



From the Principal...

Dear All

Our year has started on a very positive note and having the children back last Friday worked really well. 2011 holds much promise, especially the whole school major production to be performed in Term 3. The remedial building programme obviously poses a few challenges, but nothing that we can't manage. Having the hall out for the first term means that school hui's will be held outdoors, weather permitting, and they will be a little more low key than usual. The contractors are working closely with me to ensure minimal interruption and the highest levels of safety and security. The lengths of the school terms have been adjusted to accommodate the World Cup and this will impact on teacher workload due to the very short fourth term when so much has to be done.

A special welcome to the 26 new students that have started with us this year. Our new entrants and their big buddies are: Jackson Hope (Nova Hammett), Emma Groombridge (Jemma Heneveld), Archie Hepworth (Sam Bacon), Mia Moon (Daisy Roche), Louis Appleby (George Sladden), Nicole Gregan (Emma Green), Max Cran (Bella Foster-Lowe), Minmini Karunanidhi (Lucy Sladden), Sylvie A'Court (Ella Berkahn) and Amelia Newman (Frankie Kraayvanger). Our other new children are: Abigail and Katelin Alcock, Luc Campbell, Edmund Chrisp, Astrid Holster, Lily Moates, Lucas O'Connell, Benjamin Ostler, Nathan Pearce, Madeleine Piesocki, Hannah Sandhu, Julia and Paul Sasse, Anastasia and Michael Theodorou and Aja Topps-Harjo. In addition, it is great to have Bryanna and Jakob Bhula and Izzy and Zoe Peet back at Seatoun School.

Punctuality & Reducing the 3.00pm 'Meltdown':

Many thanks for your co-operation. We have already noticed a huge difference. The trick will be to sustain things long enough to be habit forming. I realise that for the few children that catch the bus to school, that it is beyond your control if the bus arrives late - just do the very best you can. The 8.45am bell is to signal children to start making their way to class; 8.50am is the actual start time.

Traffic, Parking & Road Safety:

Thanks to everyone for not parking in the school grounds. All of the children in the prefabs use this driveway as their means of entering and leaving the school and they need to be able to walk freely without worrying about motor vehicles. Compared to most schools we have a generous amount of parking. Please be conscious of other users and try to vacate parks as quickly as possible at peak times. Also, please no parking in the designated disabled and 'drop-off' parks immediately outside the school office.

Please exercise caution when driving within the vicinity of the school, especially during the peak times. This is especially important at the beginning of the school year when children may have forgotten basic road safety and also have lots on their mind with all the excitement of the new school year.

A good safety rule is not to sit in your car waiting for your children at the end of the day. Sometimes in the excitement to see you they run across the road without stopping to look.

Sun Hats: Another thank you, it's great to see almost all children with a sunhat.

Physical Education & Sport: The Year 1&2 swimming programme has commenced, and Y3&4 starts on February 11. Our swimming programme costs around approx \$60 per child. We are reliant on the activity fee to cover the majority of the cost. We receive about \$12.30 per child via a 'Kiwi Sport' funding from the government and all of this is allocated to swimming.

The school Sport Booklet will be distributed to each family by the end of next week. This will provide you with detailed sport information for the year.

Home Learning: The **TRUMP Challenge** booklets will be distributed next week to all children from Y3. Students need to talk with their parents about the programme and make a decision about whether or not they will participate. We have changed some of the challenges from 2010. Each class will have a designated display space and a school display space will be set in the library corridor so that we can share some of the learning with everyone. This year teachers will not accept a challenge if they believe that the child's effort has been minimal and of 'no real value.' We want parents to 'sign off' on challenges before they come to

the child's effort has been minimal and well below what they are capable of. Parents are required to 'sign off' on challenges before they come to school making you the first filter in regards to 'quality control'.

An exciting

new challenge option for Y5-8 children is participation in 'Mathletics,' a web-based maths programme. This programme comes highly recommended. It is appropriate for remedial, consolidation or extension maths. Schools can offer the programme at the greatly reduced price of \$30 per student. We will be offering a 50% subsidy for children that wish to take up this option, meaning parents will only be required to pay \$15.00. This offer is only available to children who opt into the TRUMP programme. We strongly recommend that everyone to take advantage of this opportunity. No child will be excluded for reasons of financial hardship, as with all school fees just contact me in confidence and arrangements will be made. Details of the Mathletics programme will come home next week with the other TRUMP information.

Please note that all children will also be required to do some core home learning tasks – spelling, reading and basic facts maths.

Cell Phones & MP3 Players: A reminder that Mp3 players & iPods are not permitted at school. We also actively discourage children from bringing cell phones to school. If they do need to bring their phone then a note is required from the parent. Phones must be handed to the class teacher on arrival at school and collected at the end of the day. Phones will be confiscated if these guidelines are not followed. In this instance a parent must collect the phone or MP3 player.

