

# NEWSLETTER – 1 July 2011

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



## Welcome!



Hello to all our families! We have had a busy week this week holding our fish and chip evenings. We are having the meetings to let you all know about the upcoming consultation evenings to be held at the school. Things have been running smoothly and we've had very few children suffering from winter illnesses - so all you parents and caregivers must be doing a great job. Remember, the classrooms are warm and cosy here during the cold days, so wrap your children up warmly and send them to school regardless of the weather!

## Fish and Chip Nights!

Thank you for your attendance at our hugely important meetings this week.

At our Monday meeting for our Somali community we had 100% of our families represented! Fantastic!

At our Pasifika meeting we had 77% of our families represented.

At our Maori meeting we had 41% of our families represented.

At our meeting for other ethnic groups we had 88% represented.



This is an overall turnout of 73%! Well done!

At all meetings we heard a strong voice coming through that you are happy with what we have achieved. We heard that our diversity was valued, our teachers and their teaching are valued and that our children are becoming strong and confident learners.

At all the meetings, we felt that we had a strong body of people who could put our case strongly to the Ministry of Education - people who are able to articulate what we as a whole, united school community want for our children. We want to **ask for everything** in order to improve on what we have!

We have two opportunities to do this! **5 July at 5.30pm in our hall, and 7 July at 7.00pm in our hall.**

**PLEASE COME IN AND PARK ON OUR COURTS ANYWHERE - BUT WATCH OUT FOR CHILDREN! WE TREASURE THEM!**

The 5.30pm meeting will start promptly as the Facilitator for the Ministry has a meeting at Strathmore at 7.30pm! We will provide soup and buns near the end of the meeting on 5 July, and near the beginning of the meeting on 7 July. Please attend either meeting. If you want to send Mum to one, and Dad to the other that is fine. We will have a video playing and games in Room 3 for pre-schoolers to Year 6. Year 7 and 8 students may attend and contribute to the meetings. We want Mums, Dads, Grandparents, past pupils and anyone else interested in our children's education to attend. Note takers will ensure Lesley Moffat, our Facilitator gets all our messages.

**WHEN YOU COME, PLEASE BRING YOUR SURVEY!** If you want any help with filling it out please telephone Elaine on 9345333 and she will be happy to arrange help for you. Questions 1 and 2 are the most important and certainly, have a say on an option! Promote a new option if you like! Give your survey to a teacher who will pass it on to the right person. There is also a survey box in our foyer for you to put your completed forms into.

# Community Meeting

We will also be holding a meeting for the wider community to attend on Wednesday 13 July at 7.30pm in the school hall. You are most welcome to come along to this meeting also. This meeting is aimed at all those other people connected to the school - neighbours, businesses, and anybody interested in the school and the community. We want everybody to get as much information as possible. We want as many people as possible to have their say about what their community wants.



## BP Technology Challenge!

Next week - Thursday 7 July - we will be taking three teams of children to the BP Technology Challenge. The children's problem solving skills will be put to the test. They will be given challenging problems to solve and projects to build - they have one known challenge which is to make gingerbeer! We will be taking the children by bus to the Training College in Karori where the Challenge will be held. You will have been advised if your child is involved. The bus will be leaving the school at 8.00am to be in Karori in time for the start of the challenge at 9.00am - we will be leaving Karori at around 2.30pm to bring them home. Please make sure your child is here on time to catch the bus.



## Technology Fees for Year 7 and 8 Students

Year 7 and 8 students are required to pay \$20 Technology Fee per term for the use of equipment and materials, and transport to and from Mount Cook School. Again, you can pay the full amount of \$80 for the year or \$20 per term. Some projects completed cannot be brought home unless the full fee is paid, so if you are unsure about whether you have paid or not, please check with Margaret in the office.

## Mathletics

Our students working on Stage 5 of the maths curriculum have recently been registered on "Mathletics". This is a web based maths programme which encourages the children to compete against other students and schools to improve their maths skills. This is done through competition and fun challenges. We have been running unsupervised computer time after school in some of the classrooms for those children who can work quietly on Mathletics. This is proving very popular. We should see some very positive results from all the extra time spent on maths problems!



## School Reports

We will be sending reports home early next week for our Year 4 to 8 students. (Years 1-3 are sent home on a different cycle - we recently sent home a note advising when you can expect your child's reports.) Please keep an eye out in your child's school bag for their report!

## What's Coming Up!

5 and 7 July	Parent Consultation meetings at the school.
7 July	BP Technology Challenge.
13 July	Community Consultation meeting at the school.



*J. A. De La Mare*

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