



"To Be All I Can"

FOR YOUR DIARY

11.5	Y7/8 Tackle Rugby Tournament
14.5	Assembly, 2pm - Room 3 leading
18.5	Y5/6 Rippa Rugby Tournament
20.5	Disco: Years 1-4 from 5.30 - 6.45pm; Years 5-8 from 7-8.30pm
25.5	ICAS Computer Skills exam
25.5	Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm
26.5	Reuben Wiki visit
27.5	School Cross Country
28.5	Assembly, 2pm - Room 11 leading

Tena Koutou,

Have you managed to vote yet in the Board of Trustees Elections? We wish to remind everyone that voting closes this Friday at noon and with nine quality candidates standing it would be great that everyone participated in this election. Votes can be posted via mail or in the ballot box situated in the school foyer. If you are mailing your voting paper it must be post marked as at Friday.

This week we are sad to say farewell to teacher-aide, Lesley Hickin. Lesley has worked as a part of our team for over a year now and has achieved much in this position. We wish her every success for the future and wish to thank her most sincerely for her input to this school.

Mandy Stephens has produced a chart showing the links between the school 'Beliefs' and our Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) programme that includes The Big Day Out and camps. These events involve considerable input by staff and parents and therefore we, the Board, felt it important to consider the association of these experiences with our aims. To view this chart it can be accessed via the school website (www.mapua.school.nz) under the BOT blog.

Great things are happening around our playground and this weekend a team of enthusiastic volunteers will be working on the re-construction of our senior adventure playground to an area along the eastern boundary (beside the beach walkway). The PTA has energetically taken up the challenge to carry out the Back Field upgrade as per the plans that were recently finalised. This is the first step in a major upgrade of our playground facilities and we are very excited to see this proceed. The children will no doubt love this development.

The first round of the Otago Problem Solving mathematical extension course for senior and intermediate aged children got underway last week and we can tell you that the problems set are very challenging. Our students applied themselves well to this task and we look forward to some positive results.

A reminder that many classes are holding parent interviews today (Thursday). Reports have gone out now to the vast majority of families (except our newest students who will receive a report after their first 20 weeks at school) and we trust that families feel fully informed as to how their children are achieving at this relatively early point in the school year. We invite feedback regarding the reporting process and this can be related directly to teachers or via my email (principal@mapua.school.nz).

Both the Board of Trustees and PTA have had meetings recently and their work output is considerable. The PTA report via their blog, which can also be accessed via the school webpage (as mentioned above), and the BOT will be publishing a BOT SPOT in the near future. A major focus at this point in time for the BOT regards our property development and the current Board has been busy establishing priorities for projects and approving next steps.

These steps include the construction of Room 12 and the upgrading of Room 10 through the inclusion of a sink, wet-area, and cloaks area. The next steps are a little more complex but involve the upgrading of Rooms 3 and 4, the resource area between these two rooms, and the provision of library/information centre facilities. Consultation on this next step has begun with staff and advisers.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Naku noa, na,

Neil Chalmers
Principal

Ashton Scholastic Book Orders are due in by Thursday, 13 May. They will be processed on that weekend and books arrive about three weeks later. Please send orders in a sealed envelope.

PLAYGROUND ON THE MOVE

This Saturday (weather permitting), there will be a group of keen and dedicated parents working hard to dismantle and reconstruct the senior playground. We are so fortunate to have in our school community people with the skills and enthusiasm to plan and implement this task. Having these volunteers means the school and PTA resources can go so much further to completing the back field project. Once the playground has been moved we will then need to construct a containment wall for the bark and spread that bark. Once a date is set for this we will need some more willing hands.

We then intend to plan and build an interactive sandpit area, between Room 9 and the relocated playground. If anyone would like to be involved with the planning or building of this area then please do contact us as we intend to start this soon. We have been gathering donated materials where possible and have been offered wooden poles and possibly some large boulders, but would appreciate any other ideas you may have where we can source materials.

The other parts of the back field project include; creating a mound for the children to play on, the planting of shade trees and landscaping of new play areas, and building an endurance/fitness trail around the back field. We will do as much as we can with the funds raised so far. However we will publish a list of materials required to give people the opportunity to donate or sponsor these items.

So again, a big thanks to our parents who are giving up their day on Saturday to make our school an even better place.

Any offers of help for the next stages of this project please contact Mary Duncan 540 2992, or Justine Millar 540 3779.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Children's Gymnastics: Gymnastics and whole body movement sessions are designed to improve a child's strength, balance, coordination, spatial awareness and eye tracking by letting them climb, jump and roll. We use hand apparatus, music, and equipment in a fun, safe and positive learning environment. Thursdays @ The Old Church Hall, Hills Community Church, Mapua; Fridays @ Moutere Hills Community Centre, Upper Moutere. For more information please contact Sam on: (03) 5432512 or samantha_slade@hotmail.com

After School Art Programmes children's art classes coming to Mapua School for Term 2. Teaching the principles and techniques of drawing, painting, ceramics and sculpture and having fun experimenting with a wide range of materials. Taught by qualified professional artist and art tutor. ASAP is designed for children aged 6-12. The cost of the 6 week program is \$120 per student. This includes all materials, healthy fruit snacks and discount for ASAP students at Impressions Art Supplies. Family discounts available. Term 2 programme runs over six weeks and is held at the school on Mondays 3.05-4.30pm. First class 10/05/10. For more information or bookings Contact David Dylan Thomas, Dip FA, BFA. Telephone 03 526 7772, email: asapartprogram@yahoo.com