



Houghton Valley School

110 Houghton Bay Road, Houghton Bay, Wellington.

NEWSLETTER

Houghton Valley School Mission Statement

INSPIRATION, CHALLENGE, ACHIEVEMENT

TE HIRINGA, TE WEROHIA, TE WHAKATUTUKITANGA

Thursday 18th December 2008

Week 10 of Term 4

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children

Tēnā koutou katoa. What a great final 10 days we've had! Last Thursday we had the disco followed by the 'thank you' afternoon tea for parents on Friday. Both provided an opportunity for staff and parents to get together for an end of year catch up. This week our children had their final swimming sessions at Kilbirnie Pool and on Monday our 'Now News' magazine published by a year 6 team went on sale – selling 75 copies, which is a record! Yesterday Katie Grinsted's class planted out seedlings that have been grown by our children, using seed gathered from around the school. Last evening we gathered in the hall to officially farewell our year 6 students and today we have classes heading to Kandallah Park for a picnic and Lyall Bay for a day of beach education. What a great life we have!

Tomorrow, Friday 19 December, is the last day of term. The final assembly of the year will be at 12.30pm. It will be short and informal and should be over by 1pm. Children will be free to go home after this assembly. School will however remain open until the usual time of 3pm for those who remain. After School Care will still be on. The school bus will leave at the usual time of 3pm.

THE VEGE GARDEN MUST SURVIVE!

Katie Grinsted and her class have worked hard to get our vege garden growing and it's looking good. We plan to leave a hose out over the holidays, so if you are at school with your children, we'd be grateful if you could give it a water. Feel free to help yourself to any of the produce too.



THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU!

2008 has been an awesome year here at HVS. We have been successful in many ways, due to the combined efforts of many.

I would like to acknowledge my teachers and teacher aides – you are truly professional and very skilled. Your dedication to children's wellbeing and focus on improving achievement has been outstanding. You go that extra mile to provide experiences that create a vibrant atmosphere in our great school.

To Denise, thank you for your hard work and patience. I wish I could multi-task like you can! You really look after us all.

And Dave, our caretaker – we appreciate all you do for us (and so do the HVS trees!).

To our parents and whanau, your contribution to your school is huge and much appreciated. Through the Board of Trustees and Home and School Group, you provide direction and work hard to include everybody – making our school a focus for our community. On a day-to-day level your presence in and around the school helps us work effectively with your children. Without your assistance and support, we would not be able to do many of the things we all enjoy.

And finally, the HVS children. You have been fantastic this year! We have enjoyed your humour and energy, and it has been a privilege to be working with you during 2008. Have a fun-filled break. To our year 6 students, your influence on the school has been very positive this year – enjoy intermediate and your life beyond.

Have restful break. See you back on Wednesday, 4th February 2009. Ka kite ano.

BARRY SCHON

Principal/Tumuaki

DENTAL CLINIC will be at Houghton Valley School from week 2 of Term 1 2009.

BOT Spot

What a fantastic year we have had a H.V.S.

The year began with the renovation and extension of Mahoe, resulting in a large bright sunny classroom, as opposed to the small dark cupboard it was. The building work continued in the library, where we now have a great resource for the children to enjoy. The final stage of the library will be completed in Term 1, with the employment of a librarian.

A huge 'thank you' goes out to the Home & School and the community for making our library project possible. The librarian will be part funded by the H&S. Our school would certainly not be the wonderful place it is without the endless energy of the H&S team.

Academically we have seen some excellent results. Early in the year it was identified that there was a school wide need for improvement in punctuation. The children were retested recently showing H.V.S. has achieved an average higher standard than N.Z. schools. In reading 97% of children tested have a reading age above or around their actual age. We would like to acknowledge the teaching staff with their commitment to improving achievement. Superb work!

Of course none of this would be possible without the great leadership of our Principal, Barry.
Have a great holiday and see you in 2009.

Juliet Mollan, *Chairperson*

Board of Trustees, December 2008

Home & School

Year 6 Do

Thanks to everyone involved in the Year 6 Students Farewell last night. It was a great experience. Special thanks to Carol, Joanna and their many helpers who provided a marvellous after match spread and beverages for children, parents, caregivers, grandparents and staff. Yet again we, the royal we, have excelled. Just the nature of HVS. Knock out performance by Andrew McCallum. Introverted fathers 2, wise cracking show ponies 0. Finally, as always we are indebted to Barry and staff for providing a fantastic environment, and thanks to Peter, Mr H, Dad, the coolest teacher (the Year 6's words).

Thanks

Community News

ART OF THIS WORLD Art Education

Two day holiday workshop. Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st January 2009

Painting, art history, sculpture and mixed media

All materials provided. Spaces are limited, so booking is best. \$35 per day, bring your lunch and creativity.

Venue : Houghton Valley School Phone : Brenda (06) 364 3565 or 021 1789153. brosenberg@ihug.co.nz



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