



Bulletin

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Monday 3 May 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last week we finally got underway with the upgrade to our school Technology Block. The initial timeframe is that this will be completed by the end of the term.

At the end of last week our syndicate leaders spent a day looking at Moderation and the Implementation of the National Standards. This was a great learning time for us all and also a good time for us to be able to feel affirmation of exactly what we are doing. As a school we are well on track with all of this.

The Value that we are focusing on is **SUCCESS**. We want our children to be **SUCCESSFUL**. We want to make our children become confident, to take pride in themselves, to have a positive attitude and to see themselves as being capable of nothing less than Excellence. Making our children have the belief in themselves, is critically important. So much research has been carried out about this and one thing that comes through over and over again is the importance of self belief.

NZEI PAID UNION STOPWORK MEETING FOR TEACHERS - this Thursday 6th MAY Our school will close on that day at 2.00pm. We will provide supervision in the library for any students that are not able to go home at that time. The four school buses will now depart from EBIS at 2pm.

CROSS COUNTRY

Thanks to the weather holding off, we were able to have our Cross Country last week.

The students who will be representing the school at the Inter-School Cross Country will be going to this event on Wednesday 2nd June.

PARENT INTERVIEWS – END OF TERM 2

It was good to hear back from some of you about what you felt in regard to the Interviews and also to having the day option. Overall, parents have appreciated the information that they received about how well their child is achieving.

Having now collated information from staff on how well this went, I am able to share with you that overall there was an **86% turnout of parents to these interviews**. This is a really high number. Our goal at the end of this term will be to get closer to 100% though.

Some teachers made other times for interviews with parents outside of the time allocated, in their determination to meet with parents and their children. This appears to be the result of staff being a lot more proactive about getting to talk with all parents. Staff report that they rang parents who did not make an interview time.

Staff also made a very deliberate point of reminding their students about this.

As a school we decided that this year was the year for us to get our parents much more involved with their child's learning. With the new National Standards, we believe we need to involve families far more with their child's learning. If children are to reach the expected Standards then we need families to be working on students learning goals at home, as well as teachers working on them at school.

For Interviews at the end of this term, we are going to change the day option to a half day. This means that on Wednesday 30th June, the school will close for interviewing at 1.00pm. The times that parents will have for interviews will be: Wednesday June 30th 1.30 – 5.30pm and Thursday 1st July from 3.30 – 7.00pm. Like last term, we will provide supervision for any students not able to go home at 1.00pm that day.

ATTENDANCE SURVEY

Late last term an Attendance Survey was conducted in the school and the findings are very interesting. Overall we do not have an issue with truancy as a school. Almost all student absences are explained by families.

One thing that would be helpful however for families is to please make sure that you let the school know when your child is away or going to be away. Our Admin Staff spend a lot of time calling homes every morning tracking absences.

The issue that does come out of the survey which we need to think about however, is lateness. This is of particular concern regarding the number of boys who come late to school. We will do our best to always follow up with this. It is at this age that patterns of lateness can then lead on to truancy, at College.

EXIT SURVEY – YEAR 8 STUDENTS 2009.

Each year we conduct an exit survey of a randomly selected group of students from the previous year 8 cohort. This is always done at the end of Term One, giving students time to become settled into College life before finding out what they felt about their Intermediate years.

From this, areas that we are going to focus on are: Communicating expectations with parents, this is already being addressed with the new process of reporting to parents. Homework and the expectations around this are something that we need to look at more closely. The need for improving the school environment. This year with the new building work we are having done, the school environment will be getting a make over. This year we are also employing someone who is doing the gardens and this has made a huge difference too.

The positive things that parents noted about EBIS are: the variety of learning experiences, the quality of our teaching team, the number of leadership opportunities that students have for the preparation for college and simply “.... students enjoyed being at EBIS”. We know that when students enjoy being at school, they will be far more likely to be engaged in their learning!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS are now on sale at school for \$60.00 each (see brochure and payment folder with this bulletin). We are fundraising for plants for our school grounds (\$12.00 from each book goes towards this).

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CEILIDH- Scottish Musicians Gregor Borland, Scottish fiddle champion & Sandy Brechin on Accordion are playing on Saturday 22 May 7.30pm at the EBIS Hall \$20.00 adult, \$10.00 concession, children free

Art Classes after school: for further information www.artsight.co.nz or contact Fiona 04 3862908, 021786629, email- fiona@artsight.co.nz

L.O.D Dance Studios: Ballet and Jazz to all ages, 6 days a week in our purpose built studios in Newtown! For more info please call 386-2145 or visit www.loddance.co.nz

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