



Bulletin

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Monday 19th July 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope that you have had a great time with your son/daughter over the last two weeks. The cold weather has been a challenge but it has brought with it lovely sunny days to enjoy.

Over the holidays we have had some work done on our grounds. There is now a lovely stone wall and a closed in garden area in front of the library.

Work on the Technology Block continues and we hope to be working in this room by the start of Week 3. The area is looking very nice and our students are going to love it!

The lease on our Staff Apple Laptops runs out next month and this will mean that we will have another set of class laptops for student use. With staff getting new ones, the current ones they have which are 3 years old and still very good, get used as student laptops in classes. This is going to be great!

The Value that we are focussing on over the next two weeks is **THINKING**.

Our children must be encouraged and challenged to be thinkers – active thinkers! Reflective, creative and critical thinkers. Teachers at EBIS teach thinking skills as part of all learning contexts. When planning units of learning, students always have a specific opportunity to use various different Thinking tools.

IMPORTANT DATES

22nd July Otago Maths

28th July Assembly by Room at 10.50am

PARENT INTERVIEWS - END OF TERM 2

Feedback from staff is that these were very positive. If you did not get to have an interview, it is not too late to do this. Staff are very keen to have interviews with you all.

HOMEWORK GROUP AFTER SCHOOL THIS WEEK! Tues. & Wed. 3 – 4pm in the Library

NZSTA CONFERENCE

During the holidays the Board went to the NZ School Trustees Conference in Christchurch. This was a worthwhile conference. We all had the chance to really get to know each other very well which will make our meetings all the more positive. The three keynote speakers were very good.

Peter Baines was a worker in the Tsunami Sri Lanka. He spoke of the great turmoil and heartache for the people and about the huge number of children who became orphans. His story was amazing and it touched the lives of everyone who was there! He talked about focussing on results and not excuses for getting things done!

Apryll Parata spoke about improving the academic outcomes for Maori students. Her presentation reminded us of how the most important factor influencing success of our children at school, is the teacher. There is nothing new about this! Research that has been done all over the world shows without a doubt that the greatest impact on a child in terms of learning outcomes is the teacher. The relationship that children have with the teacher is the most influential in learning outcomes. So our challenge is to always be looking at how we relate to the children we teach. We must have positive relationships with our students !

Allison Mooney was hugely entertaining. She talked about how to push the right buttons. Her presentation was a reminder to us all that, we are all different! We all bring different strengths and therefore we need to find what the strengths of others around us are, and we need to maximise the use of the skills that we each have rather than trying to turn people into clones of who we are! This was useful when thinking about us as a Board but also for me thinking about our teaching team. She told us that we need to work out what makes people tick.

We also went to a variety of different seminars as well. Naturally we were all interested in the one on the National Standards. The model that was shared in this meeting made us feel very good about what we have come up with. Our model is certainly clear and easy for families to understand. The whole issue around reporting to parents is a big part of the Standards. Parents have over the years had all sorts of different reports from schools and many of those reports did not tell parents how well their child was achieving compared to their peer group nationally.

LEARNING PROGRAMMES IN TERM 3

Noted below are the contexts for learning this term.

Having these you will be able to discuss with your son/daughter what they are doing and how their learning is going. Having had the end of term interviews, you will also be aware of the learning goals that they have set with you and their homeroom teacher.

Maths - Financial Literacy, Statistics: Probability, Numeracy.

English - Visual Language: Static Images Narrative Writing, Reading in Groups, Spelling

Social Sciences - Tourism

Health - Food For Fitness

Physical Education - Badminton

Drama - Using the conventions of drama through fairy tales

Science - The Water Cycle

Attached to this Bulletin is another one of the very useful readings from Andrew Fuller. (He is a leading presenter on Middle Years learners)

Don't forget to contact the school if you ever 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