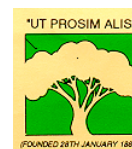


KILBIRNIE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Box 14-543 Kilbirnie Wellington ☎ 9392311
Monday 1 March 2010



NEW STUDENTS TO THE SCHOOL

Coco-Bella Johnston Room 1
Ashani Shyam Room 3
Ruby Chamberlain Room 3

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
2 March	Year 6 students to camp
3 March	Year 5 students to camp
5 March	Campers return
15 March	Official Pool Opening
22 March	Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
1 April	Term ends
19 April	Term 2 starts

ICTPD CONFERENCE

Last week I was fortunate enough to attend a three-day technology conference in Rotorua, along with the other seven school principals in our ICTPD contract. There were certainly plenty of extremely computer literate people attending the conference and I have certainly learnt a few acronyms over the three days, however I would have to say that I left feeling that our school is definitely heading in the correct direction. Quite a number of schools are only now thinking about leasing laptops for the students, we have been doing so for three plus years. As I sat through a workshop about wikis, blogs and class web pages I felt a certain degree of smugness knowing that we had started that journey some time ago.

Bandwidth was certainly an issue for the conference. They keynote speaker from Boston was to be directed through a video link however the system was “down” due to the large number of mobile phone users...a sign of things to come perhaps. Like all conferences I came away with a number of thoughts for future developments at Kilbirnie School. There are some issues we need to address before we develop our strategic plan. We need to think forward five years time to give us a broad view of our school’s direction. That may have been easy in the twentieth century, not so easy in the twenty-first. We will be asking for the views and thoughts of parents and caregivers in the near future.

I was particularly keen to attend workshops relating to school buildings for the new era of technology.

There will certainly be a range of ways of using spaces and furniture as more and more information will be accessed and produced in digital form. Fast and content-filtered wireless access must be provided, particularly as students will be increasingly using their personal internet enabled devices when appropriate. For any change there must be a shift in thinking, a paradigm shift. With the start of our three year ICTPD programme, combined with our new buildings, I am confident our school will find the journey exciting.

Stephen Downes, a Canadian educator, has written about the Top Ten Things to Learn...I found his ideas were of particular significance when thinking about the education of our current students. There are very obvious skills a child will need to learn however I felt the following list provided a more holistic approach for our students.

How to predict consequences. Over time, as people observe patterns of behaviour, they learn, through using their common sense, to avoid the unexpected, and sometimes damaging, consequences.

How to read. This obviously relates to literacy, but also to beginning to use critical thinking skills about what is being read, heard or viewed.

How to distinguish truth from fiction. Learning how to question what you are being told, what you read, and what you see on screen...this is of particular relevance in assessing the validity of websites.

How to empathise. Learning how to see things through someone else’s eyes, and to imagine how they would feel. Politeness and consideration becomes more important.

How to be creative. Although all people have the ability to be creative, with practice we can be even better. It is important to continue to look for problems to solve so that we can practice our creativity.

How to communicate clearly. This is mainly about knowing what you want to say, and the correct way to say it.

How to learn. Learning to learn takes practice and people need to keep brain neurons active by learning new things each day, a new word or a random entry from Wikipedia.

How to stay healthy. Every day we should seek to be active in some way, and to eat one meal that “is good for you”.

How to value yourself. Tell yourself everyday that you are smart, cool, strong, good...then attempt to practice

these attributes. The important point is to think positively about yourself, saying "I am valuable" **How to live meaningfully.** Spending time thinking about what is worth doing. When you realise you have the power to choose what you are doing, you realise you have the power to choose the consequences.

Much food for thought, particularly as we implement our Kilbirnie School curriculum.

SCHOOL CAMP

The Year 5 & 6 students are to take part in our annual school camp based at the Palm Grove campsite, inland from Paraparaumu, this week. The school camp offers a wealth of social, academic and physical activities – particularly for "city kids".

Year 6's commencing tomorrow, concluding Friday 5th March. Tony Austin and Catriona Powell will accompany this group. Year 5's commencing Wednesday 3rd March, concluding Friday 5th March with Peter Dobson.

Some of the activities are as follows:

Year 5 students:

- ✚ Visit to Nga Manu bird sanctuary
- ✚ Confidence course
- ✚ Kayaking at Pauatahanui inlet
- ✚ Camp concert
- ✚ Rock-climbing at Hangdog in Lower Hutt

Year 6 students:

- ✚ Rock-climbing
- ✚ Ropes course at the camp
- ✚ Kayaking
- ✚ Sleep over in tents
- ✚ Outdoor cooking
- ✚ Tramp
- ✚ Horse riding

The time at camp gives the students the opportunity to co-operate with others, to share duties and even share cabins. There are plenty of opportunities for free time – sliding down the famous water slide, swimming in the pool and using the trampoline.



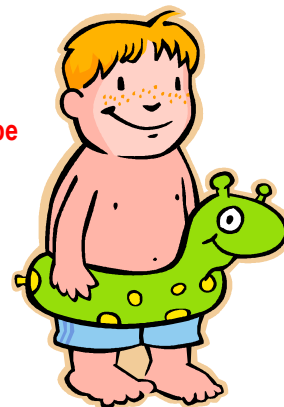
Risk management is obviously of prime importance and all staff involved prepare detailed risk analysis sheets. The entire programme and risk analysis information is also seen by the Board of Trustees.

I would like to thank the teachers for their hard work in organising the camp. The preparation involved is immense, particularly with arranging adequate adult supervision, identifying health and safety issues, police vetting supervising adults...the list goes on. What makes it worthwhile however is the look of achievement on the faces of the children once they have accomplished something...be it the low ropes course, the flying fox or the kayak!

OFFICIAL POOL OPENING Monday 15 March

10.30

Our swimming pool is to be officially opened by **Annette King, our local Member of Parliament.** This is thanks to the hard work by the Pool Committee, led so well by **Mandy Joseph.**



Come along and help us celebrate...more information will follow.

EBIS Board Election

Are you interested in becoming more involved in your child's school, board elections are just around the corner. Contact Suzanne Hendry, EBIS Executive Officer, ph 939-3247 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

School Piano Lessons: Ed Zuccollo

Lessons are 20 minutes long, cost \$15 each and are during school hours (Usually Tuesday/Wednesday). Email: ed_zuccollo@hotmail.com or ☎977 1123

Community Notices:

Babysitter available in evenings. References available.

☎ Sheree 387 9825 or 021 107 5298

Wellington Football Club: Hataitai Park

Registrations Thursday 4 March 5.30 – 7

☎ Jonathon Bacon 388 4487

School Dental Service

Emergency care ☎570 9292 or 570 9246.