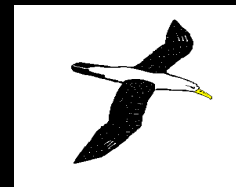


Tahuna News



Welcome

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Year 7 classes have just completed their overnight camps at Portobello. These camps present a wonderful opportunity for new students to get to know each other and bond as a class, as well as presenting very good learning opportunities outside the classroom walls. We thank you for your assistance ensuring that your child is well prepared. Thank you to parents and caregivers who have helped at camps too. Year 8 class camps continue throughout the term.

Below Year 7 Campers putting up tents at Portobello



Classes have selected their Class Councillors to represent them on the School Council for 2009. 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. Last week I presented Councillors with their badges.

Tony Hunter
Principal.

Naming Personal Possessions

In a large school like ours we find it best that all children name their possessions and this is especially important for articles of clothing. Special name labels are ideal but many just use a permanent marker to write on the clothing labels. Naming the inside tongue of shoes is also recommended.

If articles are named we can quickly return them to their owners.

We have numerous articles of clothing in lost property so do call by and see if any of it belongs to your child.

Thanks for your support on this matter.

Chocolate Sales

It was most satisfying to receive money in from early sales and as I said on the chocolate notice, this is our major fundraiser and with all children doing their bit, success will come our way.

I told classes that all the bars are \$2 and if they had difficulties selling them, then they were to bring the chocolates straight back and not get stressed. To date we are thrilled with the children's high level of participation.

Congratulations

It was good to hear that Cameron Shearer came 2nd in the Green Fleet Age Group Sailing Regatta in Timaru

a fortnight ago. Well done Cameron.

Y.I.P. Awards

The following children have been awarded their silver cards at recent assemblies for good attitude and good effort.

Silver

Zac Gardner
Claudia Flaws
Emma Bridgman
Imone Mukhopadhyay

CRICKET

On Monday we started our two week block on cricket and it great to see Sean Haig in from the union to take these classes. All classes are scheduled to receive this valuable tuition during their P/E periods.

Monday was a lovely day and with the use of our all weather cricket pitch basic skills in bowling, running between wickets throwing and hitting, were introduced.



Above: lining up for the big one!

Softball Tahuna

Tahuna has started a softball team including year 7 and 8 players.

Last year our team came second on the table. The teams were Kavanagh College and ourselves Tahuna. We have two players coming back for the rest of the season, Levi Baker and Ross Nicolaou. Last year we started off by losing our first two games and winning the next two. Our final game we played on the senior softball diamond at Ellis Park, it was very difficult. Our practices take up our whole lunch time and we have two practices a week. Things we enjoy doing are batting, relaying, skills & drills, hitting the ball against the fence and of course winning a game. We have a game coming up this Thursday at 4pm, you are welcome to come and watch and support our team.

- Tane Brooks and Matthe Hibbs.



Published work goes New Zealand wide

We were delighted to receive our first copy of the ODT Extra [A newspaper for children] and saw it included around ten written pieces by our Tahuna children. Shanna Verhoef had a neat little article and photos on the release of kiwi chicks around Te Anau while Alex Clark-Grant wrote book reviews. Leander Stahler,

James Richardson, Erika Savell, Ryan Thom [2] Joseph McAuley and Sydney Foster wrote sound letters to the Editor on a range of topics.

School Camps

I was fortunate to spend a very enjoyable six hours out at a year 8 camp last night and it reminded me of all the great things I used to enjoy with my classes when we went to camp. They still happen and there's more!

I met them returning from the Mosgiel Pool and they were full of what they had been up to. After a short break where a cool drink and some food had been taken on board they had some free time to spend. Children did their own thing with mates, some running about while others just sat about but all under control and not an issue. Then, food preparation started as they were cooking out over embers so a group of children joined a few of the adults and a fire was set and lit. Children were fascinated by the fire and wood was added, moved or just poked by keen fire carers. A great bed of hot embers resulted and co-operative cooking and sharing of the toasty pies, sausages, potatoes, bananas and marshmallows took place. Children were observed cooking with and giving food to their mates and if parents were present, then they were catered for also. There was lots of laughter and joking and it was obvious that all present were having a great time. Tidying up and moving all the food and equipment back to the main building happened smoothly after a few quiet well chosen words from the teacher.

Soon after arriving back in the hall it was certificate writing time and again these were to be given by children to children for good things seen about camp.

The children then took charge and ran a very entertaining concert with a humorous doctor's visit sketch being brilliantly performed by two of the camp Dads. Camp certificates were presented and again it was so good to see eye contact with the recipient and a firm hand shake as the child presenter awarded the certificate to a mate.

It was getting late but as I cruised down the dusty road towards home I knew children still had a game of spot light on the agenda. Well done teachers for all this extra time you've given for children and to parents and caregivers a BIG thanks as we could not do it without you.



Above: Cooling off after a hard day

So why camp?

It can help develop self esteem and independence
Children learn new skills and try new things.

It can provide the chance for children to learn in different ways.

By tenting and being with others for long periods of time they really get to know their mates and how they tick.

Helps with team building, co-operation, communication and social development which is

often reflected back in the classroom.
It brings them closer to our wonderful natural environment.

