



The EBIS Bulletin

Phone: (04) 939 3247

Fax: (04) 939 3248

Email: principal@ebis.school.nz

secretary@ebis.school.nz

Monday March 2nd 2009

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are in Week 5 already and it seems like yesterday we were starting back at school.

The **schoolwide Value** that we are focussing on over the next two weeks is, **THINKING**. Staff have had a professional development session recently where we had good discussion about the real importance of **THINKING**. One of the things that we really want our students to learn to do well, is to be active critical thinkers. Reflecting on learning and thinking about next steps in learning, is critically important for students. The ultimate goal for us as teachers is to see our students become experts in self reflection, regulation and self monitoring. The most powerful way that we learn, is when we learn what we did wrong and make changes to get it right next time.

IMPORTANT DATES

3rd March Photos

8th March Weetbix Tryathlon Lower Hutt Rec.

NETBALL FEES – 3rd APRIL FINAL DAY FOR PAYMENT.

Last year we ended the netball season with many unpaid fees and also uniforms not returned to the school. This year fees must be paid by April 3rd in order for students to play. The fee payable is in fact paid by the school, to the Netball Association.

Remedial & extension SUPPORT

The assessing of students is now almost completed. If your son or daughter needs support, they will be provided with this through one of our three teacher aides. When parents meet with teachers at the start of Term 2 to do their goal setting, student goals will be set based on data staff have gathered using the national standardised assessment tools.

Extension programmes get underway this week. If your son or daughter misses out on being able to be on any of these programmes, then please let us know. These programmes run all year round and we ensure that a good number of students get the opportunity of being on these programmes.

French, (*Gina Newman*) in the first half year will be for Year 8 students. In the second half it will be for Year 7s. **Mandarin**, (*Ivy Ding*) is underway already and this is also for Year 8s at present. **Samoan**, (*Alauni Misa*) is for students who speak some Samoan. This is more an opportunity for them to use the language and develop further confidence. **Extension Maori**, (*Kelvin Fah*) is also underway and students have been selected for this based on their knowledge and competence in Te Reo Maori. If you need to talk to the teachers taking any of these programmes then please do so.

TARGETS 2009

Schools are required by the Ministry of Education to set student achievement targets each year. This year our targets are:

To see students improve their ability in reading for understanding. Reading for understanding is critically important and this applies across all learning areas. When your children are reading at home please ask them questions about what they have read or are reading.

To improve student Basic Facts in Mathematics. Basic Facts are hugely important for students in doing any mathematical problems. Students know that this is something that can be worked on at home.

To provide better verbal and written feedback to students. Staff are involved in the AToL (Assess to Learn) Project again this year and we are looking at how we can provide better feedback to students in their learning. Feedback in the learning process, is one of the most significant factors in raising student achievement. It is important for teachers to become expert in how they provide feedback to students during learning.

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 the 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. Can you please help your son or daughter if this is an issue with them.

COMMUNICATION

The most important thing that we need to have between us all, is great communication. Please contact us when you need to. We are only a phone call or email away. Can I urge you to also really encourage your children to speak up and tell us when things need to be sorted out for them. It is sometimes hard for children to speak up but if we keep asking them to and you also encourage them to, they will become confident to do so.

Minister of education's newsletter

Last week I received the first of what will be monthly newsletters from our new Minister of Education, Anne Tolley. This is called "School Report". She is introducing National Standards in Literacy and Numeracy. All schools understand the importance of students being able to read and write. Being able to read is the most important thing that we ever learn. Without reading we cannot do anything else!

The Minister is dropping the requirement of schools to only provide healthy food options in canteens. Things in our canteen will not be changing as we have recently reviewed food we sell at school. The new government believes that it is up to Boards (parents) to make decisions about things like this. Schools have always taught in the health programme, healthy eating and a big part of the physical education programme has always been about exercise for good health. Another change being introduced is with ERO. From now on schools will not be reviewed by ERO every 3 years. If schools are high performing schools they will only be reviewed every 4 – 5 years. Schools that are underperforming will be reviewed more often to ensure that students are not at risk. Truancy is another area where this government is keen to work harder and more closely with schools and families. The fines for truancy have been increased significantly.

NOTICES

Computer Classes –after school & Saturdays. Ph. 499-2211 or www.grandtraining.co.nz

MSP Junior Rugby – Contact Gordon Sleep 973 – 3895 or email sleeps@paradise.net.nz .

Soccer – Miramar Rangers Contact Alison Masters on 387 -4405

Learn an Instrument – TRUMPET /BRASS Teacher available in Kilbirnie. Call Kirsten 934 - 0457

Please contact me 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.**

Best Wishes



Mrs Wendy Esera

ON BEHALF OF THE EBIS STAFF & BOARD