

Mayoral Cycling Challenge

Help Rodney become NZ's most cycle mad city



Orewa Reserve - Sunday 28 February 2010

A short course from Orewa Surf Club along HBC Highway.
Register on the day from 9.00am for a 10am start

Free goody bags

Spot prizes
Free Entry*

Entertainment
for the whole
family



No Helmet,
No Shoes - NO RIDE

Wear bright clothing or your high
visibility vest - Be Safe, Be Seen.
Wear your helmet fitted properly.



Centreboard Sailing with the Sandspit Yacht Club at Algies Bay

Club days start Sunday 7 Feb.

A Learn to Sail course for children
from 9yrs will be held on Sunday
mornings starting 14 Feb. There
are limited spaces therefore to
register please contact :

Vivienne 425 9401

Or for further information
email mvinn@slingshot.co.nz



"Snells Beach School will prepare children for successful futures and life-long learning through dynamic teaching and quality learning opportunities"



From the Principal

*Kia ora, kia orana and greetings
to our school families*

A big welcome to 2010! We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with the chance to consolidate and build on all the good things that we established last year.

I am delighted that we have started the year with 170 students – one short of the number we finished with last year. When you consider that we sent 24 of our Year 6 students off to Mahurangi College at the end of 2009, this is an amazing start for us!

On Wednesday we had a very 'low key' birthday party, but a very enjoyable day and we plan to commemorate our birthday every year in a similar way. The children have settled well into new classes for the year and with the numbers of new enrolments we have had there will also be some new children to make friends with. As a new school and with unpredictable enrolment numbers while we grow it is inevitable that we will need to have some composite or mixed year level classes across the school. We also do this from time to time to ensure that class numbers stay as low as possible. This is common practice in all schools. Being in a composite class does not mean a child is any more capable or less capable than any other. All classes are grouped for mixed ability, but there are a number of other factors that are also taken into account. **Please be assured that very careful consideration is given to the makeup of every class in the school.** As there seems to be some confusion about this, I have included further information in this newsletter that may provide clarification (see **Education Information for Parents**).

Thank you to those parents who have supported us by ordering their children's stationery promptly this week. The children's stationery requirements are our "Tools of Trade." Teachers cannot operate without the correct, good quality materials for the children to work with, and we put a great deal of time and effort into sourcing these. We also provide these to you at cost. As an indicator, a comparison of the contents of our year 3 packs with the prices at The Warehouse, our packs are \$16.08 cheaper. We do not make money on our packs, so we do appreciate your support of our professional needs.

Jill Corkin

School Diary

Term 1 Dates 2010: Wednesday 3 February 2010 – Thursday 1 April 2010

Week 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 February	9 February	10 February	11 February	12 February
			11.30 am House Captains Speeches	2pm – Full School Assembly

Week 3

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15 February	16 February	17 February	18 February	19 February
	Y1,2 & 5,6 Swimming starts 4.30pm – Meet the Teacher sessions		Y1,2 & 5,6 Swimming	2pm – Junior School Assembly

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1 2010

- Interschool Swimming – Tuesday 9 March
- Year2/3 Interschool Sports – 30 March
- End of Term 1 – Thursday 1 April
- Terms 2 starts – Monday 19 April

Education Information for Parents

Composite Classes

From time to time it is necessary to create mixed year level classes. There are some schools in NZ who operate composites across the whole school for philosophical reasons. At Snells Beach School, the need for composite classes is at the moment driven primarily by numbers at each year level and staffing levels. We have very uneven numbers at each year level on the one hand, and also the luxury of more staffing which enables smaller classes. Each child is considered individually where we have the luxury of a choice of class placement and a huge range of factors are considered; age, a mixture of abilities, social interactions with other children, fit with the teacher, size of the class, balance of boys and girls, whether or not they have been in a composite class the previous year and any other specific information we may have on the child. This is easier with children we know, and not so easy with new children to the school. At the end of the day, decisions have to be made, and we do our best to balance all of these factors for all children.

The Curriculum and Composite Classes

The NZ Curriculum no longer specifies a course of study for each curriculum. It is designed as a 'seamless' curriculum and teachers are expected to work the children at the level they are capable of learning at. That is why we can have mixed ability classes. In any one class, there may be children working across two levels (or more) of the curriculum, at the level appropriate to their ability. In very isolated cases where a child may be working well ahead or behind and is the only one at this level in the class, he or she may be 'cross-grouped' and work for literacy or numeracy with another class altogether. These are decisions we are continually assessing and making to meet each child's individual needs.

In summary, if a child is in the higher age level cohort of a composite class (e.g. a Year 4 in a Y3/4 composite), he will not be 'held back'. Similarly if a child is in the lower age bracket (e.g. a Year 2 in a Y2/3 composite) she will not be expected to work ahead of herself. Each child will work at the level he or she is capable of.

At Snells beach School in 2010 we have 2 composite classes – one Year2/3 class and one Year3 /4 class. There are no straight Year 3 classes, although due to numbers we do have a straight Year 2 and a straight Year 4 class in addition to the composite classes.

Welcome to:

James McMurtrie	Danny Blank	Keisha Stewart	Nicholas Hopkins
Maia Collins	Priyal Patel	Sila Coleman	Savanna Conradie
Danielle Keats	Talia Carstensen	Adriana Phillips	Jared Clark
Noah Magnusson	Toby Webb	Cameron Phillips	Jack Merton-McCafferty
Annabell McKenzie	Zale Godfrey	Cameron Keats	Arielle Heslop
Joylene Dymond-Tiumalu	Elisha Ferris	Cassie Clark	Connor Bagby
Hapotiki Ngataierua –Tamaiva	Ella Court		

We hope you will enjoy being a part of our school.

School Events

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

We were thrilled to celebrate Snells Beach School's First Birthday together on Wednesday. Like most first years, we have learned an enormous amount, grown significantly bigger, and most importantly had fun along the way! After a school assembly and a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" we finished our first day back with nice, cold Juicies in the courtyard area.



Meet The Teacher Afternoon

Wednesday 17 February 4.30pm – 6.00pm

Year 6 Camp Meeting

Wednesday 17 February 6.00pm

On Wednesday 17 February we invite you to attend a 'Meet the Teacher' session in your child's classroom. This is an opportunity for the teacher to outline class programmes, discuss class routines and expectations and any organizational aspects that you need to know about. It is also an opportunity for you to meet other parents in your child's class and ask any questions of a general nature. Please note this is not an opportunity to discuss individual children.

The session will be run twice by each class teacher – **at 4.30pm and 5.15pm** - to enable parents with multiple children to visit BOTH classes in succession. **More details and a reminder notice will follow.**

Parents of Year 6 students are invited to attend a Camp Meeting in the staffroom on the same night at 6pm. **More details to follow.**

BUS TRAVEL

All past and present bus students have been issued with a bus notice from Mrs Gore. These must be returned by Monday if you want your child to travel on the bus.

Thank you