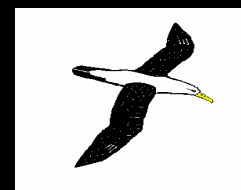


Tahuna News



Welcome

Welcome back to Term 2. Our camping programme was one of the big focus activities in the first term, and I thank all parent helpers and staff who supported other classes for making these experiences available for our students.

The Board of Trustees has its Annual Meeting on Monday, May 8th, in the school staffroom at 7.30 pm. As always, a warm welcome is extended to all parents.

A reminder about the UCAP meeting for Year 7 parents. This health unit is an important one for our students as they approach this age of pre-adolescence.

The Tahuna Newsletters are posted on the Tahuna Website (www.tahuna.school.nz), but can also be emailed to you. If you have problems receiving your newsletters, contact me on tahuna@tahuna.school.nz and I will ensure an electronic copy is forwarded.

It is pleasing to be able to recycle our paper at Tahuna again. We enjoyed this opportunity two years ago, but have been unable to continue recently. There is a considerable cost for this venture, but it is seen as an important habit to involve our students in – sending less to landfill, and recycling.

We also have a new student group formed who are taking a strong interest in looking after their school grounds. Wonderful attitudes and prepared to do their bit. Well done!

Brent Ward

Principal.

Staff News

Last week Mrs Whitson gave birth to her third daughter - Laney, and I hear mother and child are fighting fit and adjusting to new family ways in Mosgiel.

We also welcome Mr Greg MacLeod to the staff as he is replacing Liza in the art room while she is on Maternity leave. Welcome also to Mr Quintin Edwards who has joined the staff as our new P/E support. He has quickly adjusted to life at Tahuna and his sessions on – Large ball skills are going well.

Sport / P/E

To continue the fine supporting contributions we have had in Rippa Rugby and cricket, we are fortunate to have ex –staff member and now Netball Otago coach, Trish Conrad, back to share her expertise with children over the next four weeks. Teachers and children are looking forward to working with Trish again.

Technology

On the 3rd of April a group of students were selected to go on a booster electronics course at Dunedin polytechnic. The booster course helped us to learn about a programmable electronic chip that is easy for students to programme so we can do more with electronics than just simple circuits. It is called a Picaxe chip.

We learnt we can use the Picaxe chip as the basis for any project we want.

The course was run by Bright Sparks, www.brightsparks.co.nz which is an organisation to help young kids learn about electronics.



Sam Doran, Peter Shields and Cheng-Ju with their first Picaxe chip robot.

Peninsula Bus Service

Recently, when talking to the Dunedin Passenger Service Bus Company I was told that there would be increases to ticket prices in the near future. Today the following message came through from Colin Milford - Due to increases in fuel over the last 18 months

and increases in wages, we find we have to raise fares on our school bus service. As from 15th May 2006, the cost of fares will be as follows. Between Portobello and Luss Rd / Company Bay –ten trips \$20 with a single fare at \$2.50. Company Bay onwards - ten trips \$16 and single fare \$2 The company will of course continue to honour all old tickets.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are not to be brought along to school. On the odd occasion when calls have to be made to parents / caregivers then a phone is available. Necessary incoming messages for children are sent promptly to classes.

Absences from School

Thanks to all those parents / caregivers who phone the school to inform us of their child's absence. This is really appreciated and ensures the overall safety of the child. However, on some days Paula Chittock our secretary has to spend a great deal of time ringing homes to ascertain the whereabouts of children. A quick call from parents to school reduces her work load . Thankyou.

Keeping Ourselves Safe

During this term, Year 8 classes will be involved in the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme where children are taught a range of safe practices that they can use when interacting with other people. The programme encourages children who have or are being abused to seek help and contributes to an overall

community prevention programme. This child abuse prevention programme has been developed in response to an increasing awareness amongst Police and teachers of the need to protect children from abuse. The programme is as follows:

MODULE 1: Students can recognise potential danger and describe strategies that will keep them safe.

MODULE 2: Students demonstrate a responsible attitude towards their own safety and the safety of people they may be with.

MODULE 3: Students can identify different types of abuse, know anyone can be a victim, and that abusers can be peers, authority figures or people they know and love. Students know that abuse must be stopped.

Module 4: Students describe stress within families and suggest ways of handling this. Students distinguish between appropriate family discipline and abuse. Students can explain they have the right to proper care and protection and should be safe within their family.

Module 5: Students explain why it is important to report abuse, list possible people to report to and ways this can be done.

Module 6: Students explain what happens when abuse is reported and can share their knowledge about abuse in an appropriate manner.

If you have any queries regarding this programme or would like more information, please contact the class teacher or Mrs Toa, through the office.

School Uniform

It was very pleasing to see the children returning to school

last Wednesday in full uniforms. Extra jewellery was absent along with no nail polish and correct, regulation shoes.

Observing class P/E sessions was also a delight as again children were attired in green shorts, Tahuna T- shirts and sports shoes. It was indeed great to see our children looking like Tahuna students - This was really appreciated.

School Council Disco

The end of term School Council Disco was another success, with the majority of our students attending and being most appropriately behaved. Thank you to parents for collecting your children promptly, although for safety reasons, we do want pupils collected from the exit, as outlined in the invitation.

\$808 was raised and we look forward to the next Council meeting where Councillors will help select where the money is to be spent from the numerous suggestions.

School Reports

We seem to have just started school for 2006 but realistically we are already into week 2 of term 2 and this means we have moved into the preparation stage for Mid- Year Reports. Unit comments have been shaped and teachers are starting to collate marks and general assessments for the next stage.