Family Information Update & Generic Permission Slip:

Rather than sending a form for all parents to complete if they have changed contact details, emergency contacts etc, we are placing the onus on parents to provide us with this information. This can be done in letter form or email.

Next Thursday (17 February) **every** child will bring home a 2011 generic permission. This gives permission to:

- go on school trips
- have their photo in Steeple Rock posted on the website
- put family contact details in the Family Contact List which is provided to all contributing families.

Please complete this form and return it **immediately** to the **CLASS TEACHER**.

Family Contact List (previously PTA Families List). Updated information gathered from the update forms (above) is required before the booklet can be published. Parents have the option of having their contact details included. We aim to give a copy of the booklet to all participating families by the end of February.

Newsletters to Every Family:

Last year we introduced the option of families receiving Steeple Rock in hard copy or on-line. Most of the families that chose on-line have reverted back to wanting a hard copy. It is easier for us to provide every family with one hard copy. Steeple Rock will also be posted on the school website.

Team Newsletters:

As in the past, in addition to this newsletter, syndicates have also sent out their newsletter today. I suggest they are kept for future reference.

Staff:

We welcome Penny Joblin to our staff. Penny was appointed from nearly 100 applicants to fill the vacancy created when Jason left. Penny is teaching in the Y5&6 team. She comes to us from Island Bay School. Penny is particularly interested in the outdoors and physical education. For this year she and Michelle Pontifex are sharing the leadership responsibility of school-wide physical education, sport and health.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Chloe Marshall on her recent engagement.

Student Responsibilities:

Over the year we will be introducing some of the many children that undertake special responsibilities or tasks. To kick things off, it is my pleasure to introduce our 2011 House captains:

Crawford	Tim Hewson: I have been at Seatoun School since Year 1 and I think my last year, as a House Captain, will be really enjoyable. Some of my hobbies are running, tennis, guitar and fishing.	Lily Tew: I like playing soccer and netball, being outside, and hanging out with my friends. I have really enjoyed being at Seatoun School and being a House Captain is a great way to finish off.
Dorset	Holly Blakely: I enjoy sports, English, Maths and Science. This year I am looking forward to being a House Captain, and making the most of my last year at Seatoun School.	Barnaby Roche: I have been at Seatoun School since Year 1. I am proud to be a House Captain. I'm crazy about sports, especially rugby and cricket.
Falkirk	Laura Heycoop: I have been at Seatoun School for eight years and I love it! After school I dance for most of the week. I enjoy sports as well, especially netball and athletics.	Crosby Millar: I like playing sports like rugby for Poneke and touch rugby for school. My hobbies out of school are fishing and wharf jumping.
Kupe	Jessie Moore: I started at Seatoun School in Year One, so this is a great way to finish off my years here. I really love sport, especially surf life saving, swimming and netball.	Marcus Jackson: I love soccer and tennis. I have been at Seatoun School since I was a Year 0 and have had some really awesome times here.



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From the Board...

2011 is going to be a an exciting year at Seatoun School.

There is a great deal to look forward to including the School production and a host of sporting events and fixtures.

We will be conducting a parent survey this year which will allow us to gauge the school's performance from a parent's perspective. We will also be visited by ERO which will allow us to gauge the school's performance from the Ministry's perspective. Input from both groups is very valuable.

Property update

As most people will be aware by now, the remedial cladding and roofing work to the school is well underway. Initial work is focusing on the recladding and reroofing of the school hall, and on the remedial work required to rooms 10-13. Mainzeal are keeping to a tight schedule, and have been working well with the school in order that the works are undertaken in a safe manner with as little intrusion on school activities as possible. It is hoped that the hall can be finished ahead of schedule, so that weather dependant courtyard hui's can be kept to a minimum!

Work to the garages is almost complete. The crumbling concrete door heads have been replaced with new blockwork, concrete nibs provided to all of the doors and the roof replaced. Having a dry, secure storage facility for emergency supplies and civil defence equipment is important, and the school and Board are grateful for the work that Chris Oolders and Clyde Brown have undertaken. The garages still need a good lick of paint, so don't hesitate to let the office know if you are keen to help out in a painting bee!

Donations

The school receives \$411,000 from the MOE to pay all operational costs apart from teacher salaries. As a decile 10 school we receive the lowest level of state funding, with an implicit expectation that the school community will be able to make up any shortfall.

Each year the school is required to raise approximately 35% of the total operational budget. The PTA does a brilliant job in contributing around \$20,000 per year. The remainder of the money has to come from the voluntary donation and activity fees.

