



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 26th February 2009

Week 4 of Term 1

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children

Tēnā koutou katoa. Along with this newsletter you should receive confirmation of your booking for next week's parent/teacher conferences and our parent/child questionnaire (optional) form to fill out with your child. Please return the questionnaire to your child's teacher or bring it when you meet with them. If you are unable to attend these parent/teacher conferences, please arrange an alternative time with your child's teacher. Their contact details can be found on the school website www.houghton.school.nz. Thanks.



BEACH TRIP TOMORROW!

Timeline approximately: Leave HVS 9:45am Lunch @ 12:30pm Leave Beach 1:40pm

We're looking forward to the whole school walking to Lyall Bay for our annual picnic tomorrow. The forecast is 'fine with high cloud' and a high of 20C. Please ensure that your child has sunblock, a hat, appropriate clothing, shoes for walking etc. If you haven't yet returned a permission slip from the notice that came home and would like your child to go on this trip, please write a note, phone or email, to let us know. Whanau are encouraged to join us at the beach for a swim and a bit of sandcastle building. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES (15 minutes)

Monday 2 March (3 – 7pm); Tuesday 3 March (2.15 – 5.30pm)

These conferences provide an opportunity for...

- 1) Parents to meet teachers (and vice versa) – this helps set up communication for the year ahead.
- 2) Parents to share expectations and information about their child – this helps the teacher gain an understanding of each of the children in their class so that they can establish positive relationships, which are a key prerequisite for learning.
- 3) Teachers can provide background info on achievement so far – with such things as samples of writing or any recent test results – these help them identify needs and set learning goals.
- 4) Teachers can discuss their intended programme and answer questions.

As we have only been back at school for less than a month, your child's teacher will still be in the process of building up a picture of your child's needs and abilities. The next round of parent/teacher conferences will be in term 3, when teachers will be able to provide a more comprehensive report on progress. If at any time you want to know more, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher and arrange a time to meet. I will be available to meet with you on Monday and Tuesday while the conferences are on.

NO ASSEMBLY this week – we will be at the beach!



CAR PARK

Please do not drive into, or out of, the car park between 8.30am – 9.15am, or between 2.30pm - 3.30pm. We want to keep our children safe. Thanks.

WORKING BEE

Grounds tidy up

Sunday 15 March, from 1pm – 5pm (then barbecue)

(Postponement Sunday 22 March)

This is a great opportunity to get some exercise, meet other parents and help make the school look its best. Last May we had a very successful working bee. One suggestion at the time was to have the next working bee in summer, and give families the opportunity to bring food and stay for a barbecue afterwards. So that's what we plan to do!

All offers of help accepted and appreciated

Even if you can't stay the whole time, you may be able to give us an hour's labour. To help us run the working bee efficiently, please email admin@houghton.school.nz or phone Denise on 9393318 to confirm that you will be helping out on the day. Thanks.

We will also need gas barbecues for cooking. If you are able to bring one along, please let us know.

THANKS TO DEE COYLE

Our thanks go to Dee Coyle (sister of former HVS parent K C Little), who has been working voluntarily with our year 5 and 6 children, using Lego robotics. Dee taught the children to use a computer program to manoeuvre a little Lego vehicle around objects. They loved it! We appreciated having Dee with us. Tino pai rawa atu!

SEA WEEK – Free snorkelling for children Sunday, 8 March, 12 – 2pm - Island Bay Surf Club

Children can explore the new marine reserve, with free wetsuit and snorkel hire. Qualified instructors take children out, two at a time. Adults can hire equipment or bring their own. More info at www.seaweek.org

KC CARDS

Your child may have mentioned the new 'KC Cards' that we are using here at school. I will include information about these in next week's newsletter.

Have a good week. Ka kite a kua nei.

BARRY SCHON



Piano Lessons

Piano lessons with me will be starting up on Friday the 27th of Feb. Lessons are 20 minutes long, cost \$15 each and are during school hours (except lunchtime and morning tea). I can provide books at a suitable level and will invoice for them at cost price. If you would like to enrol (or re-enrol from last year) please email me at 'ed_zuccollo@hotmail.com' with your name, your child's name and room number, and your phone number. Alternatively you can call me at home on 977 1123 or on my cellphone 027 488 4468. Please note that students that have been enrolled previously take precedence over new students. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Ed Z

Principal/Tumuaki

HVS Netball



Netball season will be starting in Terms 2 & 3 at Evans Bay Intermediate on Saturdays. Houghton Valley School is hoping to have a few teams again this year, so we need to start organising players, coaches, managers and umpires for these teams. If you would like to register your interest and have a Year 4, 5, or 6 child wanting to play netball on Saturdays please let me know on 939-3318 or email admin@houghton.school.nz We will have a parent meeting soon to organise more details. Thanks.
Denise

