



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Meadowbank School  
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*Dear Parents and Caregivers*

*With seven weeks of Term 2 now gone we are very much in the grips of an Auckland winter - wet! We are also into the tail end of the term's activities as teachers continue assessments toward mid-year reporting and at the same time are well into planning for Term 3 matters.*

### QUIZ-A-THON - OVER \$30K RAISED

- There are still a few stragglers getting their money in, so by the next Newsletter we should be able to give you a final tally.
- We received a huge amount of positive feedback from parents about the questions, and the whole family activity that resulted - particularly for new families to New Zealand.
- Many years ago when I was a classroom teacher, I ran a fortnightly 50 Find-outs questionnaire with my classrooms. Basically it was to increase general knowledge and children's capability in using reference sources. Parents joined in as well. If there is an interest I could post a set of questions per fortnight on the school website. Probably more suited to Year 5-6 - email me if you are interested.
- The money raised is to go to Sports Uniforms and Senior Playground Developments. We have already committed \$6,000 to uniforms. The current Year 6's, when in Year 5 did a research project about a possible mini-golf course by the Hall walkway. We are likely to take that a step further so that the children can see that their study was purposeful. However, we will also begin plans towards the replacement/upgrade of the existing playground on the northern side of the Waiaatarua Road field.

### NZEI PAID UNION MEETINGS

- You will have seen in the media that both nurses and teachers are in negotiations for pay increases.
- The teachers have received a response from the government well short (about a 1/3) of expectations.
- The NZEI is about to hold a series of paid union meetings to discuss future action. Approximately 90% of our teachers are members of the union.
- Meetings are planned for the afternoons of Wednesday, 20 and 27 June.
- The school will not be closed. Half our teachers will attend one meeting and the remainder will attend the other. They will cover each other's classes.

### NEW SIGN-IN/OUT PROCESS

We have introduced an electronic sign-in/out register for all students.

If your child is late for school they **must** come to either office and sign in late so we have a central record of their attendance in case of any emergency. If you are taking your child out of school during the day for any reason, you are now required to sign them out at either office and sign them back in on their return.

## KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE

- ♦ You will be aware that over the next fortnight all classes will be covering the Keeping Ourselves Safe Programme. Teachers will be supported by Constable Gordon Campbell.
- ♦ Last week Gordon held a parent evening to outline and to discuss the programme. If you wish to access Gordon's presentation this is available on the homepage of the school website.

## STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ♦ It's time that I updated parents on the professional learning and development of staff since I last did early in March. It really shows the commitment of staff to improve themselves, to become better teachers and to enable better learning by students.
- ♦ **Teacher Only Day** - all staff were involved in visiting one of 3 other schools to examine practices in collaborative / innovative learning environments. The schools visited were Bayfield in Herne Bay, Kohia Terrace in Epsom and Ellerslie School. The second part of the day was working with facilitator Brooke Trenwith on developing learner agency with a particular emphasis on challenging and extending students.
- ♦ Other PLD has included:-

Dyslexia / SPELD	Michele Hucker, Nicky Durkin
Reading Recovery	Mel Douglas
Maori Education	Andrea Gordine
Education Law	Anna Thorburn, Peter Ayson
Oral Language	Lauryn Buchanan, Isabelle Benington, Kim Carson
Teacher Agency	Leigh Duncan, Bronwyn Steptoe
Student Agency	Leigh Duncan, Laura Wheeler
Perceptual Motor	Nicky Durkin, Lauryn Buchanan, Isabelle Benington
Beginning Teacher Development	Sarah van Rossen, Louise Ayling, Jayme McKenzie, Isabelle Benington
ESOL	Carlene White, Kim Baker, Machi Christidou, Anne O'Connor, Sandra McEwen, Jennifer Yong
Mandarin Language	Amy Ko
First Aid	All Staff
School Leadership	Matt Aukett, Jane Butel
- ♦ I also recently attended the International Conference on Thinking. I will report to the Board at their next meeting on Wednesday, 20 June. A copy of my report can be viewed on the school website.
- ♦ All teachers have completed the "Understanding Behaviour, Responding Safely" programme about how to deal with (the increasing number of) violent behaviour of students in classrooms and the playground.

## REPORTS / INTERVIEWS

- ♦ We have continued the reporting schedule initiated by National Standards.

Year 4 to 6	-	June (Term 2) and December (Term 4)
NE to Year 3	-	At 7 timeframes following the 6 and 12 month anniversary of enrolment.
- ♦ We hold formal parent/teacher interviews at the end of Term 1 and early Term 3.
- ♦ However, if you have a pressing matter or question for your child's teacher you can contact them to request an additional / special meeting.

