



"To Be All I Can"

FOR YOUR DIARY

- 12.2 School Tryathlon
- 16.2 School Photos
- 17.2 Middle Syndicate - Meet the Teacher BBQ, 5pm
- 19.2 Principal's Assembly, 2.15pm
- 20.2 By Pass Opening, 12 - 6pm
- 22.2 Swimming Sports - Senior/Intermediate Syndicates 9am - 1pm
- 23.2 Room 9 Camp
- 23.2 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm
- 24.2 Middle Syndicate Swimming Demonstration
- 25.2 Postponement date for Senior Swimming Sports
- 26.2 Junior Syndicate Swimming Demonstration

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last week I was contacted by a Nelson Mail reporter regarding the introduction of National Standards in schools and in this interview shared some of my feelings on this matter. I do need to say to families that I was sharing some of my personal views at that time and that what I was reported as saying does not necessarily reflect the collective voice of the school or board. The introduction of National Standards has created considerable debate within the education community and their introduction has been fraught with concerns from various individuals and bodies. Mapua School is currently working its way through their introduction and while we believe our current assessment and reporting systems exceed the requirements set, we are reviewing both areas to ensure that we fully comply. We will keep families informed of progress in this area as it occurs.

We are always keen to ensure that children's travel to and from school is as safe as possible. While we encourage cycling, where it is appropriate, we also wish to point out the dangers associated with this. The NZ Police state that there is no specific law as to an appropriate minimum age for cycling but they do advise that children, in general, under ten years of age do not have the awareness associated with vehicle movements to keep them safe. We stand by this advice and suggest that children under ten years of age should only bike to school when accompanied by an adult. In the end this is your call as a parent but one that we encourage you to give serious consideration.

In respect of the above we also wish to advise that walkways/cycleways signage within the area has been upgraded and that the footpath, beginning at the village tennis courts and going through to Ruby Bay, is a shared walkway/cycleway and provides a relatively safe route to and from school for many children. However cyclists should take great care when using this path, especially in respect of vehicles moving in and out of driveways, and should be courteous to other users of the path. Children should also be very aware that, from the tennis courts onwards into the village, the footpath is designated for use by walkers only and that cycles will need to be on the road or pushed from this point.

This week sees the Tryathlon (**trying** being the focus) take place on Friday from 1.00 pm and we look forward to the children's participation in this. The forecast is good, the children are putting in the effort, and Warren Taylor, along with the staff team, has put considerable effort into managing every detail of this event. Why not come along on the day and support the children as they set out 'To Be All They Can'?!

Best wishes for the week ahead,

Neil Chalmers
Principal

Cervical Cancer Immunisation for Girls

The Cervical Cancer Immunisation protects against the virus that most commonly causes cervical cancer. It takes three injections in the upper arm over six months, and is free to girls born after 1989. This year the immunisation is available to all girls from Year 8 upward through the school-based immunisation programme. Girls who are not in school can access this free immunisation through a family doctor, practice nurse or health clinic.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Our School Can Win at Opera in the Park If your family and friends are going to Nelson Opera in the Park on Saturday, February 13 make sure they drop their free tickets, with our school's name on the back, into the Schools Competition boxes at each entry gate. It gives us a chance to win one of three BioPaints provided \$500 sports or art equipment vouchers. One prize is awarded for the most tickets for a secondary or intermediate school, one for a primary school and a final prize for the school that collects the greatest percentage of tickets based on their roll.

Way2Go and Active Movements activities trailers, jam packed with sporting equipment and games is coming to the Mapua Recreation Reserve on Wednesday, 3 March from 3.30 - 5pm. Get your friends and family together and try out a bunch of sports. There is no charge for this. For more information contact Paul McConachie 543 8525.

NATIONAL TENNIS OPEN DAY this Saturday, 13th February from 1pm-3pm at the Mapua Tennis Courts. Bring the family for a fun hit - no pressure!!

TENNIS COACHING Any adults wishing to learn how to play tennis or simply brush up on their skills, are welcome to join us on Friday mornings at the Mapua Tennis courts. A mix of coaching and games, this is a great way to keep fit and most importantly have lots of fun! Phone Vanessa 5432 332.

Mapua & Districts Football Club AGM will be held at Mapua School, Mapua at 7.30pm on Friday, 19 February 2010. All Club members and interested persons are encouraged to attend. If you require further information on the AGM or the Club, please contact Tony Jemmett on 540 3664 (evenings) or Jemz@xtra.co.nz

Bike Wise Family Fun Rides Get on your bike and take part in the ride on Sunday, 28 February. The ride starts at 2pm from the Skate Park on Old Wharf Road. This is a scenic flat ride following the estuary and foreshore. The route is both on- and off-road, as well as on shared path. There is a short course option available. The ride is free and just by taking part you will be in with a chance of winning a new bike or one of the other spot prizes. So fasten your helmet and join other cyclists on the Bike Wise Family Ride. For more information contact Krista Hobday at Tasman District Council on 03 543 8551.

After School Art Programs continues in 2010 with new programmes teaching drawing, painting and sculpture using a wide range of art making materials and techniques. Taught by qualified professional artists and art tutors, ASAP programs are designed for children aged 6-12. Term one 2010 programme runs over six weeks and is held at school on Thursdays 3.05-4.35pm. The cost of the program is \$120 and includes fruit snacks and discount at local art suppliers. For more information or bookings contact David Dylan Thomas Dip FA BFA on 03 5267772 or email: asapartprogram@yahoo.com

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, spin and crawl We use hand apparatus, songs, and gym equipment to achieve this in a fun, positive learning environment. Thursdays @ The Old Church Hall, Hills Community Church, Mapua; Fridays @ Moutere Hills Community Centre, Upper Moutere. Sessions for six months to nine years. Book now to avoid disappointment. For an information leaflet please contact Sam on: (03) 5402896 or samantha_slade@hotmail.com