



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 2nd April 2009

Week 9 of Term 1

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children

Tēnā koutou katoa. The Food Funanza was, once again, a very enjoyable event. It was great to see such a huge turnout; to catch up with some of our former students and their families; to welcome our newer families; and to enjoy the hospitality provided by our hard working Home and School team. Our year 6 students did us proud, providing their own food and games, which turned out to be very popular. Putting on such an event can be a bit of a challenge – so I'd like to thank Sarah FQ and all those who prepared/served food or drinks or worked behind the scenes to make the Food Funanza so successful. We appreciated it!

AFTERNOON TEA TOMORROW

All parents/caregivers are invited to have afternoon tea with us after assembly tomorrow. Join us for a chat and a cuppa.

You may have read about the girl in Berhampore who was nearly abducted recently. With that in mind, it may be useful to go over the following with your child:

- If a child is approached by anyone that is unknown, he/she should avoid contact with that person and move towards a safe place such as someone they know, a shop, school or home.
- *They should be assertive and insistent and shout "leave me alone", "go away" or similar, loudly enough to either frighten the person or so that someone might hear. (It would be good to practise this at home and work for real volume and insistence).*
- Families and children should always have clear rules and understandings about adults being aware of where children are. Children should not leave home or the company of their family adults unless it is known where they are going and what the time frame is.
- *It needs to be reinforced with children that they should always tell an adult if something is wrong or that something wrong happens.*

PERFORMANCE ASSEMBLY – last day of term – Thursday 9 April – a note will come home today with those children who have said they want to be part of the assembly, with auditions being held at lunchtime next Tuesday. We always look forward to these assemblies.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

This has been a huge success, with children streaming into school from all directions. It has also meant far fewer cars competing for parking spots, which must be a good thing! The children themselves have said that they have really enjoyed the walking – when you think about it, walking to school (and not using cars) is about one of the 'greenest' things we can do. It also provides low impact exercise (especially for old blokes like me). It would be great to see the walking continue once the week is over. Go to our website if you want to read some comments from our children.

A special mention must be made of the Newtown families that have walked to school – some as part of the 'Newtown Walking Bus'. What commitment! We are proud of your efforts!





LUNCHES TOO BIG??

Our Karaka class (R4) have been keeping an eye on the waste going into the worm bins. It seems that there is a large amount of uneaten food donated to the worms each day and this may be because some children have fairly massive lunches which they tell us they are unable to finish. Parents and children may want to chat about the lunches to make sure they are of a suitable size. Thank you.

AROUND THE ROOMS

In last term's community survey several respondents said that they wanted to know more about what their children were learning about – as part of this newsletter we have an 'Around the Rooms' section from each class. Teachers (and Principal) have also been adding blogs to the website.

WEBSITE QUIZ COMPETITION (optional) – due Monday 6 April

Here are ten questions about our school website www.houghton.school.nz

If you want to enter the competition, write your answers on a piece of paper, along with your name and room number, and put it in the 'website quiz' box by the office; or email your answers to principal@houghton.school.nz The first 3 correct entries to be drawn out will win a soccer ball. You can ask an adult to help you do the quiz.

THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS ARE ON THE CLASS PAGES

- 1) Which 2 classes made the butterfly garden?
- 2) Which island did Miss Murray stay on during the summer holidays?
- 3) Which Nikau child wrote the story 'Teeth - a Myth'?
- 4) What was the Karaka class survey about?
- 5) What were the Harakeke children using when they worked with Mr Collins and Miss Grinsted?
- 6) Where did the Ti Kouka class go on Tuesday 11 March 2009?

LOOK AT THE OUR PEOPLE/STAFF PAGE

- 7) What is Denise's surname (last name)?

LOOK AT THE PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

- 8) Who said this about 'Walk To School Week'?"
"I liked it because I got to walk with lots of other people."
- 9) What colour is the lid on the yellow paper recycling bin?
- 10) Which bay did our whole school walk to for a swim and a picnic?



