

NEWSLETTER – 12 February 2010



Kia Ora, Talofa, Kia Orana, Malo e lelei, Ni Sa Bula, Assalam Alaikum, Ni hao, Namaste, Buon Giorno.

Welcome Back to School!!!!



Welcome back to Miramar South School for an exciting 2010 year! It's great to see so many familiar, happy faces around the school. I hope you had fun over the holidays and you are all well rested and keen to learn. The Year 8 students have gone off to college and a few children have left and we wish them all well. We welcome five new students to our school community – Abdullahi Mohamed (Yr 8), Selena Matega (Yr 7), Mia Matega (Yr 2), Sascha Miriau (Yr 4), and Leila Miriau (Yr 1). We have a lot of news to tell you so this newsletter is a bit longer than usual!



Term Dates for 2010

<u>Term 1</u>	3 February to 1 April
<u>Term 2</u>	19 April to 2 July
<u>Term 3</u>	19 July to 24 September
<u>Term 4</u>	11 October to 17 December

(Please note the children have Friday 4 and Monday 7 June of Queens Birthday off school.)

Classroom Teachers

We welcome two new teachers to our school this year. Emma Boyes is teaching our Junior class in Room 2, and Lance Williams is teaching Years 4 and 5 in Room 5. Emma and Lance are both experienced teachers who have worked overseas and in New Zealand. Emma has come from Hamilton and Lance is a local Lyall Bay boy. Teachers and rooms are:

Room 2.....	Emma Boyes
Room 3.....	Isabella Iopopo
Room 5.....	Lance Williams
Broadway South	Ruth Cooper
Broadway North	Kyran Smith



Homework

At Miramar South School we expect children to work hard at school and believe they need a break from this at home. It is essential that children participate in play, physical activity and of course family social events. In 2009 we trialled commercially produced homework books but this was largely unsuccessful and they did not relate easily to what was being taught in classrooms. This year we are returning to reading diaries for children for homework. These diaries are to be purchased from the school office for \$3.50. From week 4 your child will be bringing home a reading book from class. Until then, teachers will be assessing your child to see how they can meet the needs of your child in the classroom programme. Children also have a library book available for reading and of course you can join them up with the public library and this will provide a wealth of suitable reading material for them. If you want further homework for your child there are commercially produced books out there which you can select from. Because education is largely interactive these days, the best you can do for your child is to ensure he or she arrives at school after a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast, on time and every day!





“Kickstart” – New Entrant Programme

Miss Boyes will be running a new Kickstart programme to introduce your pre-schoolers to school life. You are welcome to bring along your four year old every *second Thursday* from 9am to 11am – starting on Thursday 18 February. Please mention this to others you know of with children due to start school soon. This is a great opportunity for your child to become familiar with school life.

National Standards

The National Party introduction of National Standards is to be introduced in 2010. Schools have as yet had no training on their implementation. The board and staff of Miramar South School have always been proud of our accurate and honest reporting systems already in place. We will continue to provide this to you.



Roots of Empathy

We are still looking for a parent and their baby to join us for this programme. We need a baby that will be between 8 weeks and 15 weeks old in mid-March. If you have a baby nearing this age and would like to join us for the programme, or you know of someone else who may like to help us, please contact Sue Burns on 04-9770774 or 021-2378813. The class will be run with children in Room 3. You would need to visit nine times throughout the year for about 30 minutes. Sue will visit you at home and talk more about the programme and answer any questions you may have. She may also ring you before each class visit to talk about the planned visit. The students will have lots of questions about your baby and what it takes to be a parent. We need from you a commitment for the whole year. Only a parent can bring the baby to the classroom visit, as the focus of the programme is to see the bond between the parent and baby. We are not able to have older pre-schoolers in the class as the students need to focus on the baby.

Contact Details

Don't forget to let the school office know if you have changed address or telephone numbers. Often we find out that telephone numbers have changed when we suddenly cannot get through on an old number. The children don't always know their new details. So please, next time you are at the school, come to the office to check that your contact details are correct or give us a call on 3886070.



Hats

The school has a policy that if your child is not wearing a sunhat at break times in the summer months then they are unable to play outside in the playground. Please ensure that your child has a suitable sunhat to wear at school. The hat must shade the face and eyes and the back of the neck. We have sunhats available for purchase from the school for \$4.00 if you wish!

Breakfast Co-op

Our Breakfast Co-op is up and running again this year. You can purchase good quality food for your family for much less than the supermarket charges – milk, bread, cereals, and canned foods. Please have a look at the order form that your child brings home each Monday. Orders need to be to the school office on Tuesday mornings by 10am, and goods must be picked up from the foyer between 2.45pm and 3.00pm. Pay when your child brings in the order, or pay on pickup. If you wish to set up a regular weekly order to save filling out weekly orders please let us know.



Board Of Trustee Elections

Board of Trustee elections are to be held in 2010. Have you thought about putting your name forward for election? This is a great opportunity to have direct input into your child's education. Please contact the school office if you are interested in standing as a board member. Our current Board have indicated they will all stand again.



Year 7 Vision Screening

Regional Public Health provide a vision screening programme at our school for Year 7 students. This involves vision checks, results of which will be advised at the time of testing. You will be advised if further assessment is required. Colour vision testing is to identify boys with an inherited colour vision defect. Again you will be advised if any further action is needed. Children who wear glasses or are under professional care already will not need a vision check at the school. If you DO NOT consent to your child being Vision tested, please advise the school office. The testing is *not* a full assessment so if you have any problems, please contact an optometrist.

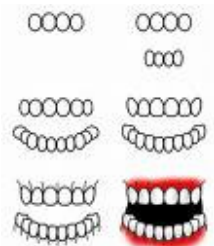


Fruit In Schools

Miramar South School is lucky enough to be involved in the Fruit In Schools Programme. The programme provides fresh fruit to the school twice a week and this is distributed to the children. This is a great way of encouraging children to eat healthy food and helps create healthy eating habits. You can help by sending a plastic/reusable bag to school for your child to carry any excess fruit home.

Dental Service

Did you know that you can enrol your child from the age of two and a half years with the dental service? Please pick up forms from the school office or from the dental clinic directly. You can't start too early when you're talking about teeth!



Thank You

A big thank you to Stacey Swanson and Rebecca Bishop, students from Wellington East Girls' College, who chose to donate \$800 they raised to our school's ESOL programme. They raised the money through business donations, sausage sizzles, raffles and personal donations received. What a great way to support their community.

What's Coming Up

23 February	Family Feast – 6-8pm in the school hall.
24 February	Eastern Zone Cricket Tournament.
3 March	Eastern Zone Cricket Tournament – postponement date.
17 March	Whole School Breakfast.
11 May	Board of Trustee Elections.



Jeanette De La Mare
PRINCIPAL
MIRAMAR SOUTH SCHOOL



Community Notices

- We have a cellphone you can **text** your child's absences to. Just text your child's first name, last name, class and reason for absence to 0277-480100. If you need to speak to the school Secretary please phone the school office on 04-3886070. Please do not call the cellphone or try to leave voice messages. All absences are kept on record as part of the Ministry of Education policies. Children who are absent too often are referred to Truancy Services and then if necessary to CYFS.
- Sign up at the school for ASB school banking and be in the draws to win \$50. You must sign up and make deposits.
- Child Cancer Foundation BIG DIG! Oriental Bay on Saturday 13 February from 11am until 12.30pm. \$5 entry. Rain day Sunday 14 February.