



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2018



Meadowbank School  
68 Waiatarua Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050  
Phone: 520 3739  
www.meadowbank.school.nz

20 September 2018

Dear Parents & Caregivers

As we near the end of another very busy term, we are also celebrating an enormous number of experiences and successes for our students. These events include:-

- > **The Year 6 Production** : I mentioned in the last Newsletter that I have seen 26 Year 6 productions. I believe the Thursday performance bettered all previous ones I had enjoyed.
- > **The New Entrant - Year 2 Cross Country** : Once again this attracted an enormous number of parents who came to watch their children demonstrating their running capabilities.
- > **Zone Cross Country** : We selected a team to represent our school against over a dozen other schools in the zone sports. And gee, didn't they do well:-
  - Both Year 5 and 6 girls teams beat all other schools.
  - Year 5 boys team came 3rd.
  - Our best individual results came from Reagan Brookes (Year 5/Room 29) 1st and Eden Murdoch (Year 5/Room 22) 3rd.

A huge thank you to our teachers, Chris Buchan and Libby Patterson for their part in encouraging participation in the Running Club.

- > **Gymnastics** : Again a team of students represented our school at the Auckland Schools Champs of Champs. Our success at this higher level included the Year 5 Girls team 1st and our Year 6 Boys team 2nd.
- > **Talent Quest** : This annual event for Year 3 to 6 students offers them the opportunity to shine in the performing arts. The results were:-

Overall Winner	-	Sophie McIndoe and Mary Meredith (Dance)		
Section Winners	-	Dance	-	Olivia Kay
	-	Drama	-	Elliot Loveday
	-	Singing	-	Reagan Brookes & Zak Warfield
	-	Instrumental	-	Charles Deng

- > **Visual Art Exhibition** : I am sure that most parents (and a good number of grandparents) took the time to see art works from each and every one of our 800 students. Many children displayed multiple art works. I am sure that parents will treasure these for years to come.
- > **Chinese Speech Contests**  
Firstly Matthew Zhao (Year 5/Room 20) represented us in the Auckland Schools Chinese Speech contest with his speech "*Why teenagers should listen to their parents*".
- > At year 5 & 6 levels we had Chinese speeches for non-native speakers. Congratulations to the following students:-

## Year 6

1st : Nishita Gupta  
2nd : Caleb Jenkins  
3rd : Yume Endo

## Year 5

1st : Anna Preece  
2nd : Sophie McIndoe  
3rd : Caleb Chung

- > **Language Weeks** : We have been celebrating the mother tongues of some of our significant minority groups. We have had Māori and Tongan language weeks. Next week will be Chinese language week and it will include celebrating the Harvest Moon Festival.
- > **Visiting performers** : Next week we have Korean Groups working with Year 5 & 6 students on:-
  - traditional Korean Games;
  - Tae Kwon Do;
  - Chinese Dance Troupe performing for all students.
- > The Year 5 classes have been working with **Red Cross** to develop the children's First Aid awareness and capabilities.
- > Next week the Year 3 classes will be working with Constable Gordon on being more aware of safety matters relating to **riding scooters**.
- > The **Garden to Table Programme** opportunities are simply amazing for the Year 4 & 5 students. I accompanied a Year 5 group of students going to Al Brown's restaurants, The Federal Street Deli and The Depot. The students were magnificent representatives for our school showing behaviour and manners that their Mums and Dads would be proud of.

We were also delighted to host staff from Al Brown's restaurant yesterday where they worked alongside our students both in our gardens and kitchen. The Silverbeet we grow at school is given to Al Brown's restaurants to make Gnocchi and we in return receive a portion of the sales - this year we received a cheque for \$3136 which will go back into the Garden to Table programme.

## THE BUILDING PROGRAMME

We are having fortnightly building design meetings with Ministry officials, architects, project managers and quantity surveyors. In our last Newsletter I talked about the possible start date for the new Classroom / Admin Block project being Term 4, 2019.

**Well, surprise, surprise.** The Ministry has shocked us. They have moved the project forward, so that the Admin block will be demolished over the coming summer break - just 13 weeks away. So this means:-

- By the end of this year all Admin block features and services (staffroom, reception, sickbay, offices etc.) will be relocated into the Theo Lynds Block (Room 17-19).
- Three Year 3 classes WILL need to be housed on the Junior Campus for 2019.
- It is likely that the Mandarin classroom currently located in the senior carpark will need to be relocated. The increased footprint of the new Classroom/Admin block necessitates this inconvenience.

You will also see that we have some contractors working on the Junior Campus working to provide additional and more effective use of space. This will include the relocation of the Reception Class to Room 5.

