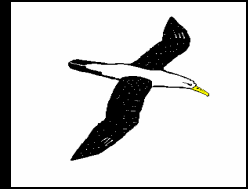


Tahuna News



Welcome

We are right into the last week of Year 7 classes camps at Portobello. This week has been a mixed bag weather wise, but we thank you for your assistance ensuring that your child is well prepared. Thank you to parents who have helped at camps too. Year 8 class camps continue throughout the term.

Tonight we have teachers from all our contributing schools coming together for another ICT PD session in the hall. This session will be a sharing one, with teachers who attended a recent conference sharing information from workshops they attended, best practice and new ideas made available for teachers to take away. This is a continuation of the developments in improving teaching and learning through the use of ICT that our teachers are involved in. Challenges, support, and excitement in ways of teaching our students for the 21st Century.

Thank you to all parents who have paid their School Donation and Technology fees promptly. This is greatly appreciated. This enables us to balance our budget and have resources and learning activities that just cannot be purchased from the Ministry grant alone. If you would like an automatic payment form, please contact Paula in the office.

Brent Ward
Principal.

Visiting Author

On Friday, Stacy Gregg, author of The Pony Club Secrets series visited our library at lunch time. Students with an interest in horses attended and we were delighted with the large turnout. Stacy read from Book 2 in the series, talked about her life, her writing and invited questions from the children.

Having Channel 9 and the ODT attend was an added bonus, but if children wish to purchase autographed copies of her books, orders can be taken from Mrs Burrows in the library. Mrs Burrows has made the library such an inviting place and we look forward to monthly happenings throughout the year.

Thank you Tapui books for your support.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Classes have selected their Class Councillors to represent them on the School Council for 2008. This involves chairing class meetings and bringing any appropriate issues to the fortnightly meetings. This is an important role, being the voice of the students, and we do congratulate all who have stepped up for the position. On Thursday, Mr Ward, our Principal, and Mrs Bernard, our Pupil welfare Rep. on the B.O.T. welcomed and presented Councillors with their badges. First meeting begins today.

Yip Card Achievers

Recently these children were awarded their cards at Friday assemblies for good effort and good attitude about the school.

Gold

Chris Harbrow
Silver
Indy Griffiths
True Wilson
Ashleigh Rhodes

Speech and Drama

Once again we have Mrs Mary Flaherty teaching the following at Tahuna - Theatre in action, Speech/Drama, Public speaking and communication.

For more information contact Mrs Flaherty on 477 9513 or on 0276405064.

Cell Phones not needed at school.

With good organisation and thoughtfulness the majority of our children get through the day. At times they use the land line to make necessary calls to parents / caregivers and therefore do not need to bring a cell phone to school. Our school rules state this and we greatly appreciate parents support on this matter. Please do not create exceptions for your child.

Something New

It was very enjoyable reading and discussing the view points of some of our new Year 7 children on what they thought about Tahuna before they actually walked through the gate. This was then compared with what actually happened. It would be fair to say that most if not all children were pleasantly surprised with their new Tahuna experience. These two examples are indicative of what was written.

“I thought there would be hard work, it would be scary and confusing, fun at times and nerve racking. Now that I am here I’m happy because I know where everything is, I’ve got used to it, I’m less scared than I was before, I’ve made new friends and there isn’t that much hard work.”

“Before I got to Tahuna I thought it would be :- scary, lots of people, interesting, no fun, nice teacher, too much homework, too much work, being told off heaps but...it would be alright. Now that I am here I am finding it’s cool, there are nice people here, it’s interesting, it’s lots of fun, nice teachers, lots of things to do, not as much home work as I thought, not told off and I have a a cool teacher.....I am Happy.”

Changes

Some of our Year eight children expressed their thoughts on change in a Hello – Goodbye Format.
Hello 2008
Goodbye 2007

Hello Room 13
Goodbye Room 10
Hello Syndicate 2 Goodbye
Syndicate 4
Hello Mrs Clifford Goodbye
Mr Hokianga
Hello Upstairs
Goodbye downstairs
Hello school work Goodbye
holidays
Hello green desk Goodbye
blue desk
Hello Ms McQueen
Goodbye Miss Mc Kee
Hello new group Goodbye
old group
Hello silver card Goodbye
bronze card
Hello tomorrow Goodbye
today
Hello larger uniform Goodbye
smaller uniform
Hello bumpy desk
Goodbye to shiny desk
Hello Yr 8 work
Goodbye Yr 7 work.
Hello Rippa Rugby
Goodbye cricket
Hello all new things
Goodbye to things we’ve done.

A week later I talked with children in another Year 8 class about what had been happening to date and what they were looking forward to.

Popular events could be labelled the action events of: P/E , Syndicate fitness, cricket coaching, 8 lap run , Beep test and technology classes. Mention was also made of seeing old friends, maths, new teacher, star chart, having fun, multi cultural group and choir.

