



Pigeon Mountain School News

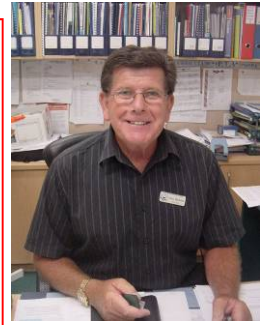
NEWSLETTER

www.pigeon-mountain.school.nz

NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Parents. By now you should have received a letter about the Numeracy meeting this week. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Evening on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the school hall. We have a guest speaker, Mr Peter Nicholas, who is a Senior Lecturer in Mathematics Education at Auckland University.

Could I ask your support in "hunting down" our library books and returning them to the library. Towards the end of this term we must do an audit of our total collection. A reminder that 4 year old children should have been enrolled so that classes can be finalised for 2010.



From the Principal's Desk

We would like to welcome all new children and their families to our school this term 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: Natalya Alesana, Rick Wang, Alexa Carter, Misha Bahl, Johnny Martin, Tonan Kaighin, Ciara Adams, Ashleigh Rouse, Jade Fairweather, Olivia Mills, Jack Chen, Alice Park, Eric Pan, Bosce Leung, Jessaien Govender, Anje Te Boekhorst and Alice Park.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The next Board of Trustees meeting is to be held on **Wednesday, 18th November 2009 at 7.30pm**

PTA NEWS:

The next meeting of the PTA will be held on **Thursday, 12th November** in the staffroom at **7.30pm**.

The Family Portraits went well with over \$550.00 being raised for the school. We wish to thank **Meghan Wood, Photographer Extrordinaire**, for her wonderful photography and loads of patience. By now, everyone who had photos taken should have received proofs and an order form. Orders can be placed until November 13th to qualify for a 10% discount.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS ORIENTATIONS:

Farm Cove— The Year 6 Orientation Day is **Friday 27th November at 1.30pm until 2pm**. The **New Parents' Evening** has been changed to **Wednesday, 18th November 2009**.

Bucklands Beach— Year 6 Orientation Day is **Friday 27th November at 11.00am**. The **New Parents' Evening** will be that evening.

SPORT: Year 3—6 School Athletics are to be held on **Tuesday November 10th**. From this event a school team will be chosen for the Inter School Athletics which are to be held at Howick Domain this year on **Tuesday November 24th** with the saving day **26th November**. Year 1—2 School Athletics are to be held **Tuesday December 8th**, more details to follow later.



Numeracy Evening:

Reminder that on **Wednesday 4 November at 7.30pm** in the school hall, we are having an evening which will begin with our guest speaker **Peter Nicholas, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics Education** who will talk about the intent of the **New Zealand Numeracy Project** and the new **National Standards**. Following this will be 3 breakout sessions: **Senior School numeracy strategy teaching, Junior School numeracy strategy teaching and Problem Solving strategies incorporating ICT**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

This will commence **4 Nov at 9.00am to 9.30am** for the next 4 weeks.

Art Exhibition

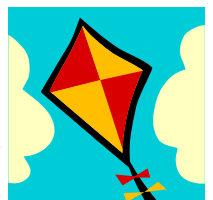
I would like to acknowledge and thank all who contributed to the recent art exhibition. The school received considerable positive feedback following this event.

Up in the Air Day:

"Up in the Air" Day this coming Friday:

- Juniors 9:45-10:30
- Middle 11:00-11:45
- Senior 11.45—12.30

The children need to bring something to fly along to school (kites, planes, balloons but no boomerangs as they are too dangerous!) Whatever they bring along must be **named**.



WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Happy Birthday! The first Pigeon Mountain walking school bus turned FOUR last term – what a fantastic achievement for our school!



