



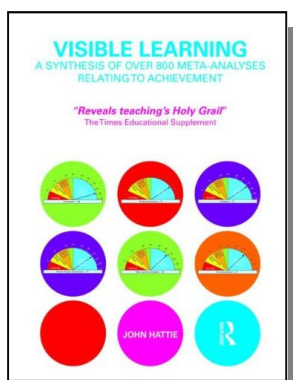
Titirangi Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 8 March, 2010

"Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't"

- Pete Seeger (1919...) American Folk Singer



Last year a book by Professor John Hattie from the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland gained considerable attention in the media. The book was called 'Visible Learning'. It detailed the results of a meta-analysis of research on what factors most positively influence student learning as well identifying factors which had a negative effect.

One of the findings reported, that caused some controversy, was that class size didn't matter. This seemed to fly in the face of common wisdom and indeed common sense. Actually Prof Hattie's research showed that class size does matter, smaller classes do have a positive effect on student learning but compared to other factors it is quite a small effect – in fact out of 138 influences on student learning identified in his analysis, class size ranks 106th.

So, what are the most important influences? The top two are; students' estimates of their own performance ("Student Self Reporting") and teachers matching instructional materials and tasks to students' stages of development ("Piagetian Programmes")

So what do these mean in practice? It is apparent that students have a reasonably accurate understanding of their levels of achievement, especially by the time they are in High School. They are quite knowledgeable about their chances of success. The implications for teachers would seem to be that we need to access this knowledge through student self evaluation and conferencing, ensure they have appropriately challenging learning goals and to ensure that expectations for success are not less than what students know they can achieve.

Moderating this is the need for teachers to know about how students think and how this is shaped by their stages of development. Teachers then need to be able to choose resources and design learning experiences with appropriate levels of difficulty and challenge that relate to the stages of development.

The influence identified as having the most negative impact was mobility or transience. Typically a change of school results in adjustment issues, particularly in establishing friendships that are supportive of learning.

In subsequent newsletters I will discuss other factors identified by this valuable research (including homework and television) and also discuss how we are using it in some of our decision making.

Professor Hattie's book is available from the University Bookshop at the University of Auckland. There is also material on the University website.

DIARY UPDATES

Please note that the NZEI meeting originally scheduled for March 10 has been postponed.

There are no other current updates or date changes to the Term 1 Fridge List

- **Drop-off Zone Reminder**
- **Home/School Communication**
- **Lost Property**
- **Y5 Birkenhead Photos**
- **TPS Healthwatch Update**
- **School Councillors 2010**
- **New Speed Zone Signs**

DROP OFF ZONE REMINDER

This is a perennial issue – it is most important that during the busy drop off times that no one parks and leaves their car as this completely disrupts the flow of cars in and out of the area. Traffic wardens will be patrolling regularly and issuing tickets to those ignoring the signs. Note the signs actually say the area is a P2min from 8.00 – 9.00 am and 2.15 – 3.15 pm.

MESSAGES TO CHILDREN

If you are contacting the office with a message for your child about a change to pick up arrangements, please make sure you do so well before the bell at 2.55 pm. This allows time for the office staff to get the message to the children while they are still in class. Despite best efforts we cannot guarantee getting a message to children once they have been dismissed.

NOTICES FOR TRIPS AND EVENTS

In line with our continuing drive to improve and streamline our home/school communications, we are currently working to tackle the “bottom of the bag” issue that can lead to the occasional important notice turning up late or being missed altogether. This can be a potential issue for Senior School students (who don't have a ‘book bag’ or similar system), so for Years 4, 5 & 6, when a paper notice is sent home we will also send a copy by email as an attachment. The subject line will be “TPS Notice”. If you see this in your inbox you will know that it is important, but also that your child should have a paper copy with them.

LOST PROPERTY

A quick thank you for a great job ensuring that the children's items are named at school. We have had less loss property to deal with recently! Also, a reminder that we clear any remaining items off site at the end of weeks 3, 6 and 9 each term.

Y5 EOTC AT BIRKENHEAD

The Y5 students had a fantastic time rising to the challenges of Birkenhead Leisure Centre last week. We had excellent support from a number of parents who attended or offered to help if required. Thank you to all the Y5 parents who helped make both days such an enjoyable and rewarding experience for the students. Photos of the trip are available on the gallery pages of the website.

INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING TEAM

A big thank you to our swim coach, Ms Guiver, and the parent helpers who have offered so much of their time for training sessions at the Westwave pools. We are looking forward to the Interschool Event on March 17!

Also a huge well done to all the talented and hardworking students who stepped forward for the trails. An awesome effort from all the kids!

