



"To Be All I Can"

FOR YOUR DIARY

20.3	Assembly, 2pm - Room 9 leading
23.3	Room 7 Camp
24.3	PTA AGM, 7pm in the Staffroom
25.3	Parent Interviews and BOT display/consultation re grounds concept plan - school closed at 2pm
31.3	Room 9 Camp
1.4	New Parents Welcome Morning Tea, 9am in the Staffroom
1.4	Room 7 Parent Interviews, 3pm
3.4	Assembly, 2pm - Room 1 leading
6.4	Room 8 Camp
7.4	Year 7/8 Summer Tournament
9.4	Year 7/8 Summer Tournament postponement date
9.4	End of Term 1
12.4	EASTER FAIR
27.4	Start of Term 2

Dear Parents

Your child's safety is our primary focus. We aim to provide your child with a safe and secure environment in which effective learning can take place. Coming to school, and returning home, are two significant 'risk' areas in respect to child safety and we wish to do everything possible to ensure that children make these daily journeys without incident.

When travelling by bus we ask that parents keep a watchful eye over students waiting at bus stops until such time as the bus arrives. A child inadvertently stepping out onto the road when playing at the stop is a high risk and therefore children waiting for the bus should do so under supervision, especially when very young. We would recommend that parents roster themselves to supervise groups of children waiting at stops to lighten this load and those waiting outside properties remain within a safe distance from the road.

If travelling by car we are pleased to say that the entrance to the overflow car park is being moved to the village end of the property. The contractors have delayed the beginning of this project but we expect it to be underway within two or three weeks. We ask parents to take great care in our car parking areas, to respect the disabled and 'stork' parks, and to take extreme care when moving children to and from vehicles.

Children biking to school should all wear helmets and we encourage younger students to travel with an adult until such time as their spatial awareness and sense of speed develop. Research suggests that young children do not have these attributes and therefore are at greater risk on the road than their older peers.

Likewise children walking to school need to keep to paths and be very aware of traffic movements around them. Ideally children are best walking to school in groups rather than as individuals. Knowing some safe houses, or ports of call, along the way provides an added level of security.

Finally, our reason for contacting families in the event that an individual child is absent is to ensure that they are legitimately away and that nothing has happened to them between home and school. Should your child be absent, or late, for any reason we kindly ask that you let us know by phone, text, fax, or note as soon as possible each and every day they are away (unless it is a pre-notified absence). We want to know that your child is safely with you and hasn't come to grief en route to school. Absence contacts are phone 5402806, fax 5402865; email admin@mapua.school.nz or text 027 383 5039.

Thank you and best wishes for the week ahead,

Neil Chalmers
Principal

EASTER FAIR UPDATE

Helper Rosters: These will be sent out next week but we are still short of helpers particularly in the afternoon. Please leave a message at the office or contact Angela on 5403135.

House Colour Raffles: In the foyer are coloured boxes to match the house colours. This is where you can drop off a raffle item that matches the house colour that your child is in. These might be food, linen, toys or household items - it really doesn't matter.

Preloved Toys and Children's Books: As part of the children's corner at the fair we will be having a stall selling good condition, preloved toys and children's books. If you are having a clean out and want to donate, please drop these into the office. Thanks to those who have already contributed.

Thanks again for supporting Mapua Easter Fair 2009!

2009 TERM DATES

Term 1	Ends Thursday, 9 April
Term 2	Monday, 27 April to Friday 3 July
Term 3	Monday, 20 July to Friday 25 September
Term 4	Monday, 12 October to Tuesday 15 December

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Open Day at the Mapua Health Centre On Sunday, 22 March the Mapua Health Centre is having an open day between 11 - 2pm to celebrate their 19th birthday. Everyone is most welcome to come and see the hyperbaric chamber and be informed about the hypoxic treatment available.

DOWN SYNDROME ART EXHIBITION, 21 – 22 March in the Mapua Hall, to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and the abilities of people with Down syndrome in the Nelson region. This exhibition features a variety of art works for sale by people of all ages with Down syndrome. Opening night 5-8pm Saturday 21st March. All welcome. Exhibition open on Sunday 22nd 9am-1pm. For more information please phone Erena Powell 03 5280044.

Spectacle Subsidy Are you worried about your child's vision? Do you have a Community Services Card? If so, you are entitled to an annual spectacle subsidy which covers eye examination, frames, lenses, repairs and eye patches to the value of \$281.25. A further \$50 is available for children who require an adult size frame. More information is available from the school office.

SportStart is a grants scheme that is available through Work and Income, Nelson Marlborough Health Board and the Tasman Regional Sports Trust. