at present. They are the Himalaya Hikers (Himalaya Drive) and Back Trackers (Prince Regent Drive). Each walking school bus has an adult driver at the front and a conductor at the rear. If you would like to know more about the Walking School Bus, please phone Nicola Legge on 537 9464 or ask the office for information.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Day out with Thomas— Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th March at Glenbrook Vintage Railway. Lots of activities for the children including bouncy castle, face painting, plaster model painting etc.

Omana Children's Day—10—3pm Sunday 14th March 2010. Tractor-trailer rides, face painting, sheep shearing, wagon rides, farm animals and lots more.

Raincoats for Sale— in the School Hall on every first & second Monday morning 8.15am to 8.50am. Water repellent, wind resistant, easy to take on and off. Cape can cover a back pack. Comes in a carry bag.

Stampin' Up— Free Cardmaking & Papercraft demonstration Thursday 11th March 7pm to 9.30pm. Contact Louise Hopman 537 1555 or 027 589 8662.

Federated Farmers Farm Day—28th March 2010— Open day on 23 farms. Great opportunity for children to learn about farm animals & farming. Check out the Farm Day website for a Farm Day near you and don't forget to pack your gumboots. www.farmday.org.nz

DATES TO NOTE:

4 March	PTA Picnic 6.00pm to 7.30pm
8 March	Y4 Howick Historical Village.
9 March	Interschool Swimming 1
10 March	Bible in Schools commences 9am
10 March	PTA Mtg 7.30pm
12 March	Y3 Howick Historical Village
17 March	BOT Mtg 7.30pm
23 March	Yr 2 Howick Historical Village
24 March	Softball Field Day
25 March	Softball Field Saving Day
25 March	Yr 1 Howick Historical Village
29 March	Y6 EOTC—Rock Climbing
30 March	Y6 Camp until the 1st April.
1 April	Term 1 Ends at 3pm
19 April	Term 2 starts at 8.50am

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 _____