



KILBIRNIE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Box 14-543 Kilbirnie Wellington ☎(04) 939 2311

Email: office@kilbirnie.school.nz www.kilbirnie.school.nz

Friday 9 December 2016

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 Dec	Board of Trustees meeting 7pm
15 Dec	School finishes 1pm
1 Feb	School starts for 2017
6 Feb	Waitangi Day Holiday
28 Feb	Year 6's to camp
1 March	Year 5's to camp
3 March	Campers return

TERM DATES FOR 2017

Term 1:

Wednesday 1 February – Thursday 13 April

Term 2:

Monday 1 May – Friday 7 July

Term 3:

Monday 24 July – Friday 29 September

Term 4:

Monday 16 October – Friday 15 December

ROCHELLE COKER

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Rochelle leaves us next week and takes up a new teaching position at Nelson Park School in Napier. Rochelle has been with us for five years and in that time has impressed everyone, teachers and parents alike, with her professionalism and dedication to her job. I would certainly like to thank Rochelle for the work she has done and wish her every success for her future.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS

This week we attended a most successful leaver's dinner, held at The Pines. It was wonderful to see the Year 6 children speak so confidently to the audience as it was not that long ago that they were rather nervous new entrants in Mrs Moses's class.

I would certainly like to thank the Year 6 group for being such fantastic role models for the rest of the school. The Year 6 children have been our Road Patrollers and Peer Mediators and provided a wonderful service to the school. They have also been wonderful peer supporters to the younger children. They have not only assisted on wet

weather duty days but also by working one to one with the juniors with their Genius Hour projects and using the iPads. It is great to watch them interact in the classroom, they are caring and supportive and the juniors certainly feel great to have senior buddies.

I would like to wish the Year 6's well for their Year 7 year, and the years ahead, and hope that we have given them a great start; not only in learning how to read, write and count; but also how to use technology, think creatively, work co-operatively and get along with each other.

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

At next Monday's board meeting I will be presenting a copy 2016: The Year in Retrospect. A full copy of the report will appear on our school website however it is always interesting to look back to see what has been achieved throughout the year:

- School camp
- School production
- Footnote Dancers and Marrzipan Drama
- Opening up Rooms 9 & 10
- Refurbishing our toilet block
- Sporting exchanges and achievements
- Development of the garden areas
- Involvement of Aquazone
- Kapa Haka Festival
- Matariki celebrations
- Market Evening
- School-wide topics relating to healthy foods and early New Zealand
- Cultural electives
- Choosing Thursday electives

Unfortunately the year was spoilt by the burglaries. This meant our children went without the full complement of laptops for a time and we needed to find extra funds for a security upgrade. Schools nowadays have a full range of electronic equipment therefore need to spend increasing amounts on security measures. All of the laptops have been replaced through insurance however this does take a period of time.

Part of this week's board meeting is also to celebrate student achievement for the year. This is a celebration not only of learning and achievement but also of good teaching.

94% of our 243 students are reading at or above their actual age. One important point noted by Jacqui Brown was that we require full comprehension before moving children up to the next level. 68% of our Year 2-6 children are spelling at or above their actual age.

The table below represents the percentages throughout the school for National Standards:

National Standards	Above Age	At Age	Below Age	Well-below Age
Reading	31.5%	51.6%	15.5%	1.4%
Writing	13.1%	62%	23%	1.9%
Maths	19.2%	67.6%	12.7%	0.5%

ATHLETICS RESULTS

Special mention to two athletic stars from school who competed in the Regional Sports, competing against athletes from the wider wellington region.

Hugo won both the long jump and the high jump, second year in a row!

Aston was second in both vortex and quoits.

PACK THE BUS

Jacqui Brown

Congratulations everyone!
The teachers and organisers of this event were astounded at the generosity of the children and parents of Kilbirnie School, over 300 items were donated. It was such an exciting experience for the children and as can be seen from the photograph, they even got to see Santa.



All the children were given the opportunity to board the bus where they could see hundreds of presents donated by the people of Wellington. These items will be packed and distributed to families in need. Our children certainly have a great understanding of what EMPATHY means.

CLASSES FOR 2017

You will have received a special notice from Tony Austin last Friday outlining the organisation for next year. The classes will be placed on the noticeboard at the end of the day today. Class numbers are higher than originally planned. We have received nine in-zone enrolments in the last five days; this is of course after class lists were drafted. It does mean numbers are higher than we would like and at this stage we will start with a roll of 232. Last year we started with 222. With the anticipated enrolments we should exceed our Ministry of Education staffing roll of 248 by mid-August and we will be able to claim extra staffing and funding

FAREWELL FROM MIKE MCGIMPSEY

This is the final newsletter that I will be writing, and I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to a great number of people for making the twenty five years at Kilbirnie pass so quickly. I am retiring while I am still enjoying the job and that is very important to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my teaching career and would be the first to put my hand up to do it again.