PARENT TUTOR READING PROGRAMME

We are still seeking volunteers to assist in our Parent Tutor Reading Programme on Monday, Thursday and Friday. This involves working with four individual children, giving them extra reading practice on one morning a week from 9.00 – 10.00. It is very rewarding to tutors and the children grow in confidence in their reading. A helpful DVD is available for guidance. If you are keen to help, or to find out more, please contact Brigette Helwes.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER

We are seeking a volunteer to help weekly in the library with book covering and mending. If you are available for an hour or two please contact Veronica McLeod through the school office. Thank you.

SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

We are delighted to announce that the following children have been elected by their class members to be School Councillors for the 2010 year.

Rm 9: Kyle S, Kirsty W, Jasmin B, Poppy M
Rm 10: Erika D, Ruby W, Zach L, Jordan W.
Rm 11: Millicent P, Gemma L, Ben A, Daniel S,
Rm 12: Finn M, Caitlin T, Eleanor D, Sarah H.
Rm 8: Trent D, Caitlin W, Julia T, Abbey R.
Rm 22: Liam A, Kiki H, Louie C, Sebastian T.

The purpose of having School Councillors at Titirangi Primary School is;

- To extend and develop qualities of leadership and responsibility
- Seek and represent the views of other students
- Support other students generally
- Raise funds for the school's sponsored child, Gangaram

We have found that class councillors in previous years enjoy taking a leadership role in the school and show initiative, dedication and behaviours appropriate to this position. We have every confidence that this fine group of children will be equally successful.

SPEED ZONE

Titirangi Primary School is scheduled for some electronic 40kph signs to be installed on these roads in the next few months. It is expected that these signs should more than adequately address concerns of parents and other community members in the Titirangi area.

TPS HEALTHWATCH UPDATE

We continue to monitor health advice and information from the Ministry and review our procedures. As we head for colder months, it is important to begin thinking about the steps we can take collectively to remind the children about the importance of good hygiene, in line with the current guidance in the run up to the 2010 flu season:

- Good hygiene is the first line of defence. This includes handwashing, thoroughly drying hands, covering sneezes and coughs.
- If your child is unwell, keep them at home.
- The flu vaccine stops influenza spreading and helps keep the community safe. It includes immunisation against pandemic influenza H1N1 (swine flu). The vaccine is free to people with a high risk of developing severe complications from flu.

There is a possibility of influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu) returning in the lead up to winter. To prepare for this, we are undertaking a review of our pandemic action plan.

ASB SCHOOL BANKING

Congratulations to Lucy M from Room 3 who won \$50.00 in the weekly savings prize draw.



PTA PATCH

School Picnic

Thank you to every one who came to our picnic on Friday! The weather was excellent and there was a great atmosphere. Hopefully this will become an annual event. We would especially like to thank Helga Raguideau, Jim Oxley, Graeme Thompson, Jan Rundle, Ron Van der Plas, Lindsay Dawber, Vic Jack, Sandie O'Gorman (and her Mum), Andrew Maehl, Katie Hutchinson for volunteering their time to help make the BBQ run smoothly. We would also like to thank **Atomic Coffee Roasters** for donating the sacks for the races.

Friday Lunches

Our next lunch will be on **Friday 26 March** and it will be Sushi. Please look out for the lunch order forms going home on Monday 22 March. 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 Sushi will be **9.30am Thursday 25 March. THIS DEADLINE WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.** The office will remind classes on Thursday morning to bring in orders that may have been forgotten in school bags.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday 16 March at 7.00 pm in the Staffroom. All welcome. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the PTA section of the school website and on the public notice board just inside the school office. If you would like to be included in the e-mail list for the agenda please e-mail Louise on brentandlou@paradise.net.nz.

DANCES WITH WEEDS? Sunday 21st March 10.00am - 2.00pm Titirangi School lower field.

No, this is not a triffid maypole trip but it is a morning get together to look at the plants that we label as weeds. Weeds, unfortunately, threaten our native bush through uncontrolled growth. Weeds that many Waitakere residents should be well aware of but often do not know how to control are weeds like kahilli ginger, tradescantia, woolly nightshade and climbing asparagus. Come with old clothes and a spade and the family and 'Dance with Weeds'. Learn about composting, get a free sausage and support our PTA who will be selling iceblocks and drinks. Make it a family date.

Community Notices

FARMERS' MARKET BOUNCY CASTLE. The Farmers Market Titirangi is hosting a bouncy Castle for the kids on the next 2 market days March 21st and April 18th. Come take an around the world food journey , choose from the freshest selectionssit and relax be entertained ,meet up with friends, do your shopping and let the kids play. The Titirangi Community Centre ,Memorial Hall and Library car park 10am to 2pm the 3rd Sunday of every month.

