



From the Principal...

Dear All

We are enjoying a super start to the year. This is well illustrated by the response to the **TRUMP Challenge**: This new programme has kicked off with a real hiss and roar! Almost all Y3-8 children have opted in, and a number have already completed some challenges. I have seen an amazing model boat and heard about some delicious three course meals that have been prepared and served. The children are enthusiastic and proud of their efforts. We are hoping the initial momentum will be sustained and are looking forward to hearing about all the wonderful things the children are doing. Many thanks to all the parents that have discussed the TRUMP option with their children and encouraged them to have a go, your support is much appreciated. Having weather that resembles summer also makes a huge difference, lifting spirits and allowing the children to get outside to run around and play.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to new entrant Grace Hurdell. Grace's big buddy is Fiona Roper-Caldbeck.

Congratulations:

Service to the community: Sabrina Kao (Y8) recently shared with me some wonderful work she was involved in over the Christmas holidays. A grand piano was donated to *The Wellington Hospital and Health Foundation* and installed in the hospital's hall. Musicians and students were asked and selected to play for the visiting public, patients and the hospital staff. Sabrina was chosen, and played on two separate occasions for two hours each time. The Foundation is currently trying to raise over \$1 million to assist in the redevelopment of the children's hospital. Sabrina believes this is a great cause and has accepted an invitation to play again in the April school holidays. She really enjoyed the experience and is very much looking forward to her next performance.

Water polo: At the end of last year Tom Oolders (Y8) competed in the 'Olympic Hopefuls' National Water Polo Tournament, Under 12 Category. Based on his performance he was one of 14 boys and girls selected to attend a special training camp held at the Millennium Institute in Auckland. We will be calling on all of Tom's skill and experience as the anchor man in our school team this year!

Surf Life Saving: Jessica Moore (Y7) and Kate Nota (Y8) both competed in the Wellington Surf Life Saving Championships held on February 7. Both girls achieved very well. Jessica came 2nd in both the Board and Diamond races, 5th in Beach Sprint, and 1st in both the Beach Relay and Cameron Relay. She was placed third overall in her age group. Kate came 5th in Board, Diamond and Run/Swim/Run; and 1st in Beach Sprint, Beach Relay and Cameron Relay.

General:

After School Pick-Up: Often at the start of a new year there can be some confusion as to who is picking children up or where they are meant to go. This can cause a great deal of distress for children, parents and staff; especially when a child 'goes missing' and it's half an hour after the end of the school day! Please ensure that all after school arrangements are clearly understood both by the child and any other adults concerned.

Sharing Concerns or Complaints: Whilst we try to provide the best service we can it is pretty much inevitable that we won't please all the people all of the time. If you have a concern then we would much prefer to hear about it directly. We want to work with parents and if there are ways that we can do something better then we will aim to do so. Even if the

outcome isn't always what a parent wants; the process needs to be open, fair and respectful. Being listened to and consideration being given to issues is at least as important as the outcome.

Please follow this process:

- Contact the person closest to the issue, make a meeting time and give a brief outline of what you want discussed so that the person can be prepared i.e. the classroom teacher, office manager etc. This should happen in about 95% of cases.
- At the meeting clearly state your concern/issue, listen to the response and try to work towards a satisfactory outcome.
- If you are unhappy with the process or outcome you can take the matter to the next level i.e. Team Leader or one of the Associate Principals.
- If you are still not satisfied make an appointment to see me. In particularly serious cases you may wish to come directly to me.

Student Information Update Forms: On Tuesday every child was given a form to bring home so that you can update all of their information. We urgently require you to check the information that we currently hold about your child, update if required, the individual child's form (if you have more than 1 child at Seatoun School, you need to complete **each child's** form separately) and then **return it to school by tomorrow, Friday 19 February**. Please return forms to the classroom teacher **NOT the office** - it is much easier for us to collect class sets. It takes about 3 full days to update the data and we are employing staff specifically to do this task. Once we get all the information back and inputted into our system we will be able to print off the 2010 class contact lists.

Reta Rivlin

Listening to Your Child Read Parent Information Workshop

Sandra Petrove (Seatoun School's Reading Recovery Teacher) and Susan Kliffen (Team Leader in the Junior School) will be running a workshop about how to listen to your child read at home.

For: Any parents of children from Year 1 to 8 who would like to know more about how to listen to children read at home.

From this workshop you will develop:

- An understanding of what to expect at different stages as children learn to read.
- Strategies for how to best support children when they come to a word they don't know.
- An opportunity to ask questions about how children learn to read.
- An awareness of the importance of parents supporting their children in their reading.

When: Friday 12 March 2010
9am - 10.20pm

Where: Seatoun School Library



From the Board...

Hello Everyone

It 's hard to believe that it's already week 3. The school is a buzz with lots of hard work, not only from the teachers and students, but from all the parents working putting hours, talent and skills into the school fair. A HUGE THANK YOU for all your efforts. The strength and enthusiasm of the Seatoun School community is key to the positive culture that makes our school such a special place. For parents new to our school, this was strongly endorsed not only in our parent survey 18 months ago, but also by the ERO report.