# 2018 YEAR 3-6 STANDARDISED TESTS

- ♦ In Term 1 each year all our Year 3-6 students sit a bank of tests developed by the NZ Council for Educational Research. The tests are standardised for NZ children - they compare children for the whole of NZ.
  - ♦ The tests are:-

Reading Comprehension	Year 4 to 6	Mathematics	Year 3 to 6
Reading Vocabulary	Year 4 to 6	Spelling	Year 4 to 6
Listening Comprehension	Year 3 to 6	STAR Reading	Year 3
Punctuation and Grammar	Year 4 to 6		
  - ♦ The purpose of the tests includes:-
    - Assisting schools to analyse pupil, teacher and programme achievement, and to make the consequent adjustments to programmes and teaching.
    - Identify children who have gaps in their learning, who may be candidates for remedial and/or extension programmes, who have specific problem areas which parents may wish to address when seeking outside tuition.
    - To help teachers to establish reading and maths ability groups, highlight areas needing resource spending, identify professional development needs for teachers.
  - ♦ Most of the tests are marked off-site by the NZCER.
  - ♦ So what did the results show:-
    - Firstly, the data blew many of the perceptions and fake news evident in the recent BOT Survey out of the water.
    - In data held by the school since the 1990s, this year's overall results are the best ever. For the first time in all 21 year level tests the average stanine (out of 9) exceeded 6.0 (compared to a NZ norm of 5.0)
    - The average stanine across all tests was 6.4.
    - Historic norms were bettered in 16 of the 21 tests.
    - Nationally you would expect 23% of students to be at stanines 7-9 (above National Standards), for our school we achieved:-

- Reading Comprehension	50%	- Mathematics	47%
- Reading Vocabulary	44%	- Spelling	51%
- Listening Comprehension	54%		
- Punctuation and Grammar	48%		
    - The strongest areas were Reading Comprehension and Spelling; the lowest were Reading Vocabulary and Punctuation and Grammar.
    - Year 6's were the strongest level (6.65 across all tests). It's very pleasing to note the year by year improvements. Year 3 were the weakest (6.17).
    - Girls achieved significantly better than boys in English based areas - Reading Comprehension, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.
    - Boys achieved marginally better in Maths and Listening.
    - Greatest improvements came in Maths.
- These independent national tests show how strong our teaching programmes are, and that Maths is definitely not weak.
- ♦ Your children's results are not top secret. Many parents received their children's levels at the end of Term 1 interviews. For Punctuation and Grammar and Maths tests, each child has an error analysis paper. If your child receives out of school tuition this may be helpful for their tutor to focus on areas of need.

## PARENT TOURS : COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE/INNOVATIVE LEARNING

- ♦ The learning journey for our teachers in these areas has been slow and deliberate. We wish to make sure that we get the transition right. It is also different in that unlike most schools we do not have the flexible learning spaces that are becoming evident in most schools.
- ♦ We once again are holding tours of classrooms to showcase the changes in the pedagogical practices of teachers. This is an opportunity to gain a better insight into the organisational structure of classrooms, the collaborative groups and year level teams.
- ♦ Spaces are limited. To book please use the following web link - [bit.ly/2MwEar](https://bit.ly/2MwEar)

Junior School	-	Wednesday, 27 June @ 9am
Senior School	-	Thursday, 28 June @ 1.30pm

## SITUATION VACANT - LEARNING ASSISTANT

We are looking for a compassionate and enthusiastic Learning Assistant to support teaching and learning of students. Key aspects of the role will include in-class support, individualised and small group learning support working with the Year 3 team. 17.5 hours per week, Monday-Friday, 9-12.30pm - term time only.

Please email your CV to Michele Hucker, Learning Support Coordinator : [mhucker@meadowbank.school.nz](mailto:mhucker@meadowbank.school.nz)  
Immediate start preferred.

## MUFTI DAY

Next Thursday, 21 June we will be holding a mufti day coordinated by the Student Council with money raised going to Kids Can. If your child wears mufti clothing a gold coin donation is required otherwise school uniform applies.



## What's Happening

### JUNE

- 15 Matariki Day
- 20 BOT Meeting - 7pm - Senior Staffroom
- 21 **MUFTI DAY**
- 22 Room 37 & 38 Assembly presentation - 2.15pm
- 26 NE, Year 1 & 2 Poetry Recital - 9am  
Year 5 & 6 Sports Exchange
- 27 Open Morning - Junior School - 9am
- 28 Open Afternoon - Senior School - 1.30pm
- 29 Auckland Mayor Phil Goff presentation assembly

### JULY

- 3 Year 3 to 6 Sports Assembly - 1.45pm
- 4 FOMS Meeting - 7.30pm - Senior Staffroom
- 5 Mid-Year Reports Issued
- 6 Last day of Term - school closes @ 3pm
- 23 Term 3 commences

## NGAPUHI ROAD WALKWAY

We have been advised by the City Council that they will be resurfacing the walkway between Kelvin Road and Ngapuhi Road next week.

This pathway will be **closed** and there will be no access and may take all week.



**Footpath  
closed**

"I'm proud to roll up my sleeves and serve my community."



**STEVE HOOD**  
m:021 911 606

Barfoot & Thompson