



From the Principal...

Dear All

Welcome: We have had a number of children join us over the last few weeks. A huge welcome to: Sebastien Carroll, Madeline Barnes, Thom Young-Holdsworth, Saskia Dyne, Josephine Florentine. A big welcome also to Soul Kropelnicki who has started with us at Y3.

CONGRATULATIONS:

1. University of NSW International Competitions: Each year students from 13 countries are given the opportunity to participate in these tests. I am unsure about the other countries, but NZ schools tend to use these tests as an extension activity for students showing more ability in the specific test areas. At our school we encourage students who show ability to take part, but we also make participation an option for all.

We have received results for 4 of the competitions. Congratulations to everyone who took part. In total Seatoun students achieved 30 High Distinction or Distinction Awards.

- **Computer Skills:** 5 Distinctions, 9 Credits and 15 Participations. Distinctions to: Baxter Robb (Y4), Anton Jenkins (Y5), Sabrina Kao (Y7), Zach Blakely and Jack Wynne (Y8).
- **Spelling:** 4 Distinctions, 11 Credits and 27 Participations. Distinctions to: Hannah Gadsby (Y4), Jakob Bhula and Helena Georgiakakis (Y6), Sabrina Kao (Y7).
- **Writing:** 9 Distinctions, 14 Credits and 16 Participations. Distinctions to: Hannah Gadsby and Baxter Robb (Y4), Anton Jenkins (Y5), Helena Georgiakakis (Y6), Annabelle Hammond and Risa Takahashi (Y7), Tom Coupe, Ella Jansen and Ruben O'Hara (Y8).
- **Science:** 3 High Distinctions, 9 Distinctions, 15 Credits and 18 participations. High Distinctions to: Sabrina Kao, Ben Rowan and Risa Takahashi (Y7). Distinctions to: Louis Davis, Owen MacKenzie and Fiona Roper-Caldbeck (Y4), Anton Jenkins (Y5), Shenna Dunn and Marran Young (Y7), Zach Blakely and Alec Sacheun (Y8).

2. Principal Awards:

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

R1	Alec Sachuen - big effort on his picture book and keeping focused	10	Savannah Watson - fabulous effort in all work and always being kind to others
R2	Vaughan Faletolu - making good choices and taking responsibility for his own learning	R11	Joshua Haddon - taking responsibility for his own learning and making positive choices
R3	Shannon Raizis - enthusiastic attitude and being well organised	R12	Danielle Farrell - being kind, encouraging, creative and courageous!
R4	Niall McClure - displaying kindness to others and being a fantastic friend	R13	Nia Emrys- excellent effort in reading and writing
R5	Marco Davis - exercising self control and asking for help when it's needed	R14	Isaac Coupe - being more prepared to contribute ideas in class
R6	Eliza Cartmell - being more prepared to share ideas in discussion	R15	Janna Saouda - being a positive class member and big effort in writing
R7	Jacob Hodson - great writing and careful editing	R16	Derry McClure - focused and "onto it"
R8	Ezra Zabawny-Gilman - working hard on his reading and spelling rockets	R17	Thom Young-Holdsworth - trying his best and persevering when things are difficult
R9	James Hay - working hard on his personal goal of seeking help when needed		

3. Netball: Last Saturday the Seatoun Startroopers played St Marks in the final of the grade. Our team lost by 22 to 16. From all accounts it was a great game, with a large contingent of Seatoun School supporters adding to the atmosphere. Well done everyone and a huge thanks to coach Tania Kahui for her incredible dedication and work with the team.

ARTS CELEBRATION: I am writing this after two days of print making with a super group of children. I have to admit to being a bit nervous, as it's been over 20 years since I have done any lino cutting and printing, but everything turned out just fine. It certainly made a huge difference being able to borrow two presses from Rongotai College.

What a fantastic couple of days it has been- so much talent, so much creativity, so much effort, so much learning and so much fun. Rebecca Power and Ansa Kennedy did a great job pulling everything together. As per usual we were so fortunate to have so many talented parents willing to help out; without your support events such as these would be almost impossible. I urge everyone to come along to the exhibition next Monday evening.

SCHOOL ACTIVITY FEES: Most parents now pay their children's activity fee in either one hit, in a lump sum each term or by regular direct debits. However there are still some families that have not paid for any school activities. Swimming is the biggest drain - it costs \$60 per child for the swimming/aquatics programme. Parents are asked to pay \$40 and the school pays the remaining \$20. Approximately \$5 per child is allocated to civil defence emergency food and water supplies. At the end of each year we donate these goods to the Food Bank and replenish the stock with new stock. Class trips, visits by performers, shows and cooking use up the remainder of the money. If you are yet to pay your child/ren's activity fee it would be appreciated if you would do so. An itemised breakdown can be obtained from the school office if necessary, but please realise this is not revenue gathering by stealth - all the money goes to activities the children have participated in. In fact, in the case of at least two syndicates, budgets are a couple of dollars per child overspent!