AUCKLAND ACADEMY OF DANCE is currently enrolling now for 2010. We offer dance classes for preschoolers and school aged children for Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop and Contemporary. Located at 59 Portage Rd New Lynn the Academy has been parents choice for nurturing young dancers for more than 30yrs. email: office@aucklandacademyofdance.co.nz or call Nicole 021 246 2801. You can also check us out on the web www.aucklandacademyofdance.co.nz

2 WEEK SHAOLIN KEMPO INTRODUCTORY COURSE. Kempo builds mental toughness, improves concentration and teaches effective self-defence skills. Places limited to 30 children aged 5-13yrs. Contact Senior Master Quintin Derham on 8168649 or info.kempo@xtra.co.nz

"THE AUCKLAND BOYS' CHOIR is celebrating its 40th Jubilee this year and to mark this occasion it has been decided to increase the number of boys from 30 to 40. This means that there are 10 additional places for boys aged 9 to 12 years. For further information phone 522 4227."

BALLET, JAZZ, HIP HOP, LYCIAL. Auckland West Dance Academy. 358 West Coast Road, Glen Eden. Pre-school to adults. Professional Dance Studios, Annual show – Exams – Competitions. www.awda.co.nz or phone Kym 813 5459, 027 264 7287.

KIDS KUNG FU – After school activities programme focusing on confidence, co-ordination and self-control for children 5 years and above. At Titirangi Memorial Hall on Thursday at 4.00 – 5.00 pm. To enrol phone Chris on 817 2229 or www.kungfu.org.nz

ALL STAR CHEERLEADERS is running Free American Style Cheerleading Classes in your area. Everyone is welcome no experience necessary. For more information call 0800 CHEERLEADER or www.allstarcheerleaders.co.nz.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY COURSES - HENDERSON

For the first time, our school holiday courses are coming to West Auckland! Have you ever wondered how computer games and 3D movies like Shrek are made? Learn the latest in 3D Animation and Games Design on a Bubble Dome School Holiday workshop this April at St Dominic's College. Other courses in Architecture, Fashion Design, Movie Making and Ultra Games Development are on offer around Auckland. For students aged 6 to 17 years. Tel: 622 0670 or Email: info@bubbledome.co.nz or Visit: www.bubbledome.co.nz.

HELP NEEDED. My two girls need a lift at least as far as Glen Eden Intermediate three days a week. Petrol costs will be paid. If you can help please phone 835 1800 in the evening and speak to Anne.

BOOKFAIR Fundraiser for Neighbourhood Support Waitakere. Thousands of books for sale at bargain prices, all books having been generously donated by the public. Fiction, non-fiction and children's. Sat 20th and Sun 21st March, 9am - 3pm, Waiaatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Rd, Waiaatarua

TITIRANGI KINDERGARTEN GALA. The Kindergarten is holding its annual Gala on Saturday 13 March 2010 from 10am to 2pm. There will be stalls for Kids and a Silent Auction.

Sports Notices

SATURDAY NETBALL - MUSTER

We will be having a netball muster on SUNDAY 14TH MARCH and WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH for any players (Y2-6) interested in playing netball for the school. Registration forms are available from the office or by emailing titiranginetball@gmail.com and need to be returned to the office by Wednesday 10th March. Games are played on Saturdays during Terms 2 & 3 in Henderson, with weekly practices at school. For more information contact Jan Rundle ph. 817-5699 or email titiranginetball@gmail.com.

TITIRANGI SCHOOL FLIPPABALL RESULTS

Year 5/6 Kingis 7th March

Huge well done to everyone on Sunday night for playing back to back games. The first game against St Dominics had exceptional passing and the coach was happy to see the team doing exactly what had been practiced. A good win for the Titirangi Kingis.

A tough second game saw the Kingis fighting to get the ball off the bigger team, a tight finish. Glen Eden did win but the Kingis did well to hold the final score 5-3.

28th Feb

Fantastic passing resulting in a 2-nil win against a strong Oratia. Goals scored by Andie and Matariki. Big thanks to Tim for organising practices for us.

Year 5/6 Sharks 7th March

The Titirangi Sharks had two games on Sunday. Game 1 was a tightly fought battle against Oratia that ended in a 2 -2 tie. Great defense and fantastic goal keeping by Jonty and Sebastian kept us in the game. Anton scored both goals.

The Sharks dominated in game 2, beating Glen Eden 9-0. Goals were scored by, Andie, Georgia, Alex, Anton, Liam, Jonty, and Sebastian.

Year 3/4 Barracudas 7th Mar

Tremendous effort by everyone to win against Edmonton. The passing was fantastic and the defense great.

The Barracudas put in a great effort by were narrowly beaten by Monte Cecilia. A great effort especially since they had just finished playing Edmonton.

28th Feb

A very tough game against a very good Woodlands Park which resulted in a loss 4-3. A big thank you to Alex and Daniel playing for us.

Year 3/4 Marlins 7th Mar

The Marlins had a great game against Monte Cecilia they did some very good passing and they made Monte Cecilia work very hard for their win – well done.

28th Feb

This was our very first game as a team and all though we didn't win against Woodlands Park 2 we never gave up trying. Great Spirit.