



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Meadowbank School
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28 June 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are just six days from the end of Term 2. Already the days are getting longer. For all Year 4 to 6 students and some New Entrants to Year 3 students Mid-Year Reports will be issued next week. Teachers have also completed the planning of events and learning activities for Term 3 where the school wide study concept is Sustainability. There is some pretty exciting learning on the horizon.

2018 EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

- Earlier this month I included some comments from the draft report following the Review Office's visit to Meadowbank in the final week of Term 1.
- We have now received the final / confirmed report. Please find a link to it on our school's website. ERO will also upload it to their website next week.
- As previously mentioned, we are pretty proud to have received a 4-5 year review which is given to only the top 10% of schools.

SICKNESS

- Last week sickness caused a significant degree of absenteeism - particularly in our Junior School. Overall sickness absences were not as high as was being reported on social media, but 15.8% overall on our worst day. Year 2's climbed to 34% whilst some senior classes had no sicknesses all week.
- We do ask that parents do not send sick or sickening children to school - other parents do not appreciate the sharing of bugs. Inevitably we do end up with sick teachers and that is both a cost in learning and monetary terms.

MONEY MATTERS

An update on some recent fundraising events:-

- The Quiz-a-thon raised **\$32,550**. This is simply an amazing result. Well done Meadowbank!
- The Entertainment Book promotion has raised **\$2,500** to date. We still have a number of outstanding books either to be purchased or returned. If you have received a reminder could we please ask that this is actioned by the end of term. Well done to Carlene in the Senior Office for her drive and hard work with this promotion.
- Last week our Year 6 Student Council organised the Mufti Day with money raised going to Kids Can Charity. We raised **\$1,105** - well done kids!



COMMUNICATION PLAN UPDATE

The recent Board Parent Survey positively recognised the improvements made in this area.

Newsletters

Reminding parents who no longer wish to receive the hard copy, just email Carlene in the senior office and let her know - ccallinan@meadowbank.school.nz. Please advise your eldest child's name and room #. The newsletter is available to read on the School App and website.

Class Coordinators

Comment was made about wishing to have social interaction with other parents in your child(ren's) class. This is still quite possible. If this is a role that you desire to co-ordinate then please contact your child's teacher. Earlier this year they did distribute parent contacts for their classes and they can do it again. The role no longer involves distributing school information - that rests with our office staff who use the School App.

Social Media

In the review conducted at the end of 2017 we committed to examining the good and bad in those schools who are using social media. A working group under the leadership of Matt Aukett presented their findings to the Board of Trustees earlier this month. The recommendation is to initially establish a school Facebook page managed by the office and senior management staff postings at least every couple of days focussed on celebrating / highlighting student learning and events. The aim is for this to be underway by the start of next term.

See Saw

559 families now use; 11,000 + visits, 8,000 pieces of student work, 4,000 comments.

2019 TERM DATES

Term 1	Thursday, 31 January - Friday, 12 April (Waitangi Day, Wednesday, 6 February)
Term 2	Monday, 29 April - Friday, 5 July (T.O.D - Friday, 31 May, Queens Birthday, Monday, 3 June)
Term 3	Monday, 22 July - Friday, 27 September
Term 4	Monday, 14 October - Tuesday, 17 December (Labour Day - Monday, 28 October)

These dates are very similar to those for the past two years and they align us with other local schools.

CHESS TOURNAMENTS

Well done to our Chess team which came 4th out of 22 schools in the regional finals, meaning the team go onto the National Finals!

Also well done to Isaac Phillips, Rowan Phillips, Rex Chu, James Moyes, Oscar Prestidge who go onto the Championship Trophy Tournament.



Thank you to our teacher in charge, Melody Liu (Y3 / Room 37) for her encouragement and leadership and also to Jordan Chu for coaching and managing the teams.



School Holidays are just around the corner and Club Meadowbank have an exciting 2 week programme available. We have gained a licence to accommodate a further 30 students (now up to 120). However, bookings are essential.

Book on-line - clubmeadowbank.aimyplus.com

They are also wanting tin cans for an activity - if you have any spare tins at home can these please be dropped off in the school hall.

TEACHER SHORTAGE CRISIS

- Yesterday was the second Paid Union Meeting attended by our teachers in relation to the now expired Primary Teachers' Collective Agreement.
- I am guessing, but I suspect that the mood of teachers is to reject the offer put to them by the Ministry. For 85% of teachers it would amount to between a 6.1% to 7.8% pay increase spread over three years.
- With the rejection, schools will be moving toward stop work / strike action by teachers.

SO WHAT IS THE CRISIS? Let me paint you the situation which has led to a shortage of teachers and a workforce which is increasingly feeling overloaded and stressed.

