

November 22, 2007

Tena koutou katoa,

A hot, fine, sunny week has been great for our bodies and souls! Definitely hats and sunnies weather.

### **Governance**

**Board of Trustees:** Minutes have been distributed from the last meeting.

**Board Strategic Planning Meeting:** The Board will meet from 4 pm to 8 pm on Tuesday 4 December to begin this process.

### **Operations and Administration:**

No newsletter next week as I'll be away.

**End of Year Christmas Party and Working Bee!:** On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December, the last day of term, we will hold some games in the morning, weather permitting, and prepare for lunch at the Hall. Parents will be invited for a shared lunch between 12.00 and 1.00pm. Santa will arrive sometime around 1.00 to distribute presents. Short speeches and merit certificates will be presented and lunch things cleared away. At 2.00 pm, a school working bee will commence, moving all the aspects of the classroom that need to be cleared away into regions of the classroom that will be untouched by the building project. Hopefully this won't take more than a couple of hours then we can finally relax with some bubbles!

### **Events and Visitors:**

**Governor's Bush Walk:** Last Friday's Bush walk went well by all accounts and thanks to the parents for helping out. It was lovely to have Clodagh and Rhianna visit and join the walk.

**Extra Curricular Sports:** The school was accompanied on the Bush Walk by David Castaño, who's currently working on reception at the hotel. David, who recently arrived from Spain, has been involved in children's sport for a number of years and is keen to continue here. School families, please find attached a letter he has written regarding this. I have indicated I'm happy for the school sports facilities and equipment to be used for this but other than that, this would be an extra curricular activity organized between David and the parents.

**Enviro-Schools:** Hillary Illes, from the Enviro-Schools project met with Katrina and I last week and we are in the process of applying to become an Enviro School. This umbrella will encourage and support environmental projects that the school will undertake such as our proposed 'Bowen Bush' project. As discussed at our Board Retreat held earlier this year, we as a school are aiming towards stronger ties with our community. We experienced this earlier this year when we worked with the Hotel Kitchen to produce a range of bacon products. We want to extend these relationships to other departments within the village such as DOC. Working collaboratively with DOC and an enviro-schools co-ordinator will help achieve some of our goals for Place-Based Learning.

**Sushi:** In the interests of keeping my sushi lunches safe from the prowling scavengers that seem to find me more interesting around lunchtime on sushi days, we will all learn to make it next week so certain children can make their own!!



Maki is going to come along on Tuesday morning to help out and between us, we have sufficient raw materials. However, if anyone has a suhi rolling mat, or a rice cooker they could lend us for the morning, that would be great. You just might end up with some sushi as thanks! If anyone else would like to know how to make sushi and has the time, we will commence around 9.00 on Tuesday morning. Come along and join in!

**Garston School** year 5-8 students and staff visited on Tuesday and we made use of this opportunity for some of the children to present their latest 'arguments' Well done Tessa, Dominic and Aidan. You were all very convincing!

### **At The Chalkface:**

**Topic work** on Earth at Risk is of great interest to us all as we find out more and more alarming statistics! Cameron is working out his carbon footprint from a recent trip to Brisbane, Gemma, Shannon, Christie, Ella and Rachael have all produced posters describing how our comfortable consumer lifestyles are affecting the planet and the idea of methane emissions from cows has instantly attracted the interest of several of the boys!

We have three experimental terrariums in progress, a control group and then one with rubbish in the soil, low light levels, 'acid' rain and the occasional burst of car exhaust, compared with a 'healthy' planet with fertilised soil, fresh water, air and correct light levels. We are also expecting to add some worms but despite our most earnest worm dances on Tuesday, no worms rose to the occasion!

Language work has moved into the realm of research and reporting on endangered species. This emotive topic provides many rich language experiences.

For Sports tomorrow, Katrina is offering tennis as an option, again weather permitting. If there are any parents with some spare time and a tennis racquet your help would be appreciated. If children have their own racquet at home that they would prefer to use, send them along also.

Great to see the basketball hoops being used and children's skill level zooming up.

End of year assessments are coming along nicely. The children are enjoying comparing

their start of year and end of year results and seeing the progress they have made in so many areas. Great job everyone.

The writing this week comes to you from 3 seven year old boys, who are sharing some of their 'writing for fun' ideas.

Ka kite,  
Bu

### **Monkeys and Bananas**

This is me. I am a monkey! I like swinging on vines and eating bananas. I am a spider monkey. I have a yellow tummy, like bananas.



I've a banana dog. Now his skin is peeled. Now he is yellow!

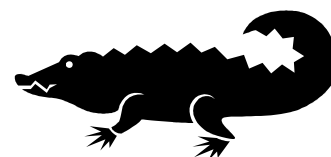
Aidan Shelley

### **Caveman the First**

If I were a caveman  
And could travel back in time,  
I would get a pet mammoth.  
Carve its tusks into a shoe  
Give it to you  
It is a secret with me and you

### **Hunting for Food**

I would get a spear  
Kill a croc  
Get some skin  
And make a sock  
I will give it to DoC!



Dominic Lippmann

### **Vampire**

This is me. I am a vampire. I suck your blood!!!  
If you saw me you would say  
"aaahhhhhh!!!!"  
Wanna meet me?  
I knew it!



William Ellis