

10 August 2012

NEWSLETTER NO. 8

Kia ora koutou nga matua,

The term is really flying by, here we are at the end of Week 4 already. The only blessing is that we will hopefully be coming into some warmer weather.

Haven't our athletes been doing well at the Olympic games? Judging by some of the tired kids we are seeing at school some of you have been sitting up late cheering the athletes on.

New Enrolments

I would like to welcome the following children and their families to Avalon School. I am sure that you will enjoy your time here with us.

Maida Mahamud, Anushka Kumar, Danigna Heng, Toni Roberts, Aidan Fa-asoi, Salman Deeq and Hannah Smith

Teacher Only Day

There will be a Teacher Only Day next Friday 17 August. School will be closed. A reminder will come home next Wednesday. If you have difficulties arranging care for your child please ring the school so we can discuss alternatives with you.

Mathematics Evening

The teachers have been having some courses on improving our maths teaching and this is really showing out in our results. We will be holding a maths evening for parents in week 7 of this term. The date will be coming home in the next newsletter, so please keep an eye out for it. Come along as your support will result in greater progress for your child.

Attendance

Many of you know that we are having a real focus on attendance this year. A few people have even been visited by the truancy officer. It is really important that you send your children along to school every day unless they are sick. I was presenting some achievement information to the Board of Trustees last night and it was really clear that those that attended school and had support from their parents made the most progress.

Attendance at the moment is 88%. The Board's target is 90%

Parent Interviews

Thank you to all those parents who made themselves available for Parent interviews. We had an 80% turnout which is fantastic. When the school and the whanau works together closely the children will benefit.

Te Papa Trip

The whole school has recently been to Te Papa. The Junior school was looking at the bugs and insects area while the seniors were looking at the living cloaks, Kahu Ora exhibition. I know that some of you were surprised that there was a cost for Te Papa as your experience is that it is free. For school programmes, where Te Papa supplies us with an educator, there is a cost involved. As a school we subsidise this cost for all our kids to ensure they have access to these educational experiences.

After-School Care

This is finally up and running. Pridelands is the organisation who is operating this programme for us. Moses and his staff are very enthusiastic and caring. They are providing a high quality programme for our kids so if you are requiring care for your kids until you finish work please call into the school and we will give you the details.

Koha

As many of you know Avalon operates a koha system for our school donations. We appreciate any koha no matter how large or small. Please give what you can afford and we will ensure that any monies that we receive from you will directly benefit our kids.

Extra Curricular Activities

We have started off our miniball/ basketball season really well. Thank you to those parents and extended family members who are helping to coach and manage the teams. We would not be able to put in our teams without your support.

Electives

We are beginning our next elective programme today. The kids have been offered a range of activities to participate in. If you would like to be a part of this please get in touch. Last term we had parents running different options and we also had parents just coming along to join in. There is no pressure on you we only want to get you involved in sharing your skills with our kids.

New Staff

We have recently employed two teacher aides to work alongside our kids. I would like to welcome Regan Thompson and Tania Amohau to our staff. I am sure the children working with them will benefit from their input.

Parking and Traffic Safety

This is a regular issue for us and sometimes we slip into bad habits. Now that the weather is improving please drop you child outside the school grounds as the driveway is for the taxis and parents who bring the Special Needs kids to school. We also want to maintain a good relationship with our neighbours so try not to park over their driveways when picking up your kids. I had a neighbour in the other day who was a little cross and she threatened to ring the parking wardens, so please help us to be a good neighbour by parking legally.

Lisa from 'Nitsy Pixies'

Are you struggling with headlice? Treating but they seem to keep coming back?
Then contact me on 0800 nitsypixies (6480797) or through my [website, www.nitsypixies.co.nz](http://www.nitsypixies.co.nz).
I do in-salon Treatments or can provide you with my well tested Treatment oil for you to do at home.
Mention your school name when booking and get 10% off!

General

As always I enjoy having informal conversations with parents so please feel free to drop in and have a coffee or a chat. If you have a concern that you wish to discuss with me please call ahead to make a time so I can ensure that I am available.

This is a great school and we can only continue to improve if we all work together and respect each other. As the Maori whakatauki says;

He aha te mea nui o te ao?
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

And we have some great people associated with this school.

Noho mai ra

Dirk