

Issue 173, 1 April 2010

# From the Principal...

Dear All

Whoosh, the term has gone!

The hugely successful fair was a superb way to end a very full on nine weeks. What a great day and what a huge effort from so many people. Many thanks everyone, and special thanks to Miriam and Caroline for doing such an awesome job and overseeing the whole caboodle.

This week we welcome William Parsons to Seatoun School. His big buddy is Mira Karunanidhi.

## Congratulations:

### 1. Principal Awards

The following children were awarded Principal Certificates at our last hui.

Rm	Yr	Student	Rm	Yr	Student
1	7 & 8	Scott Dench: contribution to class discussions and focussed effort	10	3 & 4	Yusei Tada: Huge effort and progress in writing
2	7 & 8	Ben Rowan: Consistent application to all areas of school life	11	3 & 4	Ryan Connell: making mature, responsible decisions
3	7 & 8	Isaac Coupe: being a organised and motivated learner	12	3 & 4	Gwendolyn Megow: living all the Seatoun School values
4	2	William Lambie: Great effort in reading	13	3 & 4	Alex Gregan: being a positive, cheerful learner
5	2	Tom King: Courage and perseverance to overcome challenge	14	5 & 6	Al Barratt-Boyes: Sensible decision making and hard work in writing
6	1	Athea Reynolds: Being kind and helpful	15	5 & 6	Giorgios Katsanos: making a big effort in integrated studies and following instructions
7	0	No class yet.	16	5 & 6	Carter Lemmon: taking responsibility for his own learning and asking good clarification questions
8	1	Josh McRae: Fantastic work in maths	17	5 & 6	Abigail Eiloart: great answers to questions
9	1	No class yet.			

**2. Water polo:** The competition is now over until Term 4. Sue Luxford did a grand job in organising things and our children played their hearts out with some super results. The B Team came third in their competition and the A Team second in their grade. I was fortunate to attend the A grade final on Monday evening. The atmosphere and game was highly charged. The Holy Cross team deserved their win, but gosh our children played with courage and determination. Well done everyone.

**3. Anna Roche achieves 800 metre qualifying time for World Championships:** How wonderful it is to see recent past students achieving to such high levels. Here's hoping Anna remains injury free and Athletics NZ decide to give her the chance to compete.

**Flus and Bugs:**

This is a good time to reinforce all the basic personal hygiene needed to minimise infection and sickness. Hand washing, covering up when sneezing/coughing and general food hygiene practices are the key ways to prevent the spread of infection. Please talk to your children about these matters, model them at home and expect the same of the children. It is also important not to send children to school if they are sick and to ensure they are getting adequate sleep.

**TRUMP Challenge:** Our home learning programme appears to be a real winner. This week a student showed me their record book which authenticated that all of the challenges for the year will be complete by the end of this term. This student is planning on doing additional challenges over the remainder of the year because it was so much fun. It is fantastic to see children so motivated and enjoying self-directed learning. Hopefully it isn't putting too much pressure on at home? We will be doing a mid-year evaluation; parent feedback will be most welcome.

**Traffic:** Over the last nine years I have received a fairly constant stream of complaints from parents concerned about the behaviour of some drivers when they pick up/ drop off children to school and the very real possibility of a serious accident or fatality. Next term I will be working with a small group of senior students to collect some data on this. We will be randomly observing and recording traffic behaviour, illegal parking, drivers using cell phones, pedestrians crossing the road without looking, children riding their bikes in walk zones etc. This may include taking photographs to support our presentations. Surveys will be taken at both before school drop-off and after school pick-up.

Please be warned that this survey will be happening and do not take offence if you are 'caught.' There is a simple solution.

**Relocatable Buildings:** Due to very stringent and strictly enforced city council consent issues there has been a hold-up in getting these buildings on site. At the time of writing one classroom and the toilet block are sitting on blocks waiting final positioning, and the remaining two rooms are yet to arrive. Obviously we will not be able to move in for the start of T2 as originally planned. I guess many of you have been involved in major building work and understand the trials and tribulations of such projects!

**Looking Forward:**

Being eleven weeks, the second term is longer than usual and makes up for this shortened first term. Teachers have completed all initial assessments, and classroom routines and expectations are firmly in place. The fair is out of the way and the emphasis will focus firmly on class programmes.