Over the next weeks we will see teachers writing comments for some of the many subjects they have to report on. Reports will be sent home at the end of term.

Tahuna Miniball

Last Saturday night, 12 Tahuna miniball players were given the opportunity to play at half time at the Otago Nuggets vs Auckland Stars basketball game.

Everyone arrived at the Edgar stadium around 7pm in time for the start at half past. After the first quarter the two teams went down to the old court for a practice run before the start at half time. After we were announced on, the game started with a tip off and the game begun. It was very fast paced and the four minutes flew by. A lot of good baskets were made and in no time at all the game was over and we were back in our seats to watch the second half of the game.

We were all very lucky for the opportunity and we all enjoyed playing against each other, and hopefully Tahuna will get invited back next time.

Matt Mulconroy

Otago Primary Schools Swimming Championships.

Tahuna had six swimmers competing against tough opposition from 72 other Otago schools. Swimmers came from as far away as Twizel, Queenstown, Clinton and Glenavy.

The Tahuna Team consisted of:

- Gemma Baldock
- Garth Fulton
- Phoebe O'Leary
- Kate Robertson
- Rebecca Thom
- Anja Waugh

Heats were swum in the morning with the finals and relays at night. We congratulate

the team for the following results:

- Rebecca Thom was 3rd in the 11yrs - 50 m Breaststroke
- Gemma Baldock was 6th in the 10yrs - 50 backstroke and 8th in the 50 Freestyle
- Anja Waugh was 6th in the 11yrs – 50 Freestyle.
- Phoebe O'Leary was 6th in the 12yrs – 50 Breaststroke.
- Gemma , Anja, Rebecca and Phoebe came together for the relays and were placed 4th in the 200m Freestyle and Individual Medley relays.
- Well done.

Recipe for the Perfect Book

Ingredients:

- 7 Cups of humour herbs
- 1 Teaspoon of suspense sugar
- A dollop of horror cream
- A sprinkle of action
- Ground mystery garlic
- 5g of paper butter
- Squeeze some fantasy juice

Method:

- 1.Put the paper butter into a medium sized bowl along with the humour herbs and mix well.
- 2.Squeeze in some fantasy juice to the mixture to add that extra unreal feeling.
- 3.Then add a dollop of horror cream to give it the additional fright but be careful, it could petrify you if you dollop too hard!
- 4.For the third last step add the wonderful suspense sugar to make the book sweet and a great read.
- 5.Stick all of the ingredients into the oven for about 2 hours then after the long wait take it out.
- 6.Finally to top it all off add a sprinkle of action! And there you have it, the Recipe for the Perfect Book.

By Ben Drysdale

Waterskiing

In the week before the holidays started I travelled to the national waterskiing championships. I competed in the junior boys slalom event. Out of all of the boys that qualified, I came sixth. It was a really good experience and I had loads of fun. I hope to be able to compete in them again in a couple of years time.

By Peter Sise

ACROSTIC

POEMS

CRAZY

AWESOME

MONDAY

PLAN

WICKED

AGGRESSIVE

INVINSIBLE

HIGHWAY

OVERJOYED

LONG

ADVENTURE

BY ROSS HOWARD

ACROSTIC

POEMS

CALLOUS

ADVENTURE

MOUNTAIN

PARTICIPATION

WAR LIKE

AWKWARD

INDEPENDENT

PAIN STAKING

OBSTACLE

RAPIDLY

IMPECCABLE

WILL POWER

ARRANGEMENT

IDEALISTIC

HEART FELT

OUTBURST

LAUGHING

DRENILEN

BY KURT MCALEVEY

Congratulations

Archery

Recently I heard that Hannah Phillips had been placed first in the Junior Girl' Division at the Dunedin Archery Club. She was delighted with her score of 510 which enabled her to take out the title.

Softball

Well done to the Year 6 boys softball team which finished their 2005 -06 season earlier this year in first place. Team members were:

- Tauge Caley
- Tim Rutherford
- Whenua Patuwai
- Daniel Renuatts
- Cain Kinraid

Life Saving

Under stiff opposition from numerous other club members, Tahuna's Aleki Morris recently took out the trophy for the best overall boy . Well done Aleki.

The New Art, Food & Textile Technology Block is really coming on well.



The Design Workshoph has also been widened, and has a large storage and machine area added.



So many wires. How do they do it?

Diary Dates

Wednesday 3rd May – 9.00am
Australasian Science

Examination + Rms 1.11.12.13 swimming at Moana Pool.
 Friday 5th May – R10 assembly.
 Monday 8th May – Yr 7 Observatory visits commence.
 BOT annual meeting & monthly meeting
 Tuesday 9th May, 9.00 -12.30 – Massed Choir Practice at Balmacewen Int.
 Tuesday 9th May, 7.00pm – Yr 7 UCAP Meeting for Yr 7 parents / caregivers.
 Wednesday 10th May - Rms 5.6.14.15 swimming at Moana Pool.
 Thursday 11th May, 9.00 Australasian Mathematics Examination + 10.30 – 12.30 Massed Orchestra Practice at T.N.I.S Hall.
 Thursday 11th May 6.30 -7.30pm – NZ Post's Brain Quiz – Skeggs Gallery in the Municipal Chambers.
 Monday 15th May, 9.00 – 2.30 – Seven children off to Young Leaders Conference in the Town Hall .
 Wednesday 17th May - Rms 1.11.12.13 swimming at Moana Pool.
 Friday 19th May – Rm 7 Assembly
 Sunday 21st May – Remuera Group leave for Auckland.