BARRY SCHON

Principal/Tumuaki

A BIG WELCOME in POHUTUKAWA TO:

☺ Eli Martin

BOT SPOT

There's been a lot going on for the BOT this term. Here's a quick summary of what's on top.

SWELL is a cluster of South Wellington schools working together to boost achievement in learning in all our schools through collaboration, sharing knowledge, and action research. A couple of weeks ago several of the BOT attended a briefing on progress so far and heard about the next targets for the SWELL group. I came away inspired. This is an exciting project and the results are being recognised nationally. You can find out more on www.swell.org.nz

ERO have confirmed they'll be visiting Houghton Valley School in term 3. Last week Barry, Monica and Juliet (BOT Chairperson) attended a briefing to find out more about the process.

Brendan has resigned from the staff rep position on the BOT....thanks Brendan, we'll miss you! Your input, work and humour have been much appreciated.

Achievement.....HVS kids continue to achieve well. Barry reported to the BOT on the results of the start of year testing across the school. This data is for the school as a whole and says that HVS kids are achieving are at the top end of NZ schools for both reading and maths.....good news!

And finally, the BOT have confirmed that the currently Enrolment Scheme will continue.

Regards

Stu Birch on behalf of the HVS BOT

Home & School

Fantastic Funanza: The Food Funanza was a great success. Thank you to all of you that supported it by coming and eating... A HUGE thank you to everyone who made food, sold the food, helped to set up, clean up and generally keep the show on the road! It would not have been possible without all of you fabulous people. We should know next week how much money we made.

It would be great to get your feedback re: things that worked, things that didn't work, including things like... Were there enough people on each stall/too many people; what food you'd like to eat next year etc. Email Sarah FQ with any feedback on doddsfq@paradise.net.nz, or come to the next H&S meeting!

Parents' Afternoon Tea: Calling all parents, but especially parents who are new to HVS - come and have afternoon tea in the library and meet other parents on Friday 3 April after assembly or 2.30pm onwards.



Friday burgers - Can you help? Please put your name up for Friday burger duty for next term. The roster is up on the noticeboard next to Denise's office. It is a fun job to do (really!), and the kids really enjoy the burgers. If you haven't done it before, don't worry - you will be teamed up with someone who has. Any questions - email Sophia on sophia.lewis@anznational.co.nz or ring her on 3874131.

Next Home and School meeting: Tuesday 7 April, 7.30pm in the staffroom – all welcome.

DATES FOR THIS TERM



3 April, Friday – Parents Afternoon Tea after assembly	
7 April, Tuesday – Home & School Meeting 7:30pm	9 April, Thursday – Performance assembly 2pm
9 April, Thursday – Last Day Term 1	27 th April, Monday – First Day Term 2

Community News

HVS Mini-Ball Team - Year 5 and 6

Games will now be played on MONDAYS at the Rec Centre, Kilbirnie. Competition starts Monday 4th May till 29th June. Practises will be at Wednesday lunchtimes at school. Any enquiries please contact Monica Mercury or parent co-ordinator Mairangi White 021 259 1197.



ART OF THIS WORLD Art Education

Two day holiday workshop. 20th and 21st of April. - Come and make your own ceramic Table Hot Plate Tile
- Reflect previous kinetic sculptors and make one for yourself - Learn Techniques for perspective drawing
- Revisit an ancient wax Batik method. All materials provided. Spaces are limited, so booking is best. \$35 per day, bring your lunch and creativity. Venue : Houghton Valley school, Nikau (Room 3). Phone : Brenda (06) 364 3565 or 021 1789153. brosenberg@ihug.co.nz

Kelly Sports Holiday Programme

Week 1, Mixed Sport 14th – 16th April Tues-Thurs mornings at Evans Bay Intermediate 9:30am- 12:30pm.
Week 2, Mixed Sport 21st-23rd April Tues-Thurs afternoons at Evans Bay Intermediate 1:30pm to 4:30pm. For aged 5-10 years. Cost \$75 register now with Rachel on 9727201 or email rachel@kellysports.co.nz for more information.



