



BUCKLANDS BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Senior School Term 1 2016 Newsletter

Dear Parents

The Senior School teachers have had a busy but wonderful 2015 and they are already looking forward to 2016!

In order to get off to a great start this newsletter is to inform you of the up-coming events so you can prepare and budget ahead. All up-coming events are listed on the calendar on the back of this newsletter and more details will be supplied next year. The first day back for students will be Tuesday February 2nd. Please note that the school will be closed on the following Monday as this is Waitangi day. The school will also be closed on Friday 25th March to Wednesday 30th March for Easter. The term will continue till April the 15th. This is a little different to 2015 whereby Easter was part of the end Term 1 two week holiday.

Stationery

Your child's stationery list is held at Paper Plus, 71 Picton St, Howick. The Senior School lists can also be found on the school website. The stationery list states what subject each book will be used for. **We ask that all books are named, with the subject included and preferably covered with plastic for the first day of school. Please ensure your child also has his/her pencil case with named pencils.** With the use of iPads/Google Docs some exercise books have been phased out. All our students will be writing from the first day.

Library Bags

Please can you also make sure that your child has his/her named **school library bag at school on the first day.** New bags can be purchased from our school library for \$5.00.

Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD)

Bring Your Own Devices is now an important part of the Senior School programme. The Senior School is currently using Apple iPads (2/3/4/Air) and Apple Minis. If your child has an Apple Mini we also suggest they have a keyboard. We ask all children with devices to bring them on the first day so the teachers can set up routines. (Note devices are not compulsory, just encouraged) The iPads will be locked in a cabinet when they are not in use and it is very helpful if they are named.

The new Year 5 students will be given passwords to allow them access to the school internet and their class dashboard. Please note the internet access is turned off at 3 pm each day. The new Year 5 students will need to also have their signed BYOD agreement with them on the first day. All current Year 4 students should have recently brought home a newsletter outlining the apps that will be used in the Senior School.

Maths Homework

Next year the Senior School will continue to use Mathletics online. We currently believe that this is the best programme available for teaching New Zealand maths strategies. This homework is not compulsory, however, this is a good way to foster extra learning at home and is central to our Home-Learning in Mathematics for the year. The cost will be \$30. We ask you to please budget for this. More information about paying for this will come out in the first term. Mathletics has been selected as it gives more flexibility for the children to be working on their own individual needs and at their own pace. This programme also allows your child to compete against children from other schools and gives instant feedback, which research shows is important. During 2015 the Mathletics team have been working to make the site even more meaningful.

Uniform

All children will be expected to be in our summer school uniform. Please name all items with a permanent marker, especially your child's sandals and sweater.

GIRLS Summer:

Blue check summer dress in regulation material and style. **or** * Navy skort in regulation material and style.

Red polo shirt with striped collar in regulation material and style.

Black 'school' sandals.

Regulation style navy sun hat

Plain stud earrings and no jewellery or nail polish please

BOYS Summer:

Navy shorts in regulation material and style.
Red polo shirt with striped collar in regulation material and style.
Black 'school' sandals.
Regulation style navy sun hat

Lunchboxes/Drink Bottles

As the first term is always very hot we encourage all children to have a named water bottle. It is also helpful if all plastic lunch boxes are named as these sometimes get left on the seats outside the classroom.

Whanau Leaders

The year 6 students have had an opportunity to apply for a position as a whanau leader. Those children who are selected will have a training session learning about the 'Habits of Highly Effective Leaders' at Willow Park on the 24th February. Those children who are not selected as a whanau leader still have the opportunity to be responsible for many other jobs that are equally as important.

PE/Sport

For PE activities we ask that the children wear shorts and a school Whanau T-shirt. Girls are allowed to wear navy bike pants under their uniform or for sport. Please can you ensure your child has their named hat on the first day of school. Please note that in the not too distant future the school is acquiring a new sports uniform so you may like to make do with what your child already has.

Softball

There will be a softball competition on the 23rd March. (Saving day 25th). We encourage as many people as possible to trial for this team.

Swimming

Next year the school pool will be open in Term 1, now the construction of our library is finished. At this stage we do not know the pool timetable but we ask that all children have their togs/ named towel in a named bag on the first day of school, in case their class is scheduled.