SCHOOL HUI:

This Friday it is the turn of the Y1&2 team to lead our hui. In addition the school band will be performing- well worth a look!

LOOKING FORWARD:

Week 10	21 September	Art Exhibition - 5.30-8.00pm
	24 September	House Captain's annual talent quest
	25 September	Last day of term

This is the last newsletter of the term. Thanks everyone, it's been a cracker.

Take care



TALENT QUEST

Dear Parents

As you know the talent quest is near and we have lots of contestants! If you would like to watch your child perform or see all the amazing performances, come down to Seatoun School on Thursday 24 September. Below is the program of approximate times for the Talent Quest 2009.

- 8.50 Normal start. Y1-4 participants report to music room immediately after roll call i.e. before 9.00
- 9.15 Audience seated in hall
- 9.20 Y1-4 section
- 10.40 End of this section. Morning tea; judges decide on prize winners
- 10.50 Y5-8 Participants report to music room
- 11.05 End of morning tea, children go directly to hall
- 11.10 Everyone seated
- 11.15 Y5-8 Section
- 12.40 End of section. Children back to class for lunch. Judges decide on prize winners.
- 1.55 All seated in the hall- Judges announce winners

ARTS CELEBRATION EXHIBITION

Our school has been humming with creativity over the last two days. 26 groups have worked on various visual art projects, including printmaking, felt-making, clay modelling, mosaics, textile-work, papier-mâché, painting, weaving, and collage...to name but a few. We hope that you will come and see the results of our projects in our upcoming exhibition.

When: Monday 21st September

Time: 5:30pm - 8pm

Entry: Gold coin donation

From the Seatoun School Arts Team

Seatoun School values a positive partnership with the community

From the Board...

In July, I (Cath Tate) became a student again, attending the NZ School Trustees Association annual conference in Auckland. This was a 2½ day programme with 700 plus other Board members from across the country. It was great to meet people from such a broad spectrum of backgrounds and schools. Comedian, and BOT member, Pio Terei ably facilitated the conference in a humorous and energetic way.

The theme of the conference was *Effective Governance - No Excuses, No Exceptions and High Expectations*. The key note speaker, Mary Delagardelle, is part of an American team who have been researching Boards' influence on student learning (from pre-school to Year 13) for over 10 years, summarised their findings. The key difference between high achieving and low achieving is not, as many might expect, class size or socio-economic backgrounds of the pupils but:

1. Beliefs - belief in the potential of students
2. Conditions that enabled staff to work together and improve achievement. The quality of instruction is the single most important factor for improving student learning.

This creates important linkages:

1. Knowledge, skills, beliefs of Board members, leads to
2. Governance policies, priorities, decisions and actions, leads to
3. School culture i.e. conditions of practice that enable continuous improvement and organisational success, leads to
4. Classroom instruction and student engagement in the learning process, leads to
5. Student learning outcomes

I also attended Mary's 2 workshops where she went into more depth about what she considered as the most important way in which the Board can contribute to student learning. This was to provide the conditions to support relevant and ongoing quality professional development that is based on student achievement data, initially literacy (the key to all learning). Mary then described the characteristics of the most effective professional development and teaching approach.

I then sat proudly as I heard a description of what could have been Seatoun School. A school where staff regularly meet to gather and review student data, plan in detail the next teaching steps and share ideas for improved student learning, not only at syndicate and curriculum level, but for individual students. A school where teachers receive training both collectively and individually and it is shared with others. Schools where the staff operate as a team and are happy for their colleagues to observe, learn and give constructive feedback.

There is no room for complacency for any school, but as someone who is not from an education background, it was great to hear that we appear to be a long way down the right track to being "a dynamic, quality school that empowers learners to fulfil their potential". It is important that the continuing hard work of our staff, and particularly the management team, is recognised.

My learning from this workshop and the others I attended (*Courageous Conversations, Educating Boys and You are the One We Want*) has been shared with the Board and will contribute as to our thinking as we consider 2010 and beyond.

The Board would also like to thank all those members of the Seatoun School community who have been so generous with their time and skills this week in running an amazing variety of art workshops. I can't wait for next week's exhibition. We are very lucky to live in such a creative community.

Our next Board meeting is tonight at 7.30pm in the Orca Room.

From the PTA...

Many thanks to Sarah Megow and her team for another successful pizza lunch on 28 August. The children really look forward to the last Friday of each month (as do parents!). Please note there will be **no** lunches on the last day of term—25 September

The PTA is about to fund the completion of the confidence course around the perimeter of the field. The plan is to build a climbing wall (suitable for all ages) which will get the children to the slide. The confidence course has been a wonderful addition to the school and community and we would like to thank everybody for their support of our fundraising efforts to allow this to happen. The remainder of our current funds will go towards the PTA contribution to the school's operating budget for this year and next, which means that we are relying on the 2010 Fair to replenish the coffers!