DATES FOR THIS TERM



27 Feb – Whole school trip to Lyall Bay	2 & 3 March – Parent and Teacher conferences
6 March – Trip to Lyall Bay postponement date	10 March – Junior syndicate visits Capital E
11 March – Houghton Valley School Cross Country	12 March – HVS Cross Country postponement date
15 March – Working Bee	
17 March – Southern Zone Cross Country	19 March – Southern Zone Cross Country postponement date
23 March – Year 6 to sports at Westpac Stadium	25 March – Board of Trustees, 7.30pm, staffroom
27th March – Friday – Food Funanza	
2 April – Wheels Day – bring bikes, roller blades, skateboards, unicycles, scooters	9 April – Performance assembly
9 April – Last Day Term 1	27 th April – First Day Term 2

Home & School

Events Calendar:

The following are the main social get-togethers and the fundraisers that we are planning to host this year. They are all opportunities for our families to get together and have fun (as well as raise funds for our great school), but of course, we need your help to make them a success, so don't be shy - contact Sarah FQ on 387 2799 or doddsfq@paradise.net.nz and get involved!

Term 1: "FOOD FUNANZA" Friday 27 March

This is our annual food fair and is always a great hit. It is a great opportunity for the school community to get together and share a meal (yay, no Friday night cooking or dishes!). In past years we have sold curries, dahl, samosas, burgers, sausages, nachos, desserts, ice-cream spiders, jellies... There will also be a bar. So how can you help? We are looking for 2 people to do the overall organising, and lots of people to make food and sell it (NB: H&S cover the cost of the food). If you have some good ideas for new foods we could sell and/or want to be a part of the fun of making or selling the food, please contact Sarah FQ. We are also looking for 2 people to do games on the bottom field – sack races, gumboot throwing etc.

Term 2: Our annual HVS DISCO in June - come and show us your moves!

Term 4: The biggie: The SCHOOL FAIR in October.

Term 4: The inaugural HVS CEIDLIGH

A new event in November to kick off the festive season (yes, we are planning ahead!) - A Ceidligh is a dance with live music and called dances (i.e. someone on stage tells you the moves you need to make - think Gay Gordons/country dancing).

Thank-you's:

H&S want to acknowledge and thank Helen Hoffman who has been our chair for the last two years and Geoff Grimwood who has been secretary and newsletter scribe. Thank you both for all of your hard work and good will!

Cheers - Sarah FQ [ph: 387 2799; doddsfq@paradise.net.nz]



Community News

Harbour City Junior Hockey Club Registration Day

Sunday 22nd March 2.30pm – 4.30pm National Hockey Stadium Mt Albert Road Newtown

We warmly welcome all returning and new players. Players from the senior club and some of our junior coaches will be on the turf from 3pm – 4pm to give you a run around. If you have never played hockey before then come along and give it a go! (Sticks will be available to borrow) For more information on junior hockey at Harbour City check out our website www.harbourcityhockey.org.nz or call Prue Isaacs (04) 973 5852



Girls-only Football Leagues

Under 6s, U8, U10, U12. Every Sunday morning starting 26 April until the end of August. On the brand new artificial pitch at Nairnville Park in Ngaio (or other areas if enough demand). Any parent that puts a whole new team together, will win a pink match ball provided by Capital Football and go into a draw to have Capital Football refund the whole team's registration fees. To register contact a local football club or see details at www.capitalfootball.org.nz

Walking for Oxfam

Recently, you may have seen Miss Grinsted walking instead of biking to school. Never fear! The faithful bike isn't broken. Miss G is in training... This April Miss Grinsted and her team 'Wellytown' will walk 100km in under 36 hours to raise money for Oxfam. The funds raised will go towards helping people in Papua New Guinea and East Timor gain access to clean water and build sustainable livelihoods. To make this all happen Wellytown needs all the support we can get. This means sponsorship or donations, as well as moral support and cheers from passing cars! If you are interested in helping this worthy cause, or in discovering more places you could walk to around Wellington! Please stop into Harakeke to ask for more details or go to <http://www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz> - Find a Team type in 'Wellytown' to make an online donation or to write an encouraging note! Also, keep your eye out for upcoming fundraising events!

Wellington United Junior Football Club

Wellington United is your local club based at Newtown Park Home of the Phoenix and Team Wellington. We cater for ages 4-6 with our junior skills and fun program. And also teams from ages 7 to 13 playing club football. Joining Wellington United is easy, you can sign up online at www.wuafc.wellington.net.nz. You can also contact Rob Uivel at rob@humandynamo.co.nz ph: 9702488 cell 0274 453852.

After School Care – Mask Making



Guess who?

School Contact Details: Phone: 939-3318 Fax: 939-3317 Email: admin@houghton.school.nz

Website: www.houghton.school.nz Principal Email: principal@houghton.school.nz