We will be having our school Swimming Sports at the Howick Intermediate Pool on the 26th Feb (Saving day 29th Feb). Parents are welcome. If you can help, please see Ms Corderoy. There will be a small charge for the buses of \$5.00 per child. Those selected from this sports day will go on to represent our school on the 15th March. All children will also be participating in free Water Safety lessons at school.

Sailing

In 2014 we were very excited to win the Bucklands Beach Yacht club "Have a Go" sailing cup. We are the first school to have our name engraved on the cup. Next year all Year 6 students will experience a day's sailing from March 1st- 3rd. This is a free programme and is within walking distance of school.

Unit of Inquiry

Our first Unit of Inquiry will be based on the central idea.....

Water is an essential and finite resource.

- We will inquire into water as part of the earth's natural system,
- the earth's water needs
- water as a finite resource
- humans' impact on water

As part of this unit we will be working with Sally Smith from Watercare. She will be conducting lessons both in the classroom and at the stream in Macleans Reserve beginning in the first week back. If anyone has expertise around the topic of water conservation in our local community we would love to hear from you.

Enviro

Next year our school will be going for the Green Gold Reflection Award.

We will have the "Tread Lightly" Caravan parked at our school from the 7th March. The charge will be approx. \$5.00 per child.

There will be a sausage sizzle at lunchtime on the 5th April to help support the initiatives of the Enviro team.

Science

As our school appreciates the importance of Science as a subject and as a future career prospect for our students, our school will be focussing on the development of our Science programme next year. The Senior School will be participating in a programme called "Marine Metred Squared". The aim will be to help Otago University collect data and monitor what organisms can be located at our local seashore. This will involve a walk to the end of the peninsula. If you have expertise with Marine Biology we would also love to hear from you.

Maori

Next year we would like to make an effort to learn more legends about the sea/water and our local area. If you know of anyone who could assist us please let us know.

Beach Education/ Year 5 EOTC Day

For the second year running, all Year 5 students will be participating in a Surf Education day conducted by Surf Life Saving at Red Beach on 4th March. We would love as many parents as possible to come in order to help with the water component. This will be a long day, leaving school by bus at 7 am and returning by 5pm. The cost will be approx. \$23.00 per child. More organisational details will come out at the beginning of Term 1. In the meantime, if your child has a wetsuit at your holiday home you may like to bring it back with you. Wetsuits are not compulsory but advised. It is highly recommended that all parent volunteers also have a wetsuit to stay warm while standing in the sea.

Year 6 Camp

The Year 6 Camp is held in Term 2 at Lakewood Lodge. A camp information evening will be run on the 25th February at 6 pm.

Weetbix Tryathlon

Who: All children 7 years and up (Parents must take their own child)

When: Sunday 21st February 2016

Where: Vellenoweth Green, St. Heliers School

Early Bird discount closes: 12 noon Thursday, 21 January 2016

Enter from home using the link

<https://regonline.activeglobal.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1764261&startnewreg=1>.

Tip Top Schools

The Tip Top School's fun day will be held on April 3rd. Mrs Chilvers helps organise teams for this event. The children will be told more next year.

Family fun Night

The PTA has a Family Fun Night scheduled for Friday 11th March.

Year 6 Puberty Talk

The year 6 girls always have a puberty talk in Term 1. The speaker is from Life Education. The children will have a session on the 18th March. Parents are invited to attend a meeting in the school staffroom on the 17th March at 7pm as an opportunity to hear about the talk and ask any questions.

Farewell

The Senior Team has enjoyed working with Mrs Heather Madigan in Year 6. We will be sad to see her go. We wish her and her husband not too many sleepless nights, with their new baby due in March 2016.

Whole School Assembly

Whole school Assemblies are held on alternate weeks starting at 2.15pm (see calendar). You are welcome to attend.

Getting To Know Your Child

You will have an opportunity to get to meet your child's new teacher at the 'Getting to Know Your Child' conferences after school on the 16th, 17th and 18th February. An online booking schedule and booklet to complete will be sent home closer to the time.

If you have any other queries please contact Jillian Redpath (Team Leader). We look forward to seeing you the first day back, after a refreshing holiday. ☺

Regards

The Senior School Team