2010 School Fair

Planning is now underway for the 2010 Fair which is scheduled for Sunday 21 March. Miriam Heycoop and Caroline Sarfati have kindly come on board as convenors. The Fair will work in the same way as previous years with people taking responsibility for specific areas and coordinating their own teams. No matter whether you have a small amount of time to spare, or lots, please email Miriam heycoop@xtra.co.nz or Caroline caroline.sarfati@xtra.co to offer your services. There are many jobs, some of which can be done at home before or after the day if that suits.

As with previous Fairs we will be sending out regular updates, but right now please put aside any clothing, equipment, furniture, toys, books etc. that would otherwise be destined for the dump! Families who have children playing soccer may be wondering what to do with this season's boots - we'd love to have them as they are popular sellers. We are planning to have the garages up the hill at the back of the school open on a Monday and Friday, from 2.30-2.50pm from the second week of Term 4 on Monday 19 October, for people to drop off any items great or small (cars can be driven up the hill).

Next PTA meeting is on Monday 19 October. All welcome.

Seatoun School values co-operation and teamwork

Term 3: 20 July – 25 September			
9	17	Thu	BOT meeting 7.30pm
10	21	Mon	School Arts Exhibition 5.30-8.00pm
10	24	Thu	Talent Quest
	25	Fri	Last Day of Term
Term 4: 12 October - 18 December			
1	Oct 12	Mon	Welcome Back Hui
	15	Thu	Steeple Rock
	17	Sat	Planning Day
2	20	Tue	School Photos
	22	Thu	Staring School @ 5
3	26	Mon	Labour Day
	27-30	Tue-Fri	EZ Athletics Trials
	28	Wed	EZ Miniball
	29	Thu	Steeple Rock
	30	Fri	Hui
5	Nov 11	Wed	EZ Athletics
	12	Thu	Steeple Rock
	13	Fri	Hui
6	17	Tue	School Athletics Y3-8
	18	Wed	School Athletics pp date
	19	Thu	BOT
7	23	Mon	Gardasil for Y8 girls
	25	Wed	Wgtn Athletics
	26	Thu	Steeple Rock
	27	Fri	Hui
8	30	Mon	Y5/6 EOTC Week
	Dec 2	Wed	Wn Athletics PP
9	7	Mon	Yr 7/8 EOTC Week
	9	Wed	Junior Athletics Y1-2
	10	Thu	Junior Athletics pp Steeple Rock
10	14	Mon	Reports Home
		Tue	Lost Property Display
	16	Wed	Y8 Formal
	17	Thu	Prizegiving 4.30pm.
10	18	Fri	Last Day of Term

2010 Term Dates

Term 1 03 February - Thursday 1 April

March 21 School Fair

Term 2 19 April–02 July

Term 3 19 July–24 September

Term 4 11 October–17 December

Kids Art Calendars and Cards

Thank you to the children and teachers for their work in once again producing amazing artwork for this annual PTA fundraiser.

You can view samples of the calendars and cards on the notice boards at school. The cards, which we first ordered last year, have proved very popular - a wonderful way to share your children's art.

Calendars and Card packs are \$12.00. Order forms have recently been sent home with your children. Please ensure you return them to school by the 25th September, last day of term, to enable early ordering and delivery. There are spare forms at the school office if yours went astray!

Community Notices

Rongotai College Adult and Community Education

Enrolments for Term 4 classes are now open. This will be the last opportunity for eastern suburbs' residents to take part in our low cost/high value courses as government funding will be withdrawn at the end of 2009. Make sure you don't miss out - pick up a programme booklet at your local library or community centre, email comed@rongotai.school.nz or phone 9393056 for further information.

Surfing Competition

Seatoun School was well represented at the inaugural Wellington Boardriders Club surfing competition at Lyall Bay on Saturday 5 September. The under 18 women's division was won by current year 5 (Room 15) student Maia Whitaker and former pupil Ethan Burge won the under 18 men's division. Families can find out more info about the competition and the club by visiting wellington-boardriders.com.

Miramar Playcentre Welcomes New Families

Come and join a group of likeminded parents and whanau who want to have the fun of learning with their children. Playcentre offers a fantastic environment for children to learn through play in a mixed age environment with great adult to child ratios that enrich children's learning.

Contact Miramar Playcentre to organise your first three FREE visits today!

23 Crawford Green, 04 388 1498

www.wellingtonplaycentre.org.nz

Lost - 2 Scooters. A silver zoom scooter & a blue UFO scooter Both were named with phone no - Ben and Tim Hewson. If found anywhere please ring Caroline on 9388637 or return to 52 Ira St Miramar.

How to contact us

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Newsletter

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

Contributions for next issue by 2pm Tuesday, 13 Oct 09.

Seatoun School values open, effective and regular communication