We expect much from our children and in most cases they rise to the occasion and relish the challenge. One area we will be really pushing is that of basic spelling and punctuation; with the expectation that in their writing children will consistently use what they have been taught.

Mid-year conferences are scheduled for the last week of the term. Once again school will be closed to allow the bulk of conferences to be held over a day. Please diary that **Conference Day is TUESDAY 29 June**. We plan to have everything set up so that conference appointments can be made on line from Wednesday 09 June.

As is the norm, teams will publish their T2 teaching overviews in their start of term newsletters.

**RE: NZEI - PAID UNION MEETING FOR TEACHERS**

The school has been advised by the NZEI Te Riu Roa that the postponed Paid Union Meeting has been rescheduled for 2.30-4.00pm on **Wednesday 28 April**. It is pleasing to see that the NZEI has heeded feedback about the 1.30pm timing of the initial meeting and pushed this meeting out an hour to lessen the inconvenience to parents. The majority of the school's teaching staff will be unavailable after 2.10pm on this date. This allows them 20 minutes to pack up and drive to the meeting venue in Miramar.

It is probable that on this day we will take a shortened lunch break from 12.30-1.10pm, allowing one hour's instruction in the afternoon. Parents will be requested, where possible, to collect or make some alternative care arrangements for their children at the earlier time of 2.10pm. If your child will be remaining at school an alternative programme will be provided for him or her. Please note, there is a strong probability your child will not be with their regular teacher or be in their regular classroom.



# From the Board...

Hello Everyone

At the Board meeting held on 18 March, the Board received presentations from teachers covering several different areas of the curriculum.

Ansa Kennedy presented the Green Footprint Report. The goals for 2010 include maintaining the school garden, reducing waste and recycling, building a garden shed, planting fruit trees and building a worm farm or compost bin. Ansa was ably assisted by two senior students Kelly Humphries and Lily Dalton who reported back to the Board on what the Enviro Group had achieved last year and the plans for this year. It seems clear that students, staff and our community are positive about our school being an Enviro School and that much has been achieved in the last year.

Susan Kliffen presented a paper on Support Programmes within the school. These are extensive and include reading recovery, use of external agencies and expertise and the allocation of our own teacher aides, where the main focus is on literacy and mathematics support and extension.

The Board received the Analysis of Variance Report which reported on outcomes against the 2009 achievement targets. Ann Vandendungen presented an analysis of the English results. Anna Martin and Meg Broadhurst mathematics, and Marion Hair a report on students' growing understanding around the school value of "Responsibility". Jason Cowan reported on the effectiveness of a school wide professional learning goal whereby teachers used the progress and achievement of some identified children as one measure of their own teaching effectiveness.

The Board are pleased to report that overall student achievement remains high. Our children met the targets set last year in most areas. These are 'stretch targets' with high expectations. Those students identified as achieving below the expected level received additional assistance which helped them to make significant personal progress. Equally, further extension and challenge was provided to those children achieving at higher levels. Whilst sometimes evident in some cohorts, overall there is no difference in terms of gender achievement in our school. Schools are required to collect separate data for Maori and Pacific Island students. At our school these students are also doing well.

Student achievement targets were set for the 2010 year. As required by the Ministry we are collecting baseline data against the National Standards in order to set more specific and realistic targets in 2011. We will also be evaluating the new Y3-8 TRUMP Home Learning Programme.

The 2010 Charter was presented by Pete and confirmed by the Board. It is available for viewing at the school office.

The Board also received a report from Pete regarding National Standards. As stated above, our teachers are concentrating on collecting baseline data, as required by the Ministry, against the National Standards. The Board shares teacher concerns around the speed of the introduction of the standards and the readiness of the Ministry and other agencies to support this policy; but our approach is one of being proactive. We have an excellent new National Curriculum and this is what our teachers are implementing. The standards sit below this, as just one tool to measure our effectiveness and to

help sharpen our focus. The standards have been somewhat of a catalyst for teachers to re-examine assessment practices across the school and to help ensure teacher clarity, understanding and consistency.

At the end of last year the Board supported Pete in his application to the Ministry for a one term sabbatical. His application was successful and at this meeting he provided us with a detailed update of the professional development he hopes to achieve when he takes his sabbatical in the third term of this year. This is a great opportunity for Pete to extend his professional knowledge in an area in which he has expertise and interest. He will be attending some seminars and conferences and visiting a number of schools in New Zealand and England, looking at how schools are developing their leadership capacity and capability. This is an issue for most countries as there is an aging workforce and fewer people wish to step up into increasingly demanding and complex leadership positions.

The Board acknowledge there is a limited amount of these applications approved by the Ministry each year and this is a significant opportunity for Pete. The Ministry, of course, funds Peter's absence so it is at no cost to the school. At the end of the process he is required to provide the Ministry with a written report which is published on their website, plus consider any improvements that could be implemented at Seatoun as a result of this work.

The Board wishes to say a huge thank you to the PTA for the school fair, particularly Miriam Heycoop and Caroline Sarfati and the PTA, parents, kids, teachers and all other members of the community that made this a very successful day for the school. It was an outstanding effort and great day and the Board is appreciative of all the work that went into this event and acknowledges the amount of money raised. This will be a welcome boost to the school finances.

Finally, Board elections are just around the corner. Nominations are now open. If you wish to consider standing for the Board and have any questions please do not hesitate to contact any one of us. Individual Board members names, numbers and email addresses are on the rear of the newsletter and we are available any time.

We remind you the school's Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 13 May 2010 and everyone is invited to attend on that date.

Letizea, Sandy, Simon, Suzie, Catherine, Helen, Pete and Jason

## **From the PTA...**

### **2010 Fair a huge success...**

*Thanks to the efforts of the entire school community we raised just under \$70K at the Fair. This is a record figure and represents a huge amount of work - thank you.*

*The Fair is our major fundraiser and only happens every second year. The money will be well spent. As well as the annual PTA contribution to operational expenses, some of the money will go towards continuation of the grounds development. In particular we are looking at some much needed netball hoops and a sandpit cover. We are also investigating options to replace the beloved 'Ollie' pirate ship in the junior area with a similar imaginary structure. We will also keep some in reserve and will keep you all posted as school-wide requirements arise.*

*Wishing you all a happy, relaxing and safe Easter and holiday break.*

**The PTA**

## Library News

Each year the library benefits from the support of senior students who spend their free time making it a wonderful place to be. This year we have a capable and enthusiastic team of students. The term has been devoted to general library practice - issues, returns, accurate shelving, computer use and some students have begun writing book reviews. The library is utterly ship-shape, and in wonderful hands with this group!

<p><b>Kellie Humphries (Yr 8):</b> My name is Kellie. This is my first year being a librarian. I really enjoy helping out and working together to put books away.</p>	<p><b>Shenna Dunn (Yr 8):</b> Hi, I'm Shenna. I have loved books for as long as I can remember, but this is my first year being a librarian. My favourite book is 'The Secret of Plat-form 13' by Eva Ibbotson.</p>
<p><b>Sabrina Kao (Yr 8):</b> This is my first year as a librarian. The reasons why I wanted to be a librarian are because I enjoy reading, and issuing/returning books with the bar-code scanner.</p>	<p><b>Lily Dalton (Yr 8):</b> My name is Lily Dalton. I have been a librarian for two years. I really enjoy it because I love books! I also enjoy all the shared lunches. My favourite book is 'Follow the Blue' by Brigid Lowry.</p>
<p><b>Marran Young (Yr 8):</b> I love to read and my favourite books are the 'Cherub' series, 'The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants' and 'The Mediator'. I like being a librarian because it gives me time to be in the library with my friends.</p>	<p><b>Carrick Nisbet (Yr 8):</b> In 2009 I tried out to be a librarian because I wanted to see what it was like. I enjoyed all of the things that went on (especially the shared morning-teas). That is why I signed up to be one again, and surprisingly, I got in a second time. It looks like being just as good, if not better, this year.</p>
<p><b>Holly Blakely (Yr 7):</b> My name is Holly. This is my first time being a librarian and so far I've really enjoyed it. The thing I like about being a librarian is having the chance to spend a lunch time each week around the books. So far being a librarian has been something to look forward to on a Tuesday.</p>	<p><b>Georgia Linney (Yr 7):</b> My name is Georgia Linney. My favourite book is 'My Sister Jodie' by Jacqueline Wilson. I want to be a librarian because it is a responsible job. I like to help others. I enjoy reading and I like to read to the little kids.</p>
<p><b>Georgia Cutfield (Yr 7):</b> Hi, my name is Georgia Cutfield. I am 11 years old and in Room 3. I just love to read! I wanted to be a librarian because I want to take on more responsibility and challenges.</p>	

Here are our fabulous librarians for terms 1 and 2, 2010.



## EnviroKids Notice

We are still looking for parents who are willing to help with supporting students to plant seedlings and to support students to water the garden in the mornings.  
Email [ansa.kennedy@seatoun.school](mailto:ansa.kennedy@seatoun.school) if you are interested.

*Seatoun School values co-operation and teamwork*

Term 1, 03 Feb - 01 April			
9	Apr 01	Thu	Last day of Term 1 Steeple Rock
Term 2, 19 April - 02 July			
1	Apr 19	Mon	Welcome Back Hui Y7/8 Swimming commences
	22	Thu	Steeple Rock
2	26	Mon	Gardasil Immunisation Y8 girls
	28	Wed	NZEI Paid Union Meeting
	30	Fri	Kids Literacy Quiz
3	May 5	Wed	Eastern Zone Netball
	06	Thu	Steeple Rock
	07	Fri	Hui Y3/4
4	11	Tues	School Cross Country
	12	Wed	Eastern Zone Netball pp
	13	Thu	Board of Trustees Annual General Meeting School Cross Country pp
5	20	Thu	Steeple Rock
	21	Fri	Hui
6	25	Tue	Australasian Computer Test
	26	Wed	Eastern Zone Cross Country
7	Jun 02	Wed	Eastern Zone Cross Country pp
	03	Thu	Steeple Rock
	04	Fri	Hui
8	07	Mon	Queen's Birthday Holiday
9	15	Tue	Wellington Cross Country
	17	Thu	Wellington Cross Country pp Steeple Rock
	18	Fri	Hui
10	22	Tue	Australian Science and Writing Tests
11	29	Tue	Progress Conferences. School closed for instruction.
	July 1	Thu	Regional Cross Country Steeple Rock
	02	Fri	Last day of Term 2

#### **SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Apologies to all for the unfortunate taste of the biscuit in the last school lunch order. Our caterer was most apologetic. Due to faulty self raising flour sent with Soda Bicarb instead of Baking Powder which caused the biscuit to be rather bitter to taste. She is in the process of trying to get reimbursed for this and will pass on to us in the next order. Apologies no school lunch for March. School lunches will resume on April 30th. Isobel Findlay.

Term 3, 19 July - 24 September			
1	July 22	Thu	Steeple Rock
2	26	Mon	Gardasil Immunisation Y8 Girls
3	Aug 03	Tue	Australasian English Test
4	22	Wed	Eastern Zone Swimming
5	17	Tue	Australasian Maths Test
6	25	Wed	Eastern Zone Soccer
7	Sept 01	Wed	Eastern Zone Soccer pp
8	8	Wed	Wellington Swimming
10	23	Thu	Wellington Cross Country
	24	Fri	Last day of Term 3

Term 4, 11 October - 17 December			
1	Oct 11	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	14	Thu	Steeple Rock
2	20	Wed	Eastern Zone Hockey
	23	Sat	Planning Day (Staff)
3	25	Mon	Labour Day Holiday
10	Dec 16	Thu	Prizegiving
	17	Fri	Farewell Hui Last Day of School Year, 1pm finish

#### **How to contact us**

##### **Answerphone**

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##### **Principal**

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#### **Newsletter**

**Newsletter contributions and feedback** to Anne McLellan at admin@seatoun.school.nz. **Contributions for next issue by Tuesday 20th April by 2pm.** (Following issues contributions due by the Monday). Thank you.

#### **NETBALL UPDATE**

We are seeking a coach for the Year 7B team. If you would like to coach, or know of someone who might like to take up this opportunity, please can you contact me as soon as possible. Thank you!

Teresa Keeley

[teresa.keeley@seatoun.school.nz](mailto:teresa.keeley@seatoun.school.nz)