With the improved weather this term the Himalaya Hikers (Himalaya Drive) and Back Trackers (Prince Regent Drive) are enjoying their morning walks to school and have been joined by some new walkers this term. The Back Trackers in particular have plenty of space for new walkers so please think about joining them if they are on your way to school. They leave from the corner of Tuscan Place and Prince Regent Drive at around 8.30am Tuesdays to Thursdays. We would love to get this bus back up to five mornings a week but need some more parent support to achieve that. It is not a big effort to walk once a week/ fortnight with the children, and most rewarding as you meet new parents and children from your community.

One of our walkers, Talia Allerby featured in the September edition of the Counties Manukau Walking Bus Newsletter, with a great poem she had written about walking to school in winter. Well done Talia! The Himalaya Hikers had a special visitor earlier this term as a result.

Sadly, the Oliver Orbiters route is not running this term, due to lack of support.

Our wonderful stalwarts Donna Stone and Jenny Steele (thank you ladies) are unable to continue leading this route this term, and numbers have been very low for some time. We would love to get this route back up and running so if you or a neighbour, friend or family member are interested please don't hesitate to contact our walking bus co-ordinator: Nicola Legge ph 537 9464 after school. Similarly, if there is no walking bus near you and you would like one please get in touch.

HELP WANTED: Walking bus co-ordinators. Our current route co-ordinators both have their youngest child in year 5 this year, which means that we need you to start thinking about whether this is something you may be interested in getting involved with in 2010 while they are still there to work alongside you! Being a route co-ordinator is not difficult – the main task is putting together the parent roster each term. We are also looking for someone who may be interested in running our **Milo mornings** once a month. You may have some creative ideas to inject new life into the buses! Please talk to Nicola Legge if you are interested to find out more – no obligation! (ph 537 9464). Nicola would also like someone to think about taking over as the **school co-ordinator** next year as work commitments now mean she is not able to put as much into the keeping the buses fresh and alive as she would like to. This is also a small but important way in which you can help our school – with minimal time required. Please let Nicola know if you would like to find out more. Don't forget, you are welcome to walk along with the walking buses any time to see how it might suit you and your family!

READING

An underlying building block for reading success is awareness of the sounds of language and the ability to manipulate sounds.



A child's ability to detect rhyme and then generate rhyme is an early indicator of the ease with which the child will learn to read.

Research demonstrates a strong link between children's early abilities in phonemic awareness (awareness of the individual sounds of languages) and their later reading skills.

Three-year-old children who have difficulty learning rhymes or rhyming songs may be at risk for reading difficulty. Four and five-year-old children should be able to generate rhymes and to match classmates names by initial sounds (e.g. Bob/Barbara).

Rhyme awareness can be encouraged through books of nursery rhymes, songs, poems and sound play activities. Children listen to the reading alouds, join in once they know the rhymes, and ultimately create new verses.

Suggested websites for materials:

Get Ready to Read www.getreadytoread.org

Phonemic Awareness Activities for 4-5-6- year olds

www.iusd.k12.ca.us/parent__resources/phonemicawareness456.htm

TERM DATES 2010:

The board has approved the following term dates for 2010:

- 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

DATES TO NOTE:

Tue 10 Nov	Yr 3-6 Athletics Day
Wed 11 Nov	Team Photos
Thur 12 Nov	Yr 3-6 Athletics Saving Day
Mon 16 Nov	Yr 5 Day Camp
Wed 18 Nov	BOT Mtg
Fri 20 Nov	Yr 5 Day Camp
Tues 24 Nov	Interschool Athletics
Thurs 26 Nov	Interschool Athletics Saving Day
Fri 27 Nov	Yr 5/6 Assembly
Fri 27 Nov	Yr 6 Orientation at Farm Cove and BBI
Thurs 3 Dec	PTA Carol Evening time tba
Fri 4 Dec	Helpers morning tea all welcome
Wed 16 Dec	EOY Awards Assembly

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 _____

DON'T FORGET—NUMERACY EVENING TONIGHT 6.30 IN THE HALL.