



Issue 159, 23 July 2009

## From the Principal...

Dear All

It was a real bonus to start the new term with a couple of cracker days after what seemed a constant diet of grey and wet. Staff-wise everyone is refreshed and keen to go; the children also appear happy to be back and ready to carry on with what has so far been an excellent school year.

On the learning front this should be another very full and productive term. We will be expecting all children to take some responsibility and action towards achieving the goals they set at the mid-term conferences.

All children will be involved in a 'Healthy Gardens, Healthy People' unit and the traditional Term Three Arts Celebration. In the senior school there is a strong focus on oral language with the annual Y5&6 Poetry Recital Competition and Y7&8 Speech Competition scheduled for Week 4. I cannot recommend this event highly enough; the standard of delivery and composure of speakers is outstanding. The construction and content of the speeches always amazes me. The final is a great night out for everyone. Senior students will also be involved in swimming this term.

The Y1&2 Developmental Programme kicks off this term. This provides many fantastic opportunities for creativity and learning in a variety of contexts. Thanks in advance to the many parent helpers that volunteer to take activities, without your support this programme would not be nearly as effective.

There continues to be considerable debate around the proposed National Standards. The chief concern is about the negative impact of possible league tables that would rank schools on the basis of results achieved against the standards. Determining the quality of schools and teachers on this basis is simplistic and naïve. It is an approach proven to be detrimental to effective schooling and learning in countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States where a 'testing culture' pervades. This over emphasis on testing the skills of reading, writing and mathematics is compromising students' natural curiosity, imagination and love of learning. What is being emphasised in the Revised National Curriculum, and what we are aiming to do at Seaton School is to ensure we provide a balanced, well rounded education for our children that equips them to live, and confidently participate, in an increasingly diverse and complex world.

The issue isn't about standards or expectations, or about the importance of the core literacy and numeracy curriculum. Standards and expectations are already clear, but I don't have any problem with making them even more explicit and nationally consistent. Equally at Seaton School we have always placed a strong emphasis on the three R's, without taking away from other curriculum and extra curricula activities. The issue is about how the media, in particular, may manipulate and present data in a manner that does not accurately reflect the huge effort and positive work a school is doing, or the very real progress students might be making, in sometimes very difficult and challenging home and community circumstances. Over the coming months expect to see more on this important issue.

Another topic that is very current at present is that of parenting. The July 18-24 'Listener's' cover story "Why I'm a Bad Parent (and proud of it)" is well worth a read, and the follow-up "The Politically Incorrect Parenting Show" on Wednesday makes for interesting viewing. There was also an excellent piece on National Radio "Sunday" at about 9.00am on Sunday 19 July. This can be downloaded from the Radio NZ website. On the same theme, we are really fortunate to have Roz Broadmore speaking about parenting teenagers on Tuesday 4th August. Roz is very good (Sam says really, really, good - even if she is my mum!). I recommend this session for all parents.

**Welcome:** It gives me great pleasure to welcome the following students new to our school: New Entrants with Big Buddies in brackets; Harry Kidd (Oliver Novak), Andreas Georgiakakis (Charlie Robinson), Leilani Teague (Maia Whitaker), Maxence Pinol (Mercedes Barnard) Harry Lancaster (Al Barratt-Boyes) and Ella Court (Lauren Taylor). Back from Japan, a warm welcome to the Lokatui family - Paris(Y3) and Cody (Y1).

**Congratulations:** Recently some students have made some fantastic achievements in the arts and on the sports field. Congratulations to:

Eva Malthus (Y7) - Winner Primary/Intermediate School Section ASB NZ Affordable Art Competition. Eva's prize included a \$200 ASB Headstart a/c, an 'arts package' from the NZ Affordable Arts Trust and tickets to the Affordable Arts Show in August. Eva's art will be on display at the show and eligible for the 'Peoples Choice Award.'

Tom Kimber (Y8) - starring in the NZ short film 'The Six and a Half Dollar Man' which has been played at this Year's International Film Festival.

Y4s Kate Oolders (3<sup>rd</sup>), Ella Berkahn (4<sup>th</sup>) Tessa Hunt (9<sup>th</sup>); Y6s Laura Heycoop (6<sup>th</sup>) and Tara Young (24<sup>th</sup>); Y7s Bridgette Midgley (4<sup>th</sup>) and Kate Nota (11<sup>th</sup>) in the Regional Cross Country championships. Bridgette and Laura have been selected to go through to the National event to be held in Nelson in September.

