



Bulletin

Phone: (04) 939 3247
Fax: (04) 939 3248

Email: principal@ebis.school.nz
secretary@ebis.school.nz

Monday 22nd March 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The Athletics Day proved to be a good day without students ending up being sunburnt! The blaze of house colours was really a fantastic sight too. I have got to say that staff enjoyed the opportunity to also show off the colours for their Houses just as much as students did.

The Value that we are focusing on at present is **WHANAUNGATANGA**. We want our children to be caring towards others, to be community minded, co-operative and to have an understanding and sense of equity. It is often hard for them to understand the reasons why we do what we do sometimes and this is where that understanding of how we treat people fairly, often appears that we are not treating them the same.

Please note that afterschool Homework Club finishes for the term this Wednesday 25th

DATES

23rd Inter-intermediate Athletics – Newtown Park.

24th BOT Meeting –in the staffroom at 6.30pm.

29th Parent Interviews 3.30 – 8.30pm

30th Parent Interviews 8.30 – 5.30pm SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR INSTRUCTION

BOARD ELECTIONS

Just another reminder about the Board Election. If you are interested in standing for our Board then please call the Office and talk to Suzanne Hendry our Executive Officer. You can also talk to Mike Thompson our current Board Chairperson. Mike can be contacted on 496 – 0050 or 021 – 243 -1320. The nominations close on 23 April. You may like to come along to our next Board meeting this Wednesday 24th March at 6.30pm to see how we do things!

PARENT INTERVIEWS

With the school being closed for instruction next Tuesday 30th, if you do have difficulty providing supervision for your child that day, we will be supervising students in the library and the MMR room.

You will by now know when your interview is. In the interview you will be receiving copies of your child's standardised tests that they have done this term.(PAT, asTTle). Year 8 parents will remember us doing this last year too. These tests are done in all schools around the country and they help staff to determine student learning needs. In the interview you will be helping your son/daughter to acknowledge and celebrate their strengths and to set learning goals for them to focus on over the next term. This information will be recorded and you will take home a copy of this. Goals set will not just be about what we are going to work on with your child at school, but also goals that you can help them to work on, at home. At the interview end of Terms 2 and 3 you will be having the same sort of meeting at school to determine success in goals set and to set future new learning goals.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

In the recent meetings with parents to share what we are doing in the area of reporting and assessing, a number of very good points were raised by parents.

The new Standards are NOT one test that your child does. To determine whether or not your son or daughter has met the described Standard schools need to use a variety of assessment tools to give them this information. The tools that our school uses are tools such as Progressive Achievement Tests, asTTle Tests, Numeracy Stages etc. These are quality, valid national tools that schools have been using for years.

Students already know who is top of the class and who is the bottom of the class, as we did when we were at school. The issue of the Standards destroying self esteem therefore, does not really wash.. Our school uses the language of learning and we are therefore reporting in terms of whether students are achieving **Above the Standard, Working towards the Standard or At the Standard.** We will not be using words like “ Below the Standard or Well below the Standard.” If a student is not where they should be we need to help them to get there.

The Standards are very much in a state of TEACHER LEARNING everywhere. This will be the case for sometime as teachers come to terms with the way that they make the overall teacher judgements about whether a child is meeting the desired Standard for their class level.

Schools do not know what the media may do with schoolwide data about Standards. We believe that this information is for Boards, Parents, Teachers and Students. **Boards to determine resourcing needs, Parents and Teachers to know where a student is achieving at and how they can support that student in their next learning steps and, Students so that they know what they can do and what they still need to work towards.** We would also expect that when ERO visits our school they would naturally want to look at this data too.

STAFF CHANGES IN TERM 2

Vicky Young has been in the school for many years and she leaves us to take up life in Waikanae where she moved to in February. Vicky has done a lot of great things at EBIS over her time here. One of her real strengths has been in working alongside our ESOL students and also her work in the school Library. We wish her all the very best in Waikanae.

Andrew Carey came back from overseas last year and started with us in February. He is a musician and he does not feel that this age level is really where he wants to be. He has been a lovely member of the team and we are sorry to see him go. Noel Meek who taught here in Term 4, has accepted the position taking over Andrews room. Students here know Noel and they enjoy him. We are very pleased to have him join the staff and we feel very lucky to have been able to get him

Alauni Misa leaves us after being here for over 2 years as a Teacher Aide. She has moved to the Hutt to be with her partner. Her plans now are to go to University and become a teacher! Alauni has done great things in the school with supporting students in reading and also taking our hugely successful polyclub. We wish her all the best.

NETBALL UPDATE

The trials are now completed. Teams will be announced at the EBIS Parent meeting on Tuesday 23rd at 7.30pm. Most teams have managers but we still need coaches for 7 of the teams. Please consider this otherwise teams will not be able to play. Motu Kairangi offers coaching courses.

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

