



# The EBIS Bulletin

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Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to the new school year.

To our Year 8 students – you are our role models for 2009.

To our new Year 7 students, we are delighted to welcome you to EBIS. For those of you who are just beginning your journey with EBIS, let me assure you that your son/daughter will have a great time here! Intermediate schools are the most wonderful and unique places. This is the place where children get to have the opportunity to try out many new things. Over the next two years your child will go through a great time of growth academically, socially, emotionally and physically. This time is known as the middle years and it is the second most significant time in human development. Our goal for all our students is that they leave us empowered to go on and be who they want to be, to achieve all they want to achieve and to be great citizens believing that they have an exciting future ahead. When any young person is empowered, all other things come together for them in their lives. Schools are learning communities. Everything that happens in schools must be about student learning and achievement. We have the privilege of sharing and being part of that learning and achievement. We have the job of motivating, encouraging and bringing about success for every student in our care.

## IMPORTANT DATES

6<sup>th</sup> Feb. New Zealand Day holiday!

12<sup>th</sup> Feb. Meet the Teacher Evening 7.00pm in the school hall.

13<sup>th</sup> Mufti Day

## Meet the teacher

Attached to this Bulletin is the programme for our *Meet The Teacher Evening*.

As we get the new school year underway, we want to give you the opportunity to meet with the teacher. This is the beginning of the communication between you and your child's teacher for 2009. This evening is a time for you to meet your child's syndicate teaching team. Our staff welcome communication from you anytime. Email is a great way to do this when people are busy. You are also very welcome to phone us anytime too. Teachers need you to communicate with them. It is critically important to us that if anything is troubling your child, that we hear about it. A positive partnership between home and school is essential to student success in learning. While staff actively encourage students to speak up at school when things may happen, sometimes they prefer to talk about things with you at home. We rely on you to let us know so that we are able to resolve problems that they may have at school.

We warmly welcome to our teaching team this year **Miss Sara Winkleblack**. She is teaching in Room 11.

## Property update

The work has begun on the major property projects for the year. This year will see us having classes built, a new technology block, extension to the staffroom, new playground paved areas, new car park, new heating system and a satellite classroom block for Kimi Ora special needs students. All this will be completed by early 2010. It will give us a wonderful modernisation as a school and we are very pleased about it.

## PERFORMANCE GROUPS 2009

Your child has the opportunity to be part of Choir, Orchestra, Kapa Haka and Poly Club. These groups get together to work on performance items each Wednesday. Please encourage your son or daughter to join these groups. We are looking for someone who can take the girls Kapa Haka section as Bea Carter is on leave this year. If you are able to help out with this please contact me.

### **After School Homework Support Group**

Students are able to do homework and any other classroom work in the school library each Tuesday and Wednesday from 3 – 4pm. We have staff who supervise and assist students if they need it. If you would like your child to be part of this then please let your child's classroom teacher know.

### **LANGUAGE LEARNING**

We are again providing languages other than English for students to undertake this year. Please talk to your son or daughter about them taking French, Samoan or Mandarin. We will be asking students about being part of these programmes in the next two weeks. These classes take place in the normal school day and students are withdrawn from their normal class to do them.

### **EXTENSION PROGRAMMES**

This year we are again providing a wide variety of extension programmes for students to be involved in. These are: Future Problem Solving, Technology (Foods, Multimaterials, Electronics), Art, Science, Maths and Philosophy.

### **Student support**

At EBIS we provide a member of staff who acts as a support person to assist students when they may need to talk to someone other than their teacher. Often the issues that students raise are to do with relationship problems with friends and sometimes issues concerning them at home. Sue Melville has had experience and training at a college with working with students in a counselling type role. If ever you are having issues that you feel you would like Sue to give some talking/listening time to your child at school about, then please call her.

### **Remedial SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN READING**

Reading is the most important thing that any student needs to be able to do in order to have success in every other learning area. We are going to have teacher aides again this year that will be working with students needing extra support in reading. Once staff have completed the assessments of students in reading, we will be able to identify which students need extra support.

We are also going to be having a teacher working with students needing extra reading support too. By the end of this year we want to have provided support for every student at EBIS identified as underachieving in reading. *Tulima Nonu, Joy Manuel and Alauni Misa* will be working with reading support this year.

Please contact us if ever you need to. It is far better that you call than you have an unhappy young person at your place. So often things can be sorted very quickly. Often just the reassurance of something being sorted the next day, is enough to bring back a smile! My door is always open to students and parents alike. You do not need to make an appointment to see me at school. The school website is being changed and you will have noticed this already. The special section for Parents is especially designed for you. The student section will shortly have on it all the class web pages. You will be able to look at work that students in the school have done. Our website address is [www.ebis.school.nz](http://www.ebis.school.nz). I welcome your calls at school on **939-3247**, cell phone **021- 252-1383** or at home on **234 – 8724 anytime the need arises. Successful students are students who have a family that works together with the school!**

Best Wishes



Mrs Wendy Esera

**ON BEHALF OF THE EBIS STAFF & BOARD**