



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2018

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23 August 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we leave winter behind and head into spring we have a flurry of sports events. In this newsletter we focus on these events as well as:-

- Staffing matters.
- Updating you on building plans.
- Talking about behaviour management practices.



Inclement weather impacted on the planned Year 3 to 6 event at College Rifles. Due to the need to select and prepare a school team for the Zone Cross Country, the Year 5 & 6's held their cross country last Friday.

Congratulations to the following:-

Year 5 Girls

1st Eden Murdoch
2nd Emma White
3rd Dulakshi Polpitiya

Year 6 Girls

1st Emma Lawson-Smith
2nd Indigo Riley
3rd Emelia Pulman

Year 5 Boys

1st Reagan Brookes
2nd Nico Stanley
3rd Zak Warfield

Year 6 Boys

1st Callum Nelson
2nd Callum Monk
3rd Luke Fowler

A team of 32 has been selected to represent Meadowbank at the Remuera Zone Championship on Tuesday, 18 September.

Next Tuesday, 28 August we will once again attempt to hold the Year 3 & 4 Cross Country at College Rifles. The first race commences at 9.30am. We look forward to strong parent support. Please note that there will be no rain date.

Our Junior Cross Country (New Entrants to Year 2) is scheduled for Tuesday, 11 September. The first race is scheduled to start at 11.00am with the start and finish on the Senior Field. Again we expect the usual large crowds supporting the runners.



Today has been the last day for Emily Strickett, currently a part-time release teacher and former Year 6 teacher. We wish Emily all the best.

TEACHER UPDATE

Last Wednesday saw schools across the country closed as a result of teachers going on strike. At the fore of the teacher claims are what is perceived as inadequate pay and a need for greater support in the classroom. At the same time schools are experiencing a crisis in being able to find sufficient, capable applicants for vacancies.

In August every year, I survey our teachers about a range of things for the next year. This helps the management team determine placement of teachers in year levels, responsibilities, professional development etc.

The first warning bells have rung. It appears that we will possibly need to find up to 6 new teachers. Contractual service and leave (eg: maternity) accounts for some. The worry comes when we find highly talented teachers moving out of Auckland because of house prices and the cost of rental accommodation, and others looking at opportunities outside of teaching. When the system loses 50% of graduates within 5 years something needs to change drastically.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Currently we have 5 groups with around 180 students who are walking to school each morning. Not only are they helping ease traffic congestion, but the children are experiencing valuable exercise and social interactions.

This week the Meadowbank Millipede Bus celebrated 15 years of operation. It was great to see one of the founding mums, Heather Reid (her daughter, now 21 in her third year at Uni), join the celebration.

The Meadowbank Millipede is also trialling afternoons to walk home.

To join a walking school bus in your area please contact the coordinator.

The Duck Express (from corner Manapau and Tahapa Cres via Bonnie Brae Rd and Waiatarua Rd Footbridge) contact Olivia Horner olivia.horner@gmail.com

The Millipede Express (from 22 Fancourt St via Temple St, Lucia Glade and Corinth St) contact Natalie Stewart marknatalie.stewart@gmail.com

The Pukeko Express (from corner McFarland St and Grand Drive via Meadowbank Rd and Corinth St) contact Anna Jackson zwelgen@hotmail.com

The Walkie Talkies (from Koraha St and Maungarei Rd via Remuera Rd and Kelvin Rd) contact Kath Manning kathpat77@hotmail.com

The Gully Crossers (from Upland Rd via Benson Rd and across the gully at the bottom of Ngapuhi Rd) contact Becky Riley riley.ab@xtra.co.nz

Special mention needs to be made to Natalie Stewart for her overall coordination and drive to make the Walking School Buses happen.

Pictured is the Duck Express Walking School Bus even the rain won't stop them from walking to school!



SPORTS NEWS

WINTER SPORTS FIELD DAY

I was extremely disappointed to find that the Field Day was cancelled by Field Day organisers. The weather was hardly extreme and these are winter sports. Unfortunately school schedules do not allow for catch-up days.

NORTH ISLAND SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

Next week we have 10 Year 5 & 6 students representing Meadowbank at the North Island Schools Ski Championships. In our last newsletter we missed Sienna Cutfield off the listed team. Apologies for this.

