



The EBIS Bulletin

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to the new school year.

To our Year 8 students – you are our role models for 2010.

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.

In order to better support students, the school day will begin at 8.45am. This will mean that at the start and the end of each day students will always have a special time with their homeroom teachers. School will now finish at 2.55.

IMPORTANT DATES

5th Mufti Day

11th Feb. Meet the Teacher Evening 7.00pm in the school hall.

MEET THE TEACHER 11th FEB

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 2010. 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.

NEW STAFF

We warmly welcome to our teaching team this year **Miss Rebecca Wright, Mr Andrew Carey and Mr Stefan Knap**. Rebecca is relieving this year in Room 13 while Mr Gray takes a year off for to further his study. Justin will however be teaching in the school for one day a week so we will not loose contact with him over the year. Andrew will be teaching in Room 6 and Stefan in Room 11.

PROPERTY UPDATE

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

PERFORMANCE GROUPS 2010

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.

E.O.T.C . WEEK – Week 5

This year instead of an away camp for students, we are having a week of going and doing a huge variety of different outdoor education activities in the Wellington area. We will be looking for parent support for this so diary it now if you would like to join your son or daughter and their syndicate for this week or any day of this week. (1 – 5 March)

AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK SUPPORT

Students are able to do homework and any other classroom work in the school library each Tuesday and Wednesday from 3 – 4pm starting next week. We have staff who supervise and assist students if they need it. A letter will come home about this.

LANGUAGE LEARNING

We will be providing languages other than English for students who wish to partake. Please talk to your son or daughter about them taking French, Samoan and Japanese. 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, Multi Materials, Financial Literacy, Art, Maori, Samoan, Science, Maths and Philosophy.

BEHAVIOUR PLAN

Attached to this Bulletin is a copy of the School Behaviour Plan. Please have a look through this so that you know what you can expect from the school in the managing of behavioural issues that may arise.

BLANKET PERMISSION SLIP

Rather than sending out and waiting on permission slips for events, we have adopted a model of a schoolwide blanket permission slip.

PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL THINGS

For any school activity, you are able to arrange with the school office to pay by internet banking. Many parents find that this suits them. If you wish to do this with anything over the year then contact the office and this can be arranged for you. The blue form for Activity & Technology fees is to be filled out and returned to the office as no invoice is issued.

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 in working with students in a counselling type role. If there are any issues concerning your child that you would like Sue to help with during the student support meeting, then please call her.

REMEDIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN READING and MATHEMATICS.

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 provide support for students needing extra help in Maths. By the end of this year we want to have provided support for every student at EBIS identified as underachieving in reading and maths. *Tulima Nonu, Joy Manuel, Junior Telea and Alauni Misa* will be working with student support this year.

Attached to this Bulletin is the Term One Planner. This gives you an idea of what is happening when in Term One!

Please contact us if ever you need to. It is far better that you call if 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 has a section for Parents. This is designed for you. The school website address is www.ebis.school.nz. I welcome your calls at school on **939-3247**, on my **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.

Here's to a great year!

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wendy Esera". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mrs Wendy Esera
ON BEHALF OF THE EBIS STAFF & BOARD