## FOMS News

Save Date - Friday, 26 October - Halloween Disco

Bruce McLaren Hall - New Entrants to Year 3 - 4.45pm - 6pm  
 - Year 4 to Year 6 - 6.15pm - 7.45pm

We are looking for volunteers to help out if you are available please email [foms@meadowbank.school.nz](mailto:foms@meadowbank.school.nz)

**Sausage Sizzle Online Ordering Helper Required** : 10-15 minutes per fortnight to print out orders after 9am plus set up Kindo ordering at the start of each term. If you are interested and would like to know more information please contact Felicity McKenzie via e-mail : [mckenziefef@gmail.com](mailto:mckenziefef@gmail.com)

# LANGUAGES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

## Part 2 - Te Reo

Firstly some revision points from the last newsletter.

- > The Ministry of Education does not fund the staff to teach languages in primary schools.
- > Since introducing Mandarin to all Year 2 to 6 classes in 2011, we gained Confucius Classroom status. As a result we receive an annual grant and a Mandarin Learning Assistant from the Confucius Institute at Auckland University to help us to teach Mandarin.
- > At a meeting at the NZ Embassy in Beijing the question was asked, "Why should we teach Chinese at the expense of Māori?". The response of diplomats and Ministry officials was very clear, "We should not. Māori is an official language of NZ and all schools should be teaching it". They followed that statement with they believed all schools should teach a foreign language as well - one which is the choice of the school, but unofficially they believed it should be Chinese.
- > I spoke about us catching the Chinese language wave. However, there is a much larger wave, a Tsunami which is building - the Te Reo wave.
- > I'm quite sure that you have all noticed the increased use of Te Reo on TV and radio. I see it at conferences, last week's Māori Language Week stood up head and shoulders higher than previous years. I feel confident in predicting that Māori will be compulsory in all schools within 10 years. And I believe that road signs will be bilingual as in Wales.
- > In order to maintain their practising certificates and registration teachers are required to, "Practise and develop the use of the Te Reo and Tikanga Māori".
- > Last year we employed Andrea Gordine as a specialist teacher of Te Reo for New Entrants to Year 2 classes.
- > This year we extended this across the whole school. Andrea takes a 30 minute lesson with each class with the classroom teacher being present. The rationale behind this being that it is professional learning and development for the teachers and that the class teacher will reinforce Andrea's teachings so that the children are ready to progress to the next level when she returns the week following.
- > Other related developments include:-
  - Adopting a Māori name for our school.
  - The development of an impressive haka as was seen in the Year 6 production.
  - The development of year level waiatas.
- > The tsunami is building. We would be foolish to ignore it as we prepare your children for a New Zealand with a very different future.



# PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The Board of Trustees has engaged Terry Hewetson a former school principal and now Educational Consultant with Kea Education to assist them with the recruitment and appointment process. The position has been advertised in education circles with applications closing on Monday, 15 October.

Other key steps in the process includes:-

- Short listing by Wednesday, 31 October.
- Referees / Due Diligence by Friday, 9 November.
- Interviews Saturday, 10 November

I congratulate the Board for the process that has been put in place and the many extra hours of commitment that will be involved as they work towards the biggest decision that they will make in their time on the Board.

# STAFF NEWS

- > We farewell **Andrea Gordine** next Friday who will be taking up a full time position at Michael Park School, however she will be helping out our Kapa Haka group each Friday afternoon. We wish her all the very best. *Ngā mihi me te waimarie pai*
- > We welcome:-
  - **Casey Frew** to the Meadowbank team. Casey is an experienced teacher coming to us from Te Totara School in Hamilton and she will join Nicky Durkin teaching in the Reception Class next term, and
  - **Polly Stewart** and **Abby Ogram** as new teacher graduates commencing in February 2019. Polly has had a long association with Meadowbank with her children attending Meadowbank and she was formerly a Learning Assistant with us. Abby also has past associations in being a former student.

# JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

As mentioned earlier; a great morning for our junior students. Well done to everyone for their participation and determination to finish the course.

Congratulations to:-

## New Entrant Girls

1st Issy Keenan  
2nd Sophie Coughlan  
3rd Claudia Taylor

## Year 1 Girls

1st Juliette Arnold  
2nd Ashleigh Dearing  
3rd Catherine Relf

## Year 2 Girls

1st Sienna Groves  
2nd Noomi Riley  
4rd Zariah Hormann

## New Entrant Boys

1st Nathan Carella  
2nd Helaman Tapa  
3rd Zach Churchill

## Year 1 Boys

1st Harley Brookes  
2nd Koby Arlidge  
3rd Charlie Foy

## Year 2 Boys

1st Miller Ward  
2nd Arthur Vivian  
4rd Charles Freeman



## SEPTEMBER

- 21 Room 6, 7, 8 Assembly Presentation - 2.15pm
- 24 Korean Festival Activities
- 25 Year 3 Scooter Safety Programme  
Chinese Dance Troupe
- 26 Board of Trustees Meeting - 7pm
- 28 Room 30, 31, 32 Assembly Presentation - 2.15pm  
Last Day - Term 3 - school closes at 3pm

## OCTOBER

- 15 Term 4 commences