AUCKLAND GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following outstanding results in the Eastern Zone Championships, we have a team of students who will be representing Meadowbank at the Champion of Champions Tournament on Thursday, 13 September.

CHESS TEAM

Also following outstanding results we have teams representing Meadowbank in the National and the Champions Trophy tournaments on 27 & 28 October.

We wish all our teams representing Meadowbank School all the best.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

After approximately 5 years of stagnation and procrastination it appears that we are finally achieving progress with Ministry projects. There are two of them now in the pipeline.

1. **Theo Lynds Block (Rooms 17-19)** : The Ministry has allocated \$200,000 to accelerate the modernisation of older classrooms. The Board has decided that the funds will be best spent on the 1979/80 Theo Lynds Blocks. It is likely to involve:-
 - Conversion of toilets / cloakrooms into teaching space.
 - Attending lighting, flooring, wall linings in all rooms.
 - Providing small group/withdrawal spaces.

This project will precede the larger Admin/Classroom block and will include improving links between the two blocks to enhance learning opportunities for your children. This project should be completed by the end of Term 3 next year.

2. **Administration Block** : Also built in 1979/80, this hopelessly inadequate block will be demolished and replaced with a 2 storey building housing Administration, Staffroom, Sickbay, 4 teaching spaces and an Art / Maker Space room. We are in the midst of regular design meetings and have fingers crossed that work on the ground commences in Term 4, 2019.

Tomorrow FOMS welcome you to a free coffee at 8.45am on the Junior Campus (by the admin block). Come along and have a general chat and coffee to find out more of what FOMS have planned for the remainder of the year. Look forward to seeing you tomorrow.



BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT / CHANCES

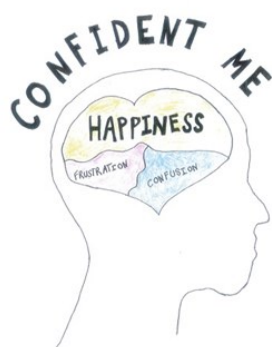
This term the Board and Management Team are reviewing our school Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures as can be seen on the School Docs website. With the review we are taking into account responses in the Board Parent Survey regarding dealing appropriately to inappropriate behaviour in the classroom and in the playground.

The process for each of these is quite different:-

- > **For in-class behaviour** the classroom teacher takes the lead, but are supported by senior management if deemed necessary.
- > **For playground behaviour** we utilise our Chances Programme to ensure consistency for the process. The lead with this is taken by Team Leaders and if necessary supported by Senior Management.

Meadowbank children are largely well behaved, considerate and compliant. The values and dispositions are reflected by our birds on display in the hall and are known by all children. However, sometimes some children do overstep the mark and may be put on the dreaded Chances programme for their lunch time behaviour. For the senior campus we have had just 52 incidents to date this year for over 500 students. Some are very minor such as not wearing hats or being inside unsupervised. For more serious incidents parents are contacted. For Chances it is about learning appropriate ways to behave - it is about coaching in life lessons.

Once the review is complete we will share the changes with you.



The Year 6 2018 Production is titled 'Confident Me'. It tells the story of how we respond to change when embarking on new and challenging journeys. It explores the feelings we experience and the way we sustain our well being by understanding our emotions and those of the people around us. It is a heart warming, coming of age story which is reflective of every child in Year 6 at Meadowbank School 2018.

There will be 2 evening shows - Wednesday, 5 and Thursday, 6 September - 7pm - tickets will be open to Year 6 parents first and then will go on general sale from next Thursday, 30 August.

UPCOMING DATES

August

- 24 Room 12 & 13 Assembly - 2.15pm
- 27 North Island Ski Champs
Y6 Parent Puberty presentation - 3.15pm
- 28 2019 Enrolment Day
Tours 9.30am and 2pm
- 29 BOT Meeting - 7pm
- 30 Year 6 visit Remuera Intermediate
- 31 Year 6 Production Teaser - 2.15pm

September

- 5 Year 6 Production - 7pm
- 6 Year 6 Production - 7pm

Enrolments for 2019

Reminder that next Tuesday, 28 August we will be having tours at 9.30am and 2pm commencing in the Senior Staffroom.

If you haven't received an enrolment pack already please contact the senior school office.