- ◆ The country's population is increasing, particularly in Auckland. We need more teachers.
 - There is an aging workforce nearing retirement age. We are losing teachers.
 - Immigration rates are high, meaning greater numbers of ESOL students, particularly in Auckland.
 - The number of students with behaviour and special learning needs are rising significantly.
 - A populist assessment regime was introduced contrary to research evidence resulting in increased workload but minimal improvement.
 - Teachers were marginalised and become the scapegoat for the country's achievement levels.
 - Over 20% of teacher trainees have left the profession within 3 years and it is reported to be up to 50% after 5 years.
 - Due to workload and stress factors teachers are looking to reduce their working week to just 3-4 days.
 - The pool of relievers has just about dried up meaning classes are being split if a teacher is absent.
 - Tertiary institutions cannot fill their teacher trainee positions so that enrolments are significantly down on norms. We read that universities are now laying off teacher training staff.
 - The media tends to highlight negativity so this does not make teaching an attractive career to pursue.
 - Children of teachers and principals frequently followed the parents into teaching. This is falling away as they observe the expectations and workload of their parents and pay rates.
 - Teachers are turning their backs on management units for additional responsibility. The time commitment, workload and stress are not worth it.
 - Senior Managers (AP/DPs) are viewing the expectations on principals through the same lens.
 - Accountability levels have risen without the balancing reward.
 - Threats of legal action related to health and safety and sexual impropriety have increased with the numbers of male teachers a pitfall of years' past.

We all know the saying "If you pay peanuts". At a recent meeting of local principals, all complained about the lack of applicants for vacancies. One, two or if lucky three applicants is a shadow of the 100+ that we used to receive. Just because an applicant breathes, is not a reason to employ them.

Already local schools are amalgamating classes when they lose a teacher meaning changes in class numbers from mid 20's to over 30.

OVERSEAS SCHOOL EXCHANGES

- For some 13 years we have had a teacher exchange with Serpell School in Melbourne. For the last 5 years we also included up to 20 Year 6 students. For a multitude of reasons we have decided not to proceed this year. For us, this included that less than 20% of our students travelled, costs, diminishing gains for teachers returning to the same environment. We are currently exploring possibilities in New Zealand that could involve all students.
- Last year we hosted approximately 30 students and 5 teachers from Jiangbei School in Ningbo, China. Later 3 of our teachers travelled to China to attend the annual Auckland / Ningbo Educators' Conference and to visit Jiangbei. Early next term, we will host another group from Jiangbei and in October the Conference will be held in Auckland.

JUNIOR POETRY RECITAL

On Tuesday we held the Junior School Poetry Recital. The students worked exceptionally hard and were very proud of their presentations. Congratulations to

Year 2

1st Charlotte Bilkey
2nd Giuliana Giancesini
3rd Finley Connor

Year 1

1st Katie Li
2nd Snowey Yeung
3rd Adam Jackson

New Entrants

1st Terence Bai
2nd Gabriella Croskery
3rd Sennen Munford

GARDEN TO TABLE

Great to see the TV News teams filming here the other day in relation to the recent childhood obesity report. Well done to **Kate Slyfield** and **Issy Culpan** for making the regional heats of the **Root to Tip Cooking** contest.

It's wonderful to once again see every Tuesday a group of our Year 5 students going off to experience working in the kitchen at Al Brown's restaurant, The Depot in Federal Street.



Firewood wanted we are low on wood for our pizza oven for our Garden to Table programme. If anyone has some spare firewood at home we would greatly appreciate this being dropped off outside the school office next Tuesday - *thank you*.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YOUR ENTERTAINMENT BOOK BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS

Are you going to Australia or another region in NZ for the holidays? Did you know there are Entertainment Books for these regions? You can simply purchase on line a digital version (or book) www.entbook.co.nz/954w53

Currently they are running a promotion when you purchase a book using the pay link you have the option for free delivery or a bonus \$10 Countdown Gift Card. Enter the promo code "**CDGFI**" at check out and receive your gift card within 7 business days to the address you used to purchase.

There are lots of vouchers to take advantage of during the holidays both offers end at midnight on Saturday, 30 June!

What's Happening

JUNE

29 Auckland Mayor Phil Goff special assembly

JULY

3 NE & Year 1 Parent Sharing Morning - 9am
4 Year 5 Parent Showcase - 2pm
FOMS Meeting - 7.30pm - Senior Staffroom
5 Year 3 Parent Showcase - 2.15pm
Mid-Year Reports Issued
6 "Structure" Assembly - 2.15pm
Last day of Term - school closes @ 3pm
23 Term 3 commences

SAUSAGE SIZZLE ORDERS

If your child happens to be sick on the day of sausage sizzle you can simply go on line before 9am and cancel your child's lunch order.

This will put your account into credit for your next order.

"Selling Meadowbank homes since 2001."



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Barfoot & Thompson