Netball Holiday Programme

Venue: Hataitai Netball Courts

Week one and two, Tuesdays to Friday for Years 3 to 8 morning or afternoons. Cost approx \$65. Checkout website www.netballwellington.co.nz then Junior Academy for more information or registration form.

An Invitation to All Year 4, 5 and 6 Children who live on the South Coast

Are you interested in learning how to snorkel? Are you between the ages of 8 and 11?

Do you live around the south coast of Wellington?

Children from Island Bay School, together with snorkelling instructors from the EMR (Experiencing Marine Reserves) group, are keen to share their excitement and fun in exploring our Southern Coastline. These experienced EMR instructors will provide an opportunity for children to experience snorkelling in a safe small group (1 instructor to 2 children) situation in our own local Marine Reserve:

Date: 5 April 2009 Time: 11.00-2.00 Venue: Island Bay Surf Life Saving Club Cost: Gold coin

Equipment – All snorkelling gear, including, 7mm wet suits are available free of charge. However, if you have your own gear, please bring it along. If the weather is inclement then still come along as other exciting marine activities are planned.

Wellington School of Cricket Holiday Programmes

13-17 April and 20-24 April Wellington School of Cricket Indoor Facilities (Mana, Hutt Rec and Westpac Stadium) Register online at www.cricketwellington.co.nz or email asoka@firebirds.co.nz



Wheels Day Today



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

Around the Rooms



Ngaio

The learning this term has been focused on EMR – Experiencing Marine Reserves. We have visited the Bait Shed, been trained in snorkelling at the pool and snorkelled at Island Bay and Kapiti Island Marine Reserves. We have used our knowledge to educate the community about the importance of preserving our marine habitats, and raised lots of money for the Marine Education Centre and World Wildlife Fund along the way!

Our reading and writing has been based around our experiences this term, with snorkelling recounts and marine creature reports being completed, along with some amazing art. If you visit Ngaio you can read all about our term's learning and see our superb art too – no charge! Peter Holmstead

Ti Kouka

We have made a great start to 2009 in Ti Kouka. It has been full on and fun! Term One has been busy with lots of testing, trips, Cross Country events and great 'Discovery' topics: 'ME IN MY ENVIRONMENT – A Positive Classroom' and 'SANCTUARIES'. The Senior School took two great opportunities to see what our wonderful City of Wellington had to offer in the way of trips to Matiu-Somes Island Nature Reserve for the 'Sanctuaries' unit and to see two shows at the Capital E National Children's Art Festival – 'Kia Ora Khalid' and 'Luminous Edge'. Maths topics covered have been basic facts in number, algebra and statistics topics. We have been writing recounts, some simple poetry and are currently writing reports. Thanks to all of the wonderful parents who have been so supportive – it has been much appreciated. Roll on term two! Monica Mercury

Harakeke

Term 1 has been full of activity in Harakeke. A real highlight has been taking part in so many school trips. Our trip to Matiu Somes Island has been the reference point for our discovery unit 'Sanctuaries'. During the last couple of weeks you may have seen Harakeke adventuring through the school rainforest. We are taking our environmental responsibility seriously. So far we have thought about what the forest looks like, sounds like and feels like now. We are just beginning to think about some things we could do to improve our own 'sanctuary' - for the native flora and fauna, and for the students, staff and community at HVS in the future.

Each day has a bright beginning in Harakeke with one or two fabulous presentations or poems. So far we have learnt about different animals, sports, flowers, music and heard some high quality poems! This term Harakeke have also enjoyed 'ICT with Mr C' early on in the term, Yr 5 Robotics and the cross country. On Fridays Harakeke have been learning how to write a play with Ms Cossey. Look out for star performances in the upcoming 'Possum Party' Term 2! Katie Grinsted

