

# **NEWSLETTER – 13 February 2012**

**Kia Ora tatou katoa, Talofa, Kia Orana, Malo e lelei, Ni Sa Bula, Assalam Alaikum, Nihao, Namaste, Buon Giorno, Mingalaba, He mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa!**



## **From The Principal ...**

Welcome back to school for 2012! I hope you are all well rested after the long break and I hope you all had fun times with family and friends. Some of you travelled overseas and the rest of us enjoyed the great holiday weather we had here. 2012 will be a busy year for all of us. The children will be working hard as usual, and planning will be underway for the merger with Strathmore Community School in 2013. We will let you know more about these plans as the year unfolds. This is certainly a great opportunity for the children and the community to have a great new school. The teachers that your children know now will be teaching in the new merged school, so there will be no disruption for the children and their learning. They will have to get used to flash new teaching spaces and equipment though!



## **Welcome!**

We welcome nine new students to Miramar South School. Sumeet Autapa (Yr7), Jaymie Kameta-Hiroki (Yr1), Levina Gardner (Yr4), Gaby Gardner (Yr2), Pania Gedenk (Yr3), Xavier Sio (Yr7), Makayla Vaa (Yr3), Talie Vaa (Yr2), Maurea Ducommun (Yr1). Welcome to you all and we know you will make lots of great new friends!



## **Our Fabulous ERO Report!**

We have received our confirmed Education Review Office (ERO) report. We are happy to tell you that we received a very good review. We are extremely proud of this achievement. There is a copy of the confirmed report for you to see at the school office. You can also read the report online by going to [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz) - at the top right of the screen enter "Miramar South School" in the key words space, click on the "Reports" dot and "Search". Miramar South School's report dated 13/1/2012 will appear. Double click on this and you can either download the report or read through using the Table of Contents on the right hand side, listing Context, Learning, Curriculum and Sustainable Performance. Some quotes from the report read as follows:

"Students are well engaged and actively participate in class. They talk knowledgeably about their learning and what they need to work on next in literacy and mathematics."

"Students are valued as leaders. They display organisational skills and take responsibility in a number of areas, including the health club facilitated by the visiting health nurse. Students have input into school decisions, reinforcing life skills."

"There is strong curriculum and assessment leadership."

"Leaders are improvement focused and have students' interests as their first priority. They demonstrate a problem-solving approach to the needs of their students and make research-based decisions. The appraisal process is well developed and comprehensive."

"The quality of teaching is very good. The experienced teachers model good practice, are reflective about their teaching and strive for improved outcomes for their students."

## **Ministry Visit - Merger Information**

On the evening of 7 February, after our Family Feast, Ministry staff came to speak with our community about the merger plans. They answered questions that parents and community members had and gave us some information about what to expect during the year. One thing we all know is that this is a very positive and exciting time for us all. The new school is going to be *our* school to form and all of us can have input. There will be forms delivered to the school shortly that can be completed if you wish to be considered as part of the new appointed board. This board will represent you to form the school, and then after the 2013 school year has commenced, a new board of trustees will be elected to lead the school into the future. Please be involved, this is your community's school.



## **Year 7 Vision Screening**

Regional Public Health provides a vision screening programme for our Year 7 students. This involves vision checks, these results 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.



## Sunhats!

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 office for \$4.00.

## Term Dates For 2012

We have detailed below the term dates for the 2012 school year. Throughout these terms are various holidays which we have also listed for you.

Term 1	Tuesday 31 January	to	Thursday 5 April
Term 2	Monday 23 April	to	Friday 29 June
Term 3	Monday 16 July	to	Friday 28 September
Term 4	Monday 15 October	to	Tuesday 18 December

### Public Holidays and Other Term Breaks

Monday 6 February - Waitangi Day.  
 Friday 6, Monday 9, Tuesday 10 April - Easter Break.  
 Wednesday 25 April - ANZAC Day.  
 Friday 1 June and Monday 4 June - Queens Birthday.  
 Friday 10 August - Mid Term Break.  
 Monday 22 October - Labour Day.



## Reading

At Miramar South School we expect children to work hard at school and we 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. Again this year we are using Home Reading diaries for children for homework. These diaries are purchased from the school office for \$3.50.

Children also have library books available for reading and of course you can join them up with the public library. This will provide a wealth of suitable reading material for them. If you want further homework for your child there are lots of commercially produced books out there which you can select from, and our reports to parents indicate ways for you to assist. 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, every day!

## “Kickstart” – New Entrant Programme

Miss Boyes' "Kickstart" New Entrant Programme is proving very popular. You are welcome to bring along your four year old every Thursday from 9am to 11am. 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. If you need to pick up enrolment packs for your new entrant, please see Margaret in the office.



## Immunisation Consent Forms

All Year 7 students, and Year 8 girls were recently given information / permission forms to take home about their immunisation programme. These forms were given out by the public health team who visited the school last week and spoke to the students about the Boostrix vaccination (all Year 7 students), and Gardasil vaccination (Year 8 girls). Please read the information and fill out the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. We have plenty of spare forms at the school office if you need another one.

## What's Coming Up!

22 February ..... Cricket Tournament - Yrs 5-6 at Kilbirnie Park.  
 28 February ..... Rippa Rugby Tournament - Yrs 5-8 at Ian Galloway Park.  
 8 March..... Education Marine Reserve - Room 5 at Princess Bay.  
 9 March..... Education Marine Reserve - Broadway North at Princess Bay.  
 15 March..... Education Marine Reserve - Room 5 at Island Bay.  
 16 March..... Education Marine Reserve - Broadway North at Island Bay.  
 5 April..... Disco for End of Term 1 - during day in the school hall.



**Jeanette De La Mare**  
**PRINCIPAL**  
**MIRAMAR SOUTH SCHOOL**

