

16 July 2012

NEWSLETTER NO. 7

Talofa lava,

Welcome back to what I hope will be a warmer third term than what today promises. I hope you all had the opportunity to spend some time with your kids, doing the activities that you all enjoy.

I was fortunate enough to spend part of my break in Samoa. Partially this was a holiday, but it also had an educational aspect for me. Almost a third of the children at Avalon School have a Samoan background. Although many of our children are New Zealand born, a significant number of the parents are not.

I was left with a number of impressions regarding Samoa, not least of these was the friendliness of almost everybody who I met. I was able to visit the school of one of our former pupils, Sikipi Aumali'i. That was a huge eye opener for me with over 50 children in almost every class. Sikipi certainly misses Avalon School and if he had the chance he would have come back with me.

Attendance

Currently we have an overall attendance rate of 86%. The Board of Trustees have set a target of 90% for our school. We want to work very hard over the next two terms to increase our level of attendance. If there is any reason that your child is not attending school please get in touch with me so that I can provide you with support is necessary. There is a large body of research that links achievement to attendance. We all want to do the best for our kids so let's get them to school to give them the best possible chance of success.

Parent Conferences

At the end of last term you will have received a report on your child's progress over the first part of the year. The report is only a summary of how your child is achieving. To follow up we will be holding parent conferences in Week two of this term. It is really important that you make an appointment to come along and meet your child's teacher and discuss how we can work together with you to maximise your child's learning opportunity.

Please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and send it back to school as soon as possible so that I can confirm an interview time for you.

Staffing

I'm sure that you will join me in welcoming Niamh O'Malley. Niamh will be working with the Year One children as we have had quite a bit of growth in this area.

We said farewell to Supriya Sharma at the end of last term. Supriya was a teacher aide working with individual children throughout the school. Her husband has transferred to Australia and we wish her and Viraj all the best for the next chapter in their lives.

Last term Lyn's sons had a dreadful accident while racing in the Targa Rally. This left both of the boys with significant injuries. I know that you will join us in offering Lyn support through your thoughts and prayers.

Sarah lost her grandmother in the first week of the holidays. You will know that the bond between a grandchild and a grandparent is a very special one. Our thoughts are also with Sarah at this time.

Elective Programme

Those of you who came to the assembly at the end of last term would have seen the range of elective programmes that we had. We would like to continue and build on this programme. If you are able to assist in any way or offer a new skill to our kids then we would love to hear from you. Please contact the office if you would like to be a part of this programme.

Property

Many of you would have seen the work going on in Rooms 8 – 10. We were hoping that it would have been finished by the end of the holiday but apparently there was a delay in getting some of the flooring. However it will not be too far away and we will be able to move the classes into these rooms.

School Donations

Remember our school operates a koha system. We ask only that you make a donation that you can afford, the amount is entirely up to you. No amount is too small. It all goes to support your child in their learning. Please just drop into the office and give your koha to Jacque or Julie. We appreciate your support.

Parent Interviews

Child's name _____ Room/Teacher _____

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Please circle the day and time slot you would prefer and I will try to accommodate your preference.

Tuesday 23 July 3.30 – 6 p.m. OR 6.30 – 8 p.m.

Wednesday 24 July 3.30 – 6 p.m. OR 6.30 – 8 p.m.

Thursday 25 July 3.30 – 6 p.m. OR 6.30 – 8 p.m.



Dare to dream