Karaka

Wow! This term has disappeared. We started the year in Karaka examining different ways we could help to create a positive classroom. A big part of this focus was finding ways to work together more co-operatively. We are currently finishing our look at sanctuaries and are doing a detailed study of the sanctuary we visited, Matiu Somes Island. We found there are positive and negative reasons for having sanctuaries. If you haven't seen your child's writing this term you are missing out. We have written recounts about accidents that have happened to us or those near to us. Jos has collected these together in a big book that parents are welcome to come in and read. You will find it on the bookshelf. We also have a collection of monster stories on the window by the door. At present, we are writing reports on different fauna that can be found in a sanctuary. These will hopefully be complete by the end of the term. Remember we will be looking at space next term and the production is looming large in Term 3. Thanks for an awesome term and enjoy the break. Ka Kite, Brendan. Please check out our worm farm research (mostly relating to food waste) on our class blog: www.houghton.school.nz/category/karaka/ Brendan Collins





Nikau

This term has been jam packed full of testing, learning and cooperative activities. We have had a focus on developing small group social skills such as taking turns, listening to others and valuing their opinions. Nikau's Environment Project is to maintain and develop the vegetable garden and the children have started to weed and compost the area.

In literacy, Nikau has been learning to read fluently with expression, write recounts and myths and keep our book work up to a high standard. (Check out Nikau's page on the HVS website to hear some of the children reading their myths). In maths we have been doing a lot of practice with our basic facts; trying to recall them instantly. We have also been learning to count using money and pay for items using the correct coins.

In sport, I have seen some remarkable improvement and skill in hockey this term. Dribbling, passing and shooting have been our focus there. I have had a fantastic time teaching these children and will miss them when I leave next term. Thanks parents for all your support.

Hayden Ray

Kowhai

Tena Koutou Katoa

We have had a very productive start to the year, getting to know each other and becoming familiar with the routines in Kowhai. We have all worked very hard and have made wonderful progress. We are a very talented bunch and have great qualities and talents to share with one another. We have enjoyed working cooperatively and will continue to develop cooperative skills throughout the year. 'Amazing Africa' Discovery Topic has captivated the children and we were extremely lucky to have a guest speaker share her experiences about growing up in South Africa as a Zulu; very interesting. We are comparing the way of life in NZ with life in Africa. Kowhai's environmental responsibility for the year is 'Tidy Kiwi'. Our plan for the year is underway. We have identified areas around the school that could be kept tidier and have produced great posters to encourage others to be Tidy Kiwis too. We are all looking forward to a well earned break so relax, enjoy and don't forget to read lots of books.

Lara Nemet

Mahoe

Mahoe have started the year with vigor and enthusiasm! We have begun with a focus on working cooperatively in buddies and have progressed on to learning how to work on a task in groups of 3. This will be a continued focus for 2009. We have all thoroughly enjoyed our Amazing Africa topic, during which we have compared our lifestyle here in New Zealand with that in the different countries of Africa. This week we have started our 'Money' topic in maths and we will transfer this knowledge across to our Amazing Africa topic and compare it to African currencies. Mahoe have also continued the environmental project started by last year's Mahoe members, by combining with Pohutukawa to maintain, improve and manage the school butterfly garden. We have had a very busy start to the year and have all made impressive gains already. So make sure you have a restful break and come back refreshed for another term!

Adele Murray

Pohutukawa

Wow! This term has flown by so quickly. Pohutukawa has slowly grown in numbers with everyone settling in very quickly and making new friends. We started off the term looking at ourselves and finding out a little about where and how we live and what makes us a 'New Zealander'. This led on to our comparison discovery topic 'Amazing Africa'. Pohutukawa came up with some interesting questions to research and we are really enjoying finding the answers and comparing the differences between Africa and NZ. We were lucky to have parents and friends come in and share their African experiences. As well as our discovery topics everyone has put tremendous effort into our general reading, writing and maths programmes. We have explored story writing, recounting an event, numeric work, sequential and rotating patterns, and an array of print making activities during art. Presently we are working on money recognition and value so earning and saving coins for a trip to the \$2 shop would be a good holiday activity. Outdoors we ran the x-country, mulched and replanted the butterfly garden and are presently working on good ball skills. What a busy term! Time now for Pohutukawa to recharge their batteries and adjust to the end of this week's daylight saving. One more week then have a great Easter and holiday break. Ka kite

Fiona Brown