**School Times:** Just as it is important that children arrive at school in the morning with enough time to get themselves organised before the commencement of class at 8.50; it is equally important that they do not arrive very early where they will be left to their own devices and be unsupervised for a long period of time. At the end of last term teachers reported an increasing number of children, often quite young, arriving at school well before 8.00am. Teachers are expected to be in their rooms at least 15 minutes before class starts. Prior to this they may be involved in meetings or preparing for their day, they are not available for supervising children. The ideal time for children to arrive at school is no earlier than 8.15 and before 8.40 am.

**New Classroom and Breakout Rooms:** We are thrilled with how Room 17 has turned out and the difference that has been made by dividing the upstairs Falkirk room into three smaller teaching spaces. These changes should really make a difference for teachers and children. Thanks to everyone involved.

**Teacher Only Day:** Finally, another reminder that the school will be closed on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August for staff professional learning and development.

Take care



## From the Board...

Hello All

The last BOT meeting covered the curriculum areas of Mathematics. Anna Martin and Meg Broadhurst have taken over responsibility in the school for this curriculum area.

First term testing has been carefully analysed and shows that over 95% of students in year 8 are working at or above the expected level. 100 % of our Maori students are achieving at or above expected levels. The PAT tests results now give information back that shows how well a student is doing in each strand of mathematics. From this teachers have put in place strategies to meet the needs of students.

Professional development of staff is ongoing with staff looking at new online programmes and refining the school wide long term plan in line with the new curriculum.

New resources to support number knowledge in the senior school and mathematics books to provide extension in the junior school have been purchased.

The extension to the Navigator room is complete and the space is looking fabulous. Thank you to Hunt, Davies and Tenent Architects, especially Mark Bates, who designed and managed the project for the school. They did a fantastic job in a tight time frame and with a limited budget. Thank you to Fletcher construction for getting the project completed on time even with some of the coldest weather Seatoun has experienced in years.

Our next BOT meeting is on Thursday 30 July at 7.30 in the Orca room.

Cheers

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

## From the PTA...

Welcome back. We hope everyone has had a relaxing break. Our major PTA fundraiser for the year is the 'Beat the Recession Bash' on Saturday 1st August. This is going to be a fun night and a great opportunity to catch up with everyone and show off your creativity by dressing for under \$10! Tickets are \$35 each which includes bubbles and nibbles on arrival, live music by Nudge of Toast Martinborough fame, and supper. You can buy your tickets next Wednesday 29 July and Friday 31 July outside school between 2.45 and 3.15pm, or email Judy Bragan at [mjmiddle@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mjmiddle@xtra.co.nz) or Miriam Heycoop at [Heycoop@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Heycoop@xtra.co.nz).

Our next end of the month lunch will be on Friday 31st July. Look out for the order form which will come home with your child/children.

Our next PTA meeting is on Monday 27 July at 7.30pm in the staffroom.

All welcome.

## SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to all of the Year 7/8 students for such a fine effort with their Science Fair displays in Term 2. The following students were awarded placings by the judges:

**Finalists:** Tom Coupe, Charlotte Hewson, Meghan Evans, Alice Linton, Annabelle Hammond, George McDougall, Marran Young, Bailee White, Eugie Boyd, River Rakena, Maddie Tew

**Highly Commended:** Millicent Newton-Rencen, Jack Wynne, Kellie Humphries, Scott Dench

**3rd Place:** Eva Malthus

**2nd Place:** Zachary Blakely

**1st Place:** (equal) Lily Dalton, Ruben O'Hara

## Love, Limits and Laughter

Strategies for enjoyable and effective parenting of teen-ages

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 7:00pm - 9:00pm

School hall

Entry is free

Ros Broadmore is a Clinical Psychologist with a long practice of working with parents and families.

The talk will go from 7:00 - 8:30. This will include time for questions and discussion. There will also be a time afterwards from 8:30 - 9:00 for some more informal discussions over tea, coffee and cake.

All are welcome.