Keith Hutton

First Year College Teachers Visit

Last week we had 24 College teachers in for two days to learn more about what happens in an intermediate.

They worked with our children and observed teachers at work. Before they left they completed an anonymous questionnaire which provides the following feedback to our staff.

The two responses receiving the most positive feedback were –

- 1] The teachers provided suitable teaching models to emulate.
- 2] I was able to see various subject areas being taught.

When it came to the question-What Tahuna Normal Int features stand out for you, common responses were-

- ✓ Teachers were nice and supportive.
- ✓ I got good notes from the tech class.
- ✓ The excellent facilities that are available to the students.
- ✓ Friendly staff and children.
- ✓ Welcoming and well behaved students.
- ✓ My associate managed the children well and was not grumpy.
- ✓ Positive reinforcement given to children.
- ✓ Children wanted to do their best and encouraged others to do the same.

- ✓ Great P/E and fitness programme.
- ✓ Lots of grassy areas.
- ✓ Buildings look new and modern.
- ✓ Magnificent art work.
- ✓ Classrooms are colourful and bright.
- ✓ I was impressed with the children's independence, sportsmanship and level of participation.
- ✓ The terrific structure of each day.
- ✓ Children had pride in their school.
- ✓ It has a great atmosphere where there is constant encouragement given.
- ✓ Busy days
- ✓ A large variety of activities for the students to enjoy.
- ✓ Every student is made to feel special and important.
- ✓ There was so much happening in the Tech block.

Keith Hutton



Above: Our Cook Island group practise during lunchtime for the Pasifika Festival later this year.

Letting us Know

Children are asked to see Mr Hutton if they have 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

Diary Dates

Monday 2nd March – Year 8 interviews this week.

Wednesday 4th March – Rm 13 off to camp and back Saturday 7th march.

Starting Monday 9th - No camps but Year 7 interviews on this week .Mini ball and netball trials on also.

Friday 13th March – Rm 12 assembly.

Monday 16th March – table tennis module commences.

Friday 20th March - Vaccine for Year 8 girls – only 2 permission slips still expected.

Monday 23rd March – Anniversary day – School closed.

Tuesday 24th March – Room 11 off to camp.

Sunday 29th – room 6 off to camp.

Monday 30th March – Co-operative Games module starts.

Thursday 9th April, 9.00 – 12.00 School swimming sports at Moana Pool.

Friday 10th April – Good Friday school closed and holidays commence.

Monday 27th April – First day of Term 2.

Weekly Highlights for Term 1

Wk1- School Photos and meeting new class mates.
Wk2 – Fitness Testing and Friday music assembly.
Wk3 – Rippa Rugby sessions
Wk4 -- School Camps.
Wk5 – Cricket coaching starts.

Community Service

Thanks for sending in the crutches which were no longer needed. These six pair were returned to a grateful staff member at the hospital

Speech Lessons

Mrs Mary Flaherty has commenced speech communication lessons for 2009 at the school and if you would like to find out more about what she offers then please feel free to contact her on ph 4779513 or 0276405064.

Youthline

They provide a well-regarded confidential, non-judgmental telephone listening service which focuses on the needs of young people but is available for all ages and concerns. They have two volunteer "taster" courses running over the 15 – 17th April for children in the 12 – 17 year age group. If you would like more information on the Taster courses, a resource pack or more information on the Community Education Programme, then please ring Ph 4772461.

**Junior Motorcross Funday
Sunday 15th March**

At James Adams property, Henley. It will be sign posted from state Highway 1 on the north side of the Henley Bridge. Registration starts at 9.00am and is open to all children up to 12 years of age. The cost is \$20 per rider and a full face helmet and full length pants and top are to be worn.

**Hot Tips on Growing Boys /
On Raising Girls by Ian
Grant**

Sessions will be held in the Dunedin Town Hall on 24th and 25th March at a cost of \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Brochures are available from the school office or you can ring Ph 0800 535659.

Ariki Athletic Club

What a lovely night for the club champs down at the Caledonian Grounds on Monday 2nd March. Many of our Tahuna students were competing in a great variety of events. There was some strong running on the track ranging from the short sprints through to the 400metre races. Good technique meant some fine distances at the shot and discus while over at the jumps the high jumpers and long jumpers felt comfortable on the all weather take off surfaces. I will be keen to see how the places and points will stack up for cups and trophies at prize giving in a few weeks.

**Room 9 Camp
2009**

The day started off with sore arms after carrying the bags from the class to the bus.

The curves on the Portobello road were enough to make us feel sick, after an annoying verse of the wheels on the bus go round and round we arrived at camp and pitched our tents. It wasn't the easiest thing to do because of the bent and missing parts.

The time went by and we went through a number of activities.

The class was over excited about one small crab. After all it was the rocky shore. We walked back with our shoes covered in gunk and who knows what else.



Finally the time had come for what we had been 'looking forward to' the night tramp.

Mr Phillips, Mr Wells and Mr Bruce tried to scare us but, it didn't work. We finally got over the hill and could see civilization, but then realized there was still more to go before we faced the challenge of night line. (Well, blindfolded)

I'm sure we all felt the hair on our necks begin to rise and our hearts beginning to pound. Clenching on to the rope for dear life it all ended with a scream.

By Lulu Schneiders & Alix Fraser Rm9

