

NEWSLETTER – 25 February 2011



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

Welcome!

What a very sad time New Zealand has had over the last week as a result of the earthquake in Christchurch. It will take a long time for people to feel secure again and get back to some kind of normality. Our thoughts are with all the families who have been affected by the earthquake. Some families in our school community may be personally affected or know people who have friends or relatives hurt, missing or killed. We have a related point in our newsletter this week. We welcome Darien Eden who has come to our school as a Year 7. You seem very settled already Darien!



Contact Details / Civil Defence Contacts

With the recent earthquake in Christchurch very much in our minds, it is a chance for us to remind you about the importance of keeping your contact details up to date. In an emergency we cannot release your child to anybody other than the contacts listed on your enrolment form, or those listed on the Civil Defence form that you were required to fill out when you enrolled your child. We have enclosed a blank form for you to complete and return to the school if you are unsure about the details we have on file for your child/ren. We also need to know if your day to day contact details have changed recently. If you have moved house, or you have a new landline, or cellphone number - we need to know. Please check with Margaret in the office if you are unsure.

Family Feast

On a more positive note, you are all welcome to come along to the Family Feast from 6pm until 8pm on Wednesday 2 March. Come along to the hall and bring a plate of food to share if you can. This has proven to be a great way for the families in our community to get together, enjoy a meal with one another, and chat with the board and staff informally.



Thank You Rotary Club of Port Nicholson!

The Rotary Club of Port Nicholson very kindly purchased a Smartboard for one of our classrooms. Now every classroom in our school has the latest interactive whiteboard technology. Our teachers are all experienced in using the whiteboards and the children respond really well to their use in the classroom. In past years students have received dictionaries as part of a Rotary Club programme to support literacy in schools. We thank the Rotary Club of Port Nicholson for all their support and look forward to working with them in the future.

Fundraising for Year 6, 7 and 8 Camp

Thank you to all those people who are supporting the Year 6, 7 and 8 Camp fundraising efforts. The children and their families are selling chocolates for \$2.50 a bar. If you need chocolate, don't hesitate to buy a bar or two to help get the children to camp!



“Kickstart” – New Entrant Programme

Miss Boyes continues to run the “Kickstart” programme in 2011. This programme introduces your pre-schooler to school life. You are welcome to bring along your four year old every *second Thursday* from 9am to 11am – the next opportunity will be on Thursday 3 March. Please mention this to others you know of with children due to start school soon. This is a great way for your child to become familiar with school life. If you need to pick up enrolment packs for your new entrant, please see Margaret in the office.

School Policies and School Website

Our school policies are available for you to view on line. Go to <http://miramarsouth.schooldocs.co.nz> and enter our community username: miramarsouth - and password: South. If you wish, you can come into the school and have Margaret in the office print out various policies you may want to see. All our policies are reviewed and updated according to a timetable. You can see all this information on the website. We also have our school website up and running. You can catch up with newsletters you may have missed, read about the school, see recent photos of activities held at the school and refer people you know to it if they are thinking of enrolling their children at our school. To visit the school website go to www.miramarsouth.school.nz



Activity Donation / Technology Fees

It's time for us to remind people about Activity Donations and Technology Fees for 2011. The Activity Donation is \$60 for one child, or \$100 for two or more children attending our school for the whole year. If you cannot make full payment at the beginning of the year, then part payment can be made throughout the school year. This donation goes directly to support student learning. This donation is tax deductible. Year 7 and 8 students are required to pay \$20 Technology Fee per term for the use of equipment and materials at Mount Cook School, and transport to and from Mount Cook. Again, you can pay the full amount of \$80 for the year or \$20 per term. Thank you very much for your support.



Absentees

Please help us keep track of absent children. If you don't advise us that your child will be away, we are required by the Ministry of Education to contact you on any of the numbers we have available. We have a cellphone that you can text your child's absence details to. We need to know your child's full name, room number and reason for absence. The number to text is 0277-480100. Please do not leave voice messages on this number, we can only receive texts. If you wish to telephone your child's absence details in to the school, call the school office on 04-3886070. All absences are kept on record as part of Ministry of Education policy. Children who are absent too often are referred to Truancy Services and then if necessary to CYFS. If your child is sick often, we may request a signed Medical Certificate.



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. The prices have gone up slightly on a few items this year, but they are still cheaper through us. 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.

What's Coming Up

1 March	Rippa Rugby Tournament.
9 March	Broadway North trip to Te Papa.
16 March	Eastern Zone Miniball Tournament.
24 March	Broadway South and Room 3 trip to Te Papa.
6 and 7 April	Year 6, 7 and 8 School Camp.



Jeanette De La Mare
PRINCIPAL
MIRAMAR SOUTH SCHOOL



Community Notices

- Federated Farmers Farm Day - Sunday 13 March 10am-3pm. Visit www.farmday.org.nz for nearest farm or ph. 06-3726465.
- Eastern Bays Scout Group is starting a "Kea Club" - Beginning Thursday 3 March 6.15-7.15pm. At their hall in Worsler Bay at bottom of Awa Road between the Surf Club and Yacht Club. The Kea Club is designed for Year 1 to Year 3 students (6-8 years of age). Games, crafts, stories, singing, plays, nature study. Great for encouraging cooperation and teamwork.
- Marist St Pats Junior Rugby Registrations late February / early March. Telephone Andrew on 9760433 or Martin 027-3211581.