The donations fund a very wide range of activities within the School, most importantly our full time librarian and almost all of the teacher-aide support. Many of the programmes, activities and initiatives that make this School unique, and a place where our children want to learn, are funded by the parents of the School through donations. The activity fee and the enrichment fee covers the actual cost your child incurs in taking part the activities arranged by the school.

We ask that every family contribute as much as they are able towards the donation; and pay the activity, and if appropriate, Y7&8 enrichment fee. The earlier in the school year that payment is received the better. There are a range of payment options that are set out on the letter which will be in the post shortly.

Last year the vast majority of you gave the donation and paid the relevant fees. We are so very grateful. Your support is absolutely vital for our school to work the way it does. We would be thrilled if you would show the same support in 2011.

Information

The school website (www.seatoun.school.nz) is a very valuable resource. It is updated daily and should tell you everything you need to know about the School. A particularly useful link is the "school information" which can be accessed under the "school" tab.

Richard, Sarah, Mark, Suzie, Justine, Susan and Pete.

From the PTA...



Welcome to the 2011 school year from the PTA and a special welcome to new families to the school. We hope you all had a happy and relaxing holiday.

This term we are starting our sushi lunches every Friday. By now your child/ren will have received a flyer with details, or, if not, check out the school website for details. We will also be continuing with a sausage sizzle or pizza lunch once a term. They are very popular with the children and a good fundraiser for the school.

Our first meeting will be held on Monday 14February at 7.30pm in the staffroom. Everybody is welcome and we particularly extend a special invitation to new parents to the school. The PTA is a fun group and a good way of meeting people and becoming involved in the school community. Members put as little or as much time into helping out as they have available

Term 1 2011 : Friday 4 Feb - Friday 15 April			
2	10	Thur	Y1/2 Swimming commences Steeple Rock
	11	Fri	Y3/4 Swimming commences Y5/8 Enrichment commences
3	14	Mon	PTA Meeting
	16	Wed	Eastern Zone Cricket
	17	Thur	Steeple Rock Y3&4 Swimming commences
	18	Fri	Sushi Lunches commence Y1/2 Capital E Trip
4	22	Tue	Eastern Zone Miniball
	23	Wed	Eastern Zone Cricket pp E.Zone Miniball commences
	24	Thur	Steeple Rock
6	Mar 10	Thur	Steeple Rock
8	24	Thur	Steeple Rock Lit. Quiz
11	Apr 15	Fri	Last day of Term 1

Community Notices (printed as space permits)

SEATOUN FOOTBALL CLUB, Winter Season REGISTRATION

Junior registration, held at Seatoun clubrooms, Seatoun Park, Sunday 13 February, 1 - 2.30pm, Wednesday 16 February, 6 - 7 pm. New players welcome.

JUNIOR RUGBY - Marist St Pats, Junior Club.

We welcome all new and existing players Under 6-13 to come to our Junior registration days: Thursday 24 Feb 5.30-7.30pm, Sat 26 Feb 12-2pm, Sat 5 March 12-2pm. Sat 19 March Club Open day 12pm start for U6-U8, 1pm start for U9-U13 all to be held at MSP Gym, Evans Bay. For further info please contact Andrew 976 0433 or Martin 027 321 1581 or go to our web site www.msprugby.co.nz

LEARN TO PLAY HOCKEY

Every Tuesday after school 3:30 - 4:30pm, starts 15th February until end of term 1. Year 5 & 6 boys and girls welcome. Email hockeypractice@gmail.com for more details.

Newsletter

Newsletter contributions and feedback to Anne McLellan at admin@seatoun.school.nz.

Contributions for next issue by **Monday 21 February 2011, 2pm.**

Term 2, 2011 Monday 2 May - Friday 15 July			
1	May 2	Mon	Term 2 starts
	4	Wed	Y7 Boostrix Immunisation Y8 Girls Gardasil
3	18	Wed	Eastern Zone Netball
4	May 24	Tue	ICAS Computer Skills
	25	Wed	Eastern Zone Netball pp
6	June 6	Mon	Queen's Birthday
	8	Wed	ICAS Science Eastern Zone Cross Country
	10	Fri	Eastern Zone Cross Country pp
8	21	Tue	ICAS Spelling and Writing
11	July 13	Wed	Y3-8 Swimming
	14	Thur	Y8 Girl's Gardasil
	15	Fri	Last day of term 2
Term 3 2011 : Monday 1 August - Friday 7 October			
Term 4 2011 : Tuesday 25 October - Tuesday 20 December			

How to Contact Us

Answerphone

School Absences	388 7600	Extn 1
Bulletin board	388 7600	Extn 2

Principal

Peter Pointon	388 7600	admin@seatoun.school.nz
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P.T.A.

Miriam Heycoop	H. 380 8005	heycoop@xtra.co.nz
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Board of Trustees

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Seatoun School values open, effective and regular communication

