



The EBIS Bulletin

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Monday 8th June 2009

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The last two weeks have certainly been cold and having just come back from being in Brisbane for the last week, it is even more noticeable! However the lovely sunshine is a great way to start the school week isn't it.

The school value that we are focussing on over the next two weeks is: **respect**. At EBIS when we talk about respect we think about three areas where respect needs to be shown. We are referring to respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment. Of all the values that we have as a school, the one that needs to be at the top of the list is without doubt, respect! Without respect for self it is not possible to respect others or our environment. Our children are growing up in a society where there is great diversity of culture. If we want our children to be happy and successful adults then they need to have respect for others and to have an understanding and tolerance of the difference that they see between themselves and others around them. Respect for our environment is another area that we need to be teaching our children about. We hear constantly in the media about the state of our environment, the future of the world. It is now that our children need to be encouraged to do things differently in order to sustain the environment around them.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 9th June Parent Committee Meetings – Maori, Pacific, Ethnic Parents. These meetings are being held in various venues around the school tomorrow night from 7 – 8.30pm.
- 10th June Australian Science (ICAS)
- 17th June Special Blue Light Mufti Day (Fundraising for this Police Community Event)
- 19th June Rongotai Visit for Year 8 boys. Buses will collect the boys from EBIS at 9.00 and return them at 11.45am.

School reps - elections for term 3 & 4

This process is underway. I hope that you have talked with your son or daughter about them putting themselves forward for these leadership roles. The closing date for nominations is this Friday.

SCIENCE FAIR

Hope that this is going well. Remember that if you need any help do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. If you are wanting a display board then they can be purchased from the school office at a cost of \$10.00 which is well below the cost in shops. Mark on your calendar the dates for this: June 30th and July 1st.

Schools in Brisbane

Last week I was away in Brisbane finding out about how they deliver learning to students who are at the age level of our students. It was a very interesting time and also great to come back home feeling very confident and happy about what we are doing to meet the learning needs of our students. Like NZ they have undergone curriculum change and it is interesting to see how the two countries are aligned with this. They talk about the middle phase of learning. They are definitely more ahead of NZ in terms of the fact that they are very clear about the middle phase of learning as being significant and needing special attention. NZ is only beginning to do this. The Ministry has recently undertaken research into what works and what really goes on for children in this middle phase here. (Years 7 – 10 of schooling)

The Queensland Education Board that I visited talked about how the gap between high and low achievers at this age is more significant than any other time in schooling. They also recognise that it is at this stage that students

become disengaged in learning and that classroom activities need to be suitable for the age level in order to create enthusiasm for learning. Without engagement and enthusiasm for learning, students cannot achieve. One of the things that was interesting to look at was the Achievement Standards that they have in place in Queensland. These standards are similar to what we are looking at implementing in New Zealand. They refer to the Achievement Standards while we talk of the National Standards.

Special week in the south island

Earlier in the year we had a visit from some students from Mt Sommers School which is out of Christchurch. This is a small country school where Mr Murphy, who was a teacher here, is now the Principal. Next week I am going to be selecting students who would like to spend a week at the school going skiing and having a country school experience. This adventure will take place in the middle of Term 3.

What I need to know from parents is whether their child, if selected, would be allowed to go. This will be an all expenses paid week away for one EBIS student!

Please fill in the slip at the bottom of this Bulletin and make sure your son/daughter hands it into the office. In the final assembly this term, we will have a drawer to select the student who will be going!

School graphic - Self review

We have been working on the review of our current school graphic and we are at the stage where we need this to now be drawn up. You will all be familiar with the current graphic which is the student wearing a back pack and looking towards the horizon. Last year we changed our school Vision Statement and School Values in light of the new Curriculum. The current graphic no longer really reflected what we are about as a school. The changes we have made are as follows: rather than one student, we have a group of students standing together. They have got all different silhouettes representing the diversity of our students. The students are looking up a path that leads towards the horizon. Spread out along the path, are the schools new four values and along either side of the path are the words numeracy and literacy. The rays of the sun have the Maori koru design reflecting our dual heritage as a country. Once this is drafted we will get it out to you for your feedback.

UNIFORM sale- Fleece Tops \$20.00, PE Teeshirts \$5.00

(We have mainly larger sizes left in stock!)

Please contact the school if ever you need to. If I do not get back to you the day you called then the message may not have got through. Please call again. Emailing me will always get an immediate response that day too! We enjoy the partnership that we have with you!

I welcome your calls at school on **939-3247**, cell phone **021- 252-1383** or at home on **234 – 8724 anytime the need arises.**

Best Wishes



Mrs Wendy Esera
ON BEHALF OF THE EBIS STAFF & BOARD

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Igive permission for my son/daughter in Roomto go to stay at Mt Sommers School for a week. I understand that this is at no cost to our family.

..... (Parent)