On Thursday of this week I was most fortunate to attend a farewell evening, put on by the school. It was wonderful to catch up with friends and colleagues past and present, particularly many of the original Board of Trustees who appointed me! One point I made in my speech, and one I would like to repeat, is that boredom has never been an issue for me. As principal you are never really too sure what the day will bring and for that reason every day is different.

When I started at Kilbirnie we operated six classrooms and had a staff of nine...thank you Chris Montgomerie and Sharon Daish for showing a collection of photos of Mike McGimpsey with hair and a nice tie...and my first brave call was to suggest that in the office we moved from an electric typewriter to a brand new 386 "state of the art" computer, one for me and one for the secretary. I was even brash enough to suggest to the board that we should invest in a fax machine as that was the way of the future! Now we go around the classes and see the children confidently and competently working on a range of electronic devices...that is why I was never bored.

One thing that has not changed is that we continue to have children eager to learn and well supported by their parents and caregivers. One of the best tonics for when you are fed up with paper work and compliance issues is to walk around the school and talk to the children. They are bright and bubbly and to talk to them totally reinforces why you are doing what you are doing.

I would certainly like to thank all of the parents and caregivers who have generously given their time to support the school, and their children, in so many ways. Fundraising, camps, transport, listening to reading, coaching sport...the list goes on and you certainly make a difference. Thank you particularly Larissa for the work with ParentLink and the donations towards various programmes and projects.

Thank you to Chris Montgomerie and the Board of Trustees, past and present, for the commitment you show to the school, the commitment to supporting the principal and teaching staff. To have such a supportive board means you can get on with the important work of improving learning and teaching.

Finally a huge thanks to the teaching staff, again past and present, for continually going that extra mile to provide such a stimulating and enriching programme for the children. Your professionalism and dedication has made my job so much easier. The school, particularly under the leadership of Tony Austin, will continue to move from strength to strength and I would certainly like to wish all those associated with the school every success in the future.

Mike McGimpsey
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Bunnings Lyall Bay

Xmas Family Fun Night

Thursday 8th Dec 5.30-7.30pm

Meet Nehe Milner-Skudder

Bookings essential 📞 Gail 3873550 X 26

BigAir Gym

January Holiday Programme

www.bigairgym.co.nz for bookings

and more information

WEETBIX KIDS TRYATHLON

See School Notice Board for more info.

Piano Lessons in Hataitai

Qualified & experienced teacher

Hilary 386 4666 or 027 2470213

Standouts Creative Drama and Dance

St Judes Hall, Lyall Bay

gemma@standouts.co.nz or www.standouts.co.nz

Capital Swim Club

Competitive swimming club

Sharon 021 1428976 or spippos@xtra.co.nz

www.capitalswim.co.nz

Host Families Needed for Overseas Students

Suite 2590, PO Box 83000,

Wellington 6440 New Zealand

T: 0800 440079 F: 0800 440077

W: www.studentexchange.org.nz

Artrageous Holiday Programme

www.artrageouskids.co.nz for more info

Island Bay United Holiday Football

Bookings essential www.ibujuniors.org.nz

Xmas Holiday Football Programmes

www.twfc.co.nz/holiday programmes for info

Cigna Round the Bays 2017

Info and Register www.cignaroundthebays.co.nz

Elements Rhythmic Gymnastics

www.rhythmicgym.nz for more info

Pet Carer Needed 30/12 – 10/1

Feed & cuddle 3 lovely cats, 3 chickens

Free Eggs!

Waipapa Road \$10 per day

Cathy 021 0786835

Newtown Movie School Holiday Programme

www.newtownmovieschool.co.nz for info

Elements Rhythmic Gymnastics

Free trial

www.rhythmicgym.nz

Summer Drama Classes

Kids4Drama – book before 20 Dec and be in

to win a free term of drama classes for 2017.

becca@kidsrdrama.co.nz to book

Violin and Viola Lessons for 2017

www.vaatstrastings.com and enrol online

Piano & keyboard for 2017

www.pieterbosmusic.co.nz or

phone 021 2056473 for info

Drum Lessons in 2017

www.drumlab.co.nz or Mark 021 0433663

The Pantaloons present Sleeping Bertie

Gryphon Theatre

027 3282997 to book

Free ice blocks – Tuesday after Certificate Assembly.

Hataitai Four Square will once again be providing free ice blocks for the children just before 3pm.

Thank you Hataitai Four Square.