

Titirangi Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 10 May, 2010



Brighten up your winter nights
Titirangi School PTA invites you to a special Adults only event



Hawaiian Luau Party

Saturday, 12th June, 2010, 7.30pm
French Bay Yacht Club, Titirangi
Tickets \$30 per person

**Tropical cocktails, Wine & Beer, Meat on the Spit,
And Fundraising Auction.**

Cash bar will operate. EFTPOS available.

Come dressed in your best grass skirt, sarong or flower shirt



DIARY UPDATES

There are currently
no new date changes or updates
to the school calendar

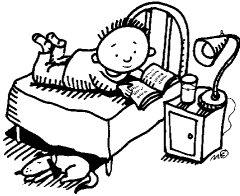
- **Hawaiian Luau Party**
- **PTA**
- **Homework Review**
- **Senior School Cross Country**
- **Chess**
- **EdAlive Software**

Newsletter

Achieving good performance is a journey, not a destination"
Kenneth H Blanchard (1936...) Author, Management Consultant

HOMEWORK

Last term we looked at some of the outcomes of Professor John Hattie's meta-analysis of research relating to student achievement. One matter relating to their children's learning that is a perennial concern of parents is homework. Many parents make judgements about the effectiveness of schools and teachers based on the amount and kind of homework their children get. Professor Hattie's analysis examines research about homework and comes up with some interesting conclusions.



Of 138 influences on student learning homework ranks at No 88 with an effect size of .29. (Note that anything above .0 is considered to be a positive effect, but there are 88 other influences identified that have a greater positive effect). Other conclusions include:

- effects of homework are up to four times higher for High School students as for Primary
- more task oriented homework e.g. rote learning, practice of basic skills, had higher effects than deep learning or problem solving
- parent 'help' with homework often had a negative effect especially when it was critical or pressuring children to do things that were too difficult

We have recently reviewed our Homework Policy in the light of some of this research as well as our practical experience, as teachers, of homework.

A key consideration was should homework be compulsory? As soon as it is compulsory there has to be an enforcement system and consequences for non-compliance. The conclusion was that our teachers have better things to be doing than enforcing an activity done outside their direct control which ranks 88th out of 138 in effectiveness. Another matter considered was that many children have after school cultural or sporting activities which occupy considerable time and can result in undue pressure on children and parents when there is a lot of homework to be completed as well. We also considered the kinds of learning tasks most suited to homework.

The key elements of our homework policy are as follows:

- ◆ Homework is not compulsory at Titirangi Primary School. However, the completion of homework is an expectation and a recommended part of teaching and learning. Homework tasks should be structured so that parents are able to decide on an amount of homework that is reasonable for their child, in consultation with the teacher.

Homework should:

- ◆ Be part of a learning-focused relationship between teachers, parents and students.
- ◆ Concentrate on reinforcing basic skills that require regular, ongoing practice, including reading, spelling and maths basic facts.
- ◆ Encourage the development of independent work habits in a progressive and coordinated way as students move through the Senior School year levels.
- ◆ Offer a meaningful level of challenge and engagement for students of diverse levels of ability.
- ◆ Be manageable in nature and not onerous for students, parents or teachers.

Each year level syndicate will communicate their homework expectations and systems to parents in the syndicate newsletter. If parents wish to clarify any aspect of this they are invited to contact their child's teacher or the senior teacher. If anyone would like to discuss an aspect of the overall policy they are welcome to contact me or any member of the management team.

As we implement this revised homework policy, we will also be looking at ways in which we can give parents the appropriate knowledge and tools that they need in order to help their child at home in a meaningful way. An outline of this will be the focus of our next newsletter.

SENIOR SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Our sporting event this term is Cross Country at Crum Park on Wednesday May 12 @ 10.30-12.30 (approx). The children in years 4-6 have been training hard for what is invariably a challenging yet hugely rewarding day.

Unfortunately, the weather is not looking so promising for this week as of today's forecast. We will, however, press ahead as planned, but a decision will be posted on the school website homepage on the day of the event (so please avoid calling our busy office staff on Wednesday if possible). Our rain date is Friday, May 14. As per the Cross Country letter sent out earlier this term, all children will need:

- ✓ Sensible running shoes
- ✓ Appropriate clothing **with a warm sweatshirt** to wear after running
- ✓ Any medical requirements e.g. inhalers, clearly named
- ✓ Towel and raincoat in case of showers (**very likely!**)
- ✓ A large, named drink bottle
- ✓ A substantial morning tea/snack

Please come along and support the kids if you are able to. It would be great to see you there and fingers crossed for some clear weather!

The Interschool Cross Country is confirmed for Wednesday, May 19 (rain date Friday, May 21). Selections will be made this week and letters sent home to the Interschool Team participants.

CHESS CLASSES



This term sees our Advanced Chess Group getting underway with specialised tuition in preparation for our Interschool selections later this term. The advanced sessions are aimed at those who have demonstrated strong skills through previous chess classes at TPS, and so those involved have been hand picked for this term.

In Term 3, however, students in Y3-6 who have not been selected for the advanced course will have an opportunity to trial for the "Intermediate" level course so that all students have an opportunity to participate if they are interested and able to demonstrate a good basic knowledge of the game.

EdALIVE SOFTWARE

Information leaflets have been sent home profiling the award-winning EdAlive range. Please consider investing in one or more of these products. The home computer is a powerful educational tool and with these EdAlive titles your children can learn while they play. EdAlive titles are directly correlated with the curriculum. Our school will receive a FREE unlimited Site Licence for Maths Made Easy. Please return orders to the school by 21/05/10.

Demo versions of the EdAlive products can be downloaded from www.edalive.com

SWIMMING POOL KEYS

Please return your pool keys to the office as soon as possible.



PTA PATCH

Friday Lunches

Our next lunch will be this **Friday 14 May** and it will be a BBQ. Please look out for the lunch order forms going home this week. For our new families this is a fundraising initiative which we run fortnightly during the term where you don't have to provide lunch for your child. The **deadline** for ordering BBQ will be **9.30am Thursday 13 May. For ordering, we need to strictly adhere to this deadline.** The office will remind classes on Thursday morning to bring in orders that may have been forgotten in school bags.

Movie Night

There will be a movie night this term and it will be 'Marmaduke'. Check out the school's website for the movie trailer. Date to be confirmed but it will probably be during Week 11 of this term.

GALA Meeting

There is a planning/brainstorming meeting on **Wednesday 19 May at 1.30pm** in the staffroom. Anyone who is interested in the planning or able to fill a specific role please come along or email Winnie aam@xtra.co.nz

Sports Notices

Year 5 Netball Results
1/5/10

The Moas fought a very close battle with the Baytex Allstars team on court 15 today. Baytex won 3 - 0 in the end. The Moas played very well and have gained confidence and skills in the 2 weeks since starting training. Stand out player of the day was Millicent Pascoe at Goal Defence with numerous intercepts, great team leadership, determination and inspiration as Captain of the team today. I'm proud of your terrific effort today girls.
Rose Vos, Coach, Yr 5 Magic Moas

Grading Game No. 2

Well done team on a great effort yesterday. It was a closely fought match (again) with the opposition winning 3 - 0. Player of the day trophy was awarded to Eva C-B for some excellent intercepts and demonstration of great energy throughout the game. Congratulations to all the players for maximum effort. Thanks to the parents for help on the day to select Player of the Day and to Score the game. I am very proud of the fair play and sportsmanship demonstrated by the entire team. Titirangi Primary School should be proud of the way you all carry yourselves and represent the school so maturely.

I think we should expect the umpiring from now on in the competition to be as it was on Saturday - fair, consistent and to the letter of the book. The umpire mentioned to me that full rules apply to year 5 teams and above, so we need to expect for example, that we only have 3 seconds to hold the ball before we are penalised. If we get a relaxed umpire again, then that's OK, but we should anticipate them to be upholding the rules to the adult standards.

Rose Vos,
Coach

Community Notices

GREEN BAY BOUTIQUE CRAFT MARKET, Saturday 15 May, held at the Green Bay Community House, Every 3rd Saturday 10am to 1pm at 1 Barron Drive, Behind New World, Ph 827 3300, Email: gbcommunityhouse@xtra.co.nz, Café & Sausage Sizzle

MOTAT

There is **FREE ENTRY** for Waitakere City Residents **1 to 31 May**. Take your rates bill or proof of your address to MOTAT and receive free entry for you and your family (2 adults and 4 children under 16). Open every day 10am to 5pm.

MOTHERS RECYCLE SALE

BRIC A BRAC – KIDS TOYS BOOKS- BABYGear, WOMEN, MENS & CHILDRENS CLOTHING SHOES, CUPCAKES & TREATS , ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING
SAT 5th JUNE 2010 from 10 AM – 2 PM at KAURILANDS SCHOOL HALL, ATKINSON RD, TITIRANGI
STALL HOLDER ENQUIRES- Ph Jess 0211449567/8261545 or Asha 021 0583770

Drama Classes

At Titirangi Community House, 500 South Titirangi Road. We have some places for youngster who want to learn T.V. and Film Acting this term for children aged 8 to 12 years old. The course is run by David Wray T.V. and Film acting teacher.

Especially designed for children it gets them actively involved in drama, comedy. T.V. Presentation and acting for Film. Using creative imaginative games. As well as acting students get to use the cameras, design scenery, make puppets, write script. All the skills involved in production. Building up their confidence through new interactive games and play.
For more information ring David on **818-3347**

Can you Sing? To all Pupils, Parents and Teachers - Learn from one of Waitakere's Most experienced teachers, singers broadcasters, opera singers - Cyril Kelleway Kelston. Phone 8187645. E-mail ayceekay@clear.net.nz
Bring your Newsletter or e-mail for Discounted 1st Lesson and help your School Funds when I'll send a cheque towards funds at the end of your first term.

4 week Shaolin Kempo Self Defence course

Important life skills for children - Improved awareness, confidence plus non aggressive response to bullies
Starts Friday 7th May at Glen Eden Intermediate School
Cost \$39 for 1 child or \$69 for 2.

"It's all about fun, focus and self discipline. Call us for a free martial arts class.
Chris or Annette Church 09 6296678/www.risingdragon.co.nz"