



"To Be All I Can"

FOR YOUR DIARY

3.12	Whole School Trip to Aquatic Centre
8.12	Class and Responsibilities Assembly, 11am at Hills Community Church
10.12	Year 8 and Formal Awards Assembly, 11am at Hills Community Church
14.12	School closes at 12.30pm
2.2.10	Start of Term 1, 2010.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We're into the last days of the school year, the children are ready to celebrate a successful year, it's officially summer, and the pool is full so why's it raining? Such is life!

Congratulations to everyone who participated in or played any part in this year's very successful Talent Quest, including those who didn't make it to the finals. The skill level seems to grow year by year and the judges' task becomes increasingly difficult. All very impressive and a special thanks must go to Tarnia Pilcher and Struan McKenzie for their joint management of this event.

Class and teacher organisation for 2010 is coming together and will be presented to the student and parent community as soon as possible. With the school expanding to eleven classrooms from the beginning of the new school year this task has been a little more involved than normal but provides exciting opportunities and options for everyone.

We look forward to catching up with families at next week's assemblies when we get to celebrate the successes of students across the school and say our sad farewells to those students heading off to college. After getting to know students well after eight years at Mapua School, and playing a part in their growth and development, this is often a time of mixed emotions for school staff and senior students as these students say goodbye to one part of their life and move onto new challenges.

Best wishes for the week ahead,

Neil Chalmers
Principal

SWIMMING POOL KEYS

Pool keys will be available for purchase from Monday, 7 December at a cost of \$30. This will enable you to have use of the pool outside of school hours and during the school holidays. Due to regulations outside of our control, there will be a responsibility for all key holders to be trained to test the chlorine levels of the pool (even if you completed the training last year). This will be held at the pool and will only take 10 minutes. Training is being held at the following times:

Monday, 7 December	9am and 2.45pm
Tuesday, 8 December	9am
Wednesday, 9 December	9am and 2.45pm

Key holders will NOT be able to purchase a key without the training being completed. As parents need to sign a keyholders agreement, keys will not be given to students. Due to keys being available on a first in, first served basis, no keys will held. They will not be available after 12.30pm on 14 December.

Fraction Spotters

This week, Room 4 has been learning about the Indian festival of lights, called Diwali. On Monday, we took some time seeing if we could spot any fractions amongst the pictures of the Diwali festival in action.

Here is what we found:

- ★ Five fifths of the women were wearing saris.
- ★ $\frac{2}{3}$ of the dancers are wearing red.
- ★ $\frac{1}{2}$ of Ravana's arms are on each side of his body.
- ★ Four eighths (or a $\frac{1}{2}$) of the candles were lit.
- ★ Five eighths of the barfi sweets had green lollies on them.
- ★ Three eighths of the barfi sweets had red lollies on them.



BOT SPOT – NOVEMBER 2009

Welcome to the BoT Spot for Term 4. This is the place for news from your Board of Trustees (BoT). This term, I turn over the BoT Spot to Tony Jemmett, the Board Chair:

A number of really positive events have occurred for the School over the past month.

The first for me was the **School's Strategy Meeting** held over a Friday evening and Saturday earlier this month. This was a first for me and I suspect for the school for a long time. The event had a really proactive mix of staff and Board members and the facilitation by Neil resulted in some really well-balanced and strong strategies for 2010 and beyond.

This event was also very positive for me as it fits well with the School's approach to looking ahead and setting the goals towards which we can plan. Each time we take steps such as this as a school, I feel that we are not only setting the school on the right track for now, but also increasing the stability and strength of the school for the future, which all helps in our ability to reach the Vision we have for the School.

Remaining "Vision focussed" was a theme in a recent workshop held in Motueka with other Trustees from the region. The central topic was gaining understanding of the new National Standards recently introduced by the Ministry and how they fit with the implementation of the new curriculum. More information on the National Standards can be found on the following website: <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/National-Standards>.

Another positive event this month was the pouring of **foundations for our new classroom**. This has felt like a long time in coming, as it is the first significant project since the Board went down the process of setting our Property Plan for the School. The significance of this current project is as much in its symbolism as a major step in this Plan as it is in the evidence of our rapidly growing school. We thank the staff for their patience and professionalism in managing the school's growing pains during this process.

The Board is in constant discussions about the school's needs regarding both human and physical resources. In recent months, we have been focussing our lens on the back field and surrounds, and are in the process of gathering feedback and formulating a 10 Year Plan for this area, to be presented to the school community in the New Year. Regarding human resources, at our last meeting, the Board allocated funds to enhancing the teacher-to-student ratio in our classrooms in our continued priority to provide quality education for our children.

The third significant positive event for me this month was the **Sports Day**, which is an event that I personally have always enjoyed and, as a Board member, felt a lot of pride in, yet again. This event has parents actively supporting, encouraging, involving, and generally getting excited with their children. The value of this probably can't be measured, but I believe the connection between the School and the community that we have is

enhanced by events such as this. I thank all the staff and volunteers who assisted with the set up and running of this event. Fabulous.

On a final note, we as a Board would like to express what a rewarding experience it is to serve the school as a Trustee. Board elections will be held in May of next year, and we would like others to consider getting involved in the school in this way to continue the Vision for the school. More information will be forthcoming here.

All the best for a safe and happy holiday, and a prosperous New Year.

Cheers

Tony Jemmett
Board of Trustees
Mapua School

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Tasbay Kidz Holiday Programme We are delighted that the popular Holiday Programme will run for two weeks from Monday 18th January. Contact Sal for details (027 406 8109) or check out the Boredom Busters magazine when it arrives.

It is with considerable regret that we must advise you that this will be the last term for the After School programme. We have appreciated the support After School parents have given over the years for this fantastic resource for the school. Unfortunately, shrinking numbers of children using the programme and a decrease in support from the Ministry of Social Development means that it is financially unviable for the school to maintain this programme.

Our thanks and congratulations must go to the caring and supportive team of Sal, Jenny and Tracey, and to all the other After School supervisors through the years, for their dedication to providing safe afterschool care and activities for numerous children throughout our community.

“Recycled Christmas Challenge - Reduce, Reuse, Rejoice” Send photos of your recycled Christmas creation to Mapua Country Trading. Include your name and contact details and if entering the childrens’ or adults competition. The best entry in each category wins \$50 gift voucher. Entries close 15th December and the best entries will be on the website - www.mapuacountrytrading.co.nz

Nelson Bays Football Schools 2010 for boys and girls aged 8 to 10. The aim of the school is to help you as a player improve your skills, and understand how to play, by playing small sided games. This is a great opportunity to be involved in a structured programme and receive quality coaching. NBF schools will be held at the following venues, with numbers strictly limited, to allow coaches to deliver quality coaching. Training will be every Monday from 4.00pm to 5.15pm, commencing on Monday 1st February. The school will run for terms one and two in 2010 and the cost is \$50 per school term. Venues are Neale Park, Nelson; Saxton Field, Stoke; Goodmans Reserve, Motueka; and Upper Moutere Sports Domain. Please note registrations close on Wednesday, 20th January 2010. Enquiries to George Campbell, Regional Development Coach, Nelson Bays Football - 5486220, 0274 478059 or gacam@xtra.co.nz