This class was really looking forward to : - camp, soccer, 8 lap run, netball, Rippa rugby, hockey and meeting new friends. Other

mentions made were:- having fun, assemblies, group points, blue cards, being elected class councillor , chance to be a canteen monitor, new technology activities, collecting for the blind and Weetbix Tryathlon.

Two Year 8 students explained in their words

“So far this year I have been to the multicultural group and I am the leader of the girls. We have done the 8 lapper once and the block run a couple of times which was fun. Today a few of my friends and I helped do the Year 7 tryouts for the multicultural group. That was also fun.

Three girls and I are also going to do a dance at assembly. I am looking forward to the end of year disco and mufti days.”

“I am looking forward to camp and trying to get to go on the ski trip. I like technology and also sitting on the other side of the hall. It’s good being in a new syndicate and I am trying to get my bronze card and play rugby again for the school.”

Congratulations

Well done to Robbie Robson who has been selected for the Form 1 Dunedin Metropolitan Representative Cricket Team. They had their first game last weekend against South Canterbury and then in a few weeks they play Invercargill Metropolitan. I also heard that we have got at least two Representatives in the Year 8 Team - Josh Finnie (a year 7 boy) and Richard Buchanan.

It was also good to see that Jessie Schneider’s, who has just started in Year 8 this year, went

to Christchurch for the Surf Championships. She had a very successful weekend away and returned with 4 medals, 2 golds and 2 bronze. A splendid effort.

On the school running track it's been most satisfying to see so many children giving the 8 Lap Challenge a great nudge. Jack Harland ran very well to comfortably beat the time for gold and consequently was awarded his gold badge recently at Friday assembly.

Warren Van Staden enjoyed his Tryathlon last weekend pushing himself to finish up in the field. Many others from the school also tried this challenge and hopefully their results indicated their input and general preparation.

I have just had a visit from some athletes and it was good to hear that the following have made the Otago Inter-provincial Athletic Team who will fly out to Wanganui on the 20th March for Easter competition.

Jess Todd
Aleisha Weegenaar
Deina Susilo Knox
Felix Lucas
Jordan Robinson

Surf Lifesaving

12 children from Tahuna represented the local Surf Lifesaving clubs of St Kilda, St Clair and Brighton to compete in the Southern Region Ocean Athletes event in Christchurch over the weekend of 16 & 17 February.

Otago children featured prominently in the Finals of most events. The following Tahuna children received medals for their achievements:

Jessie Schneiders
Gold Beach Sprints 11yrs
Gold Surf Race 11yrs
Holly Small
Bronze Beach Flags 12yrs
Sian English
Gold Beach Flags 12yrs
Casey Arnold
Silver Diamond Race 11yrs

2 ex-pupils also performed very well at the event.

Garth Fulton
Bronze Surf Race 12yrs
Bronze Diamond Race 12yrs
Anja Waugh
Gold Surf Race 13yrs
Bronze Diamond Race 13yrs

Peninsula Pony Club

Tori Clearwater and Mercedes Crowley were part of the peninsula pony club games team winning the Gallipoli Shield for team fair play and horsemanship on Saturday the 1 March 2008.



Well done girls.

Letting us Know

Children are asked to see Mr Hutton if they had had successes / good news which should be celebrated through the newsletter. Parents can also let me know of news worthy items.

keithhutton@tahuna.school.nz

Weekly Highlights for Term 1

Week 5 – Year 7 camps = Rippa rugby coaches in the school.

Week 6 – Rippa rugby coaching continues.

Week 7 – No camps + swimming sports + Easter

Week 8 – Yr 8 camp + Easter + Lit Quiz

Week 9 – Yr 8 camps

Week 10 – Yr 8 camp

Week 11 – Yr 8 camp

Diary Dates

Monday 3 March – Room 10 off to camp.

Monday 3 March – 14 March [2wks] Rippa Rugby coaches taking sessions with all classes.

Tuesday 4 March – Room 24 off to camp.

Wednesday 5 March – Room 18 off to camp.

Thursday 6 March – Room 9 off to camp + 12.45 Samoan group Practice.

Friday 7 March 2.15pm Syn 3 assembly.

Sunday 9 March – Room 15 off to camp

Tuesday 11 March – School open late for Yr 7 Interviews + 7.00pm Rm 12 camp meeting

Wednesday 12 March, 9.00am – Vision Testing + Rm1 and Yvonne to camp [back on Saturday.]

Thursday 20 March, 9.00 – 12.00 Swimming Sports at Moana Pool.

Friday 21st + Monday 24 + Tuesday 25 March – School closed for Easter.

Tuesday 25 March – R12 leave for camp.

Friday 18th April – Last day of Term 1

Monday 5th May - First day of Term 2.