



# The EBIS Bulletin

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Monday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Dear Parents and Caregivers

Students have made a wonderfully positive start to the new school year. Teachers are buzzing with their new classes!

Each week at EBIS we focus on one of our core values. This does not mean that the others are left out of course, but rather that staff focus on getting students to take ownership and to fully understand our values.

Our school values are **Thinking, Respect, Whanaungatanga, Respect and Success**.

As a school we encourage, acknowledge and empower students to be creative in their **thinking**. We teach students to be reflective – to think about their own learning and to look at how they can do things differently to be better. We want our students to challenge themselves by thinking critically and not just accepting things.

Thinking is a hugely important thing that we teach our children. Another one of our values is **Respect**. We model and teach our children to respect firstly, themselves. They need to learn to respect others and also their environment. Respect for others is all about the way that we acknowledge that others are not the same as we are, and that it is fine to be different, to see diversity as a strength not a weakness. The environment that our children are growing up in needs the care and protection of us all. We want EBIS students to care about the environment.

**Whanaungatanga** is about community, participation, caring, cooperation and equity. This is a Maori word that basically reflects all the things about us being great citizens in our community. The most essential skill for us all is to know how to develop and maintain harmonious relationships with all those around us. **Success** is the fourth EBIS Value. Attitude, pride and excellence are fundamental to success. Our children need to have the right attitude in order to become successful. All people who students see as role models, have one thing in common, the attitude that they have! With pride in who we are, comes success. Standing tall is about being proud of ourselves. Excellence is about not settling for any less than what is the very best we can be, in all that we do.

## Meet the teacher

Thank you very much to all of you who came along to meet your child's teacher. The heavy rain that decided to fall that evening made it a difficult task for people to go out anywhere! This was a very enjoyable and most successful evening. Staff found it extremely helpful being able to talk with you and to be able to give you an overview of what you can expect this year from us at school. For those of you that did not make it, you know that you can call us or come down and see us any time you like.

## Property update

The work being done currently on Room 12 will turn this big space back into two classrooms which is going to be great. The work is nearly completed and we can expect that the two classes going into this room, Room 12 and 13, will make this move in the next week.

## PERFORMANCE GROUPS 2009

As I mentioned in my last Bulletin, your child has the opportunity to be part of Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Choir, Kapa Haka and Poly Club. These groups get together on Wednesdays and this gets underway this week. Please encourage your son or daughter to join these groups. We are still looking for someone who can take the girls Kapa Haka section. Can you contact me if you know of someone who we could get to do this for us. We are also having an after school gospel singers group this year. This group will be selected using a process of auditions. Please ask your child about being in these groups. If you have any queries about your child being in any of these groups, then let us know.

### After School Homework Support Group

Just a reminder that 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. This got underway last week with a few children coming along.

### LANGUAGE LEARNING

This week we get underway with our language learning programmes. **French** for the first half of the year will be for Year 8 students and the second half of the year we will be providing this for year 7s. **Samoan Language** is for students who are currently able to speak some Samoan and wish to extend their ability in this. Ivy Ding started **Mandarin** classes today.

### Student support

Sue Melville is working in this support role. If you are having any sort of issues at home with your son or daughter and you would appreciate Sue having some “... ***talking and listening time*** ” with your son or daughter then you are very welcome to contact her directly. She has had experience and training working with students in a counselling type role while she was working at Onslow College.

### Remedial SUPPORT

This got underway last week. If your son or daughter is not coming home to say that they are having extra help and you feel that they need to be, then give us a call. We are currently assessing students and this will give us a good idea of what student learning needs are. The students currently working with our support staff could change as the results of the testing is done. Contact us if you feel that your child needs support. They will be able to tell you if they are already working on this programme.

### SCHOOL FEES & DONATIONS

Many thanks to the number of you that have already paid your child’s school fees and donations. The fees are only for the consumable things that your son or daughter will use in the technology area. This is the only area where we are able to, as a school, ask parents for payment. The donation is of course a voluntary amount. These can be paid at the office and can also be paid by instalment through the school’s internet banking facility.

### LATENESS TO SCHOOL

We have not been back at school very long and we are already getting a high number of children arriving at school every day, late. The reasons that they are giving are that they: slept in, the alarm failed and so on. This is not a good thing and of course it means that students start the day behind in the days work.

### NOTICES

**Computer Classes** –after school & Saturdays. Ph. 499-2211 or [www.grandtraining.co.nz](http://www.grandtraining.co.nz)

Penguins **Hockey** Open Day – March 1<sup>st</sup> 3-5 Kilbrinie Rec. Ph. Claire 934 -1344

**Poneke Junior Rugby** Registrations – Feb21 11- 3pm, Feb. 27 3.30 -6pm, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> 12- 2pm.

**MSP Junior Rugby** – 16 Feb. 5.30 -7pm at MSP Gym, Contact Gordon Sleep 973 – 3895 or email [sleeps@paradise.net.nz](mailto:sleeps@paradise.net.nz)

Please contact us if ever you need to. 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**