## \* BEAT THE RECESSION BASH RAFFLE \*

We have a wonderful gift basket to raffle at our upcoming Beat the Recession Bash! The basket includes these fantastic prizes:

- a ten trip ticket to the Penthouse Cinema & a \$100 voucher for the Cinema Cafe
- a \$100 voucher for the Icebreaker store at the airport
- Emporio Coffee and other goodies
- a family lift pass (2 adults & 2 youth) for Mt Ruapehu Ski Areas - Whakapapa & Turoa
- gourmet treats, and a hand-made wooden chopping board
- a trial flight with Wellington Aero Club

Tickets will be on sale before the Bash, on Wednesday and Friday afternoons outside school. PLEASE consider buying some tickets if you are unable to attend the evening - tickets are \$5 each.

Remember this is our major fundraiser for the year. ALL PROCEEDS TO SEATOUN SCHOOL!!! A HUGE thanks to everyone who made donations.



Term 3: 20 July — 25 September			
2	27	Mon	PTA Meeting 7.30pm
	28	Tue	Y7/8 Netball
	29	Wed	Tickets on sale after school for 'Beat the Recession Bash' and the Raffle.
	30	Thu	BOT Meeting Y7/8 Netball pp
	31	Fri	PTA Bought Lunch Tickets on sale after school for 'Beat the Recession Bash' and the Raffle.
	Aug 1	Sat	'Beat the Recession Bash'
3	3	Mon	9.30 Y1-4 String Performance Gardasil for Y8 girls
	4	Tue	ICAS English Love, Limits & Laughter 7pm—9pm
	5	Wed	EZ Soccer
	6	Thu	ICAS Maths (Additional Test) Steeple Rock
	7	Fri	Hui
4	10	Mon	School Closed - Teacher Only Day
	12	Wed	EZ Soccer pp date Y5-8 Speech Finals 7.00pm
5	19	Wed	ICAS Math
	20	Thu	Steeple Rock
	21	Fri	Hui
6	26	Wed	EZ Hockey
7	Sep 2	Wed	EZ Hockey pp
	Sep 3	Thu	Steeple Rock
	4	Fri	Hui
8	10	Thu	NZIS Fitness Testing Y5-8
9	14	Mon	School Arts Exhibition 5.30-8.00pm
	17	Thu	Steeple Rock
10	24	Thu	Talent Quest
	25	Fri	Last Day of Term

Term 4: 12 October - 18 December			
1	Oct 12	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	17	Sat	Planning Day
2	20	Tue	School Photos
3	26	Mon	Labour Day
	27-30	Tue-Fri	EZ Athletics Trials
	28	Wed	EZ Miniball
5	Nov 11	Wed	EZ Athletics
6	17	Tue	School Athletics Y3-8
	19	Thu	School Athletics pp date
7	23	Mon	Gardasil for Y8 girls
	25	Wed	Wgtn Zone Athletics
9	Dec 9	Wed	Junior Athletics Y1-2
	11	Fri	Junior Athletics pp
10	14	Mon	Reports Home
	16	Wed	Y8 Formal
	17	Thu	Prizegiving 4.30pm.
10	18	Fri	Last Day of Term

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

#### Learn the Flute or Recorder

Saturday morning lessons at the Hataitai Bowling Club starting in Term 3. Focus will be on motivating and inspiring students! Contact Ana on ph. 385 4242

#### House Sitting

I am currently living at home with my mum for my first year of University and would be happy to house sit for anyone, short or long term, at no cost to the home owner. I can also dog/cat/animal feed, bring in mail, put out rubbish and make sure house is secure and safe while away! I have worked for a few Seatoun families before and can supply references if required. My contact number is 0210544741.

Julia Bryant.

### 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@xtra.co.nz

#### Board of Trustees

Helen Taylor 970 0000 helen.taylor@paradise.net.nz  
Letizea Ord 388 1531 Letizea@ordlillico.co.nz  
Sandy Baigent 973 7234 sandy@capitalchambers.co.nz  
Simon Novak 976 8648 simon@novakmiddleton.co.nz  
Suzie Bognar 388 5953 bognargreen@xtra.co.nz  
Catherine Tate 938 6320 the.tates@paradise.net.nz  
Jason Cowan 388 7600 jasonc@seatoun.school.nz

### Newsletter

Newsletter contributions and feedback to Joanna Simpson at josim@xtra.co.nz.

Contributions for next issue by 2pm Tuesday, 4th August 2009.

*Seatoun School values open, effective and regular communication*