Two weeks ago we had our first board meeting of the year. With no curriculum reports scheduled this is one of the shortest meetings of the year, where we largely focussed on numbers and general direction for the year ahead, with reference to the Annual Plan and Budget.

As many of you are aware, this is also an important year as the triennial Board Elections are due to take place on 7 May. Being involved in the governance of the school is a fantastic way to make a contribution, and provides a real insight into the important role that schools play in educating our children, not only in an academic way, but in fostering positive life skills. It does not matter whether your oldest child has just started in year 1, or your youngest child is in year 8, or you are just an interested member of the Seatoun School community, you are welcome to stand for the Board of Trustees. Indeed, it is important to have a good mix of backgrounds, skills and experiences to make up a Board. Further details will be coming out in due course, but if you would like to have a chat with any of the existing members of the school board, please do not hesitate to contact them. Another good source of information is the School Trustees Association website www.nzsta.org.nz. Here it also talks about the training that is available for Boards, both as groups and individuals. No previous experience is required.

We look forward to seeing the excitement of the children as the plans for the fair unfold.

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

From the PTA...

Welcome back and a special welcome to new families to the school. The PTA will be hosting a new parents morning tea on Tuesday 23 February in the school hall at 10.20am. This is a great way of meeting teachers and other parents.

The PTA will be continuing with our very popular school lunches this year. The first one for the year is on Friday 26 February. Look out for the order form which will come home with your child.

Our big fundraiser for this year is the Fair on Sunday 21 March, 11am to 3pm. The Fair is a fun day for all the family and an important fundraiser for the school. If you're interested in helping out, please email Miriam Heycoop, heycoop@extra.co.nz, or Caroline Sarfarti, caroline.sarfarti@gmail.com. You will find a Fair update enclosed with this issue of Steeple Rock.

School Banking

ASB Banking is a supporter of Seatoun School. If you would like your child to be involved in School Banking, please ask at the office for further information.



Community Notices

Printed as space permits

After school childcare wanted for Term 1

We are looking for someone who can provide after school care for our daughter (Year 1). Monday 3 - 5pm; Tuesday 3 - 5pm; Wednesday 3 - 4pm; Thursday 3 - 4pm; Friday 3 - 4pm

For more information and to discuss rates please contact Michelle or Matt.

9771290 (after 5:30)
0212130417

Term 1, 03 Feb - 01 April			
	19	Fri	Hui
4	23	Tue	New Parents Morning Tea
	24	Wed	Eastern Zone Cricket
	26	Fri	PTA Lunch
5	Mar 01	Mon	Gardasil Immunisation Y8 Girls
	03	Wed	Eastern Zone Cricket pp
	04	Thu	Steeple Rock
	05	Fri	Hui
6	12	Fri	Listening to Your Child Read, 9am, in the Library
7	15	Mon	Dylan Elise Drummer 1.15pm
	18	Thu	BOT Meeting Steeple Rock
	21	Sun	Fair
8	22	Mon	Cross Country Training Begins
	24	Wed	Eastern Zone Miniball
9	Apr 01	Thu	Last Day Steeple Rock
Term 2, 19 April - 02 July			
1	Apr 19	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	22	Thu	Steeple Rock
2	26	Mon	Gardasil Immunisation Y8 girls
3	May 5	Wed	Eastern Zone Netball
	06	Thu	Steeple Rock
	07	Fri	Hui
4	11	Tues	School Cross Country
	12	Wed	Eastern Zone Netball pp
	13	Thu	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	June 02	Wed	Eastern Zone Cross Country
	04	Thu	Steeple Rock
	05	Fri	Hui
8	07	Mon	Queen's Birthday
9	15	Tue	Wellington Cross Country
	17	Thu	Wellington Cross Country pp Steeple Rock

9	18	Fri	Hui
10	22	Tue	Australian Science and Writing Tests
11	29	Tue	Progress Conferences
	July 1	Thu	Regional Cross Country
Term 3, 19 July - 24 September			
2	Jul. 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	Sep. 01	Wed	Eastern Zone Soccer pp
8	8	Wed	Wellington Swimming
10	23	Thu	Wellington Cross Country

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
	16	Thu	Prizegiving
10	17	Fri	Farewell Hui Last Day of Term, 1pm finish

How to contact us			
Answerphone			
School Absences 388 7600 extn 1			
Bulletin Board 388 7600 extn 2			
Principal			
Pete Pointon	388 7600	peterp@seatoun.school.nz	
P.T.A.			
Miriam Heycoop	380 8005	heycoop@extra.co.nz	
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Newsletter	
Newsletter contributions and feedback to Anne McLellan at admin@seatoun.school.nz.	
Contributions for next issue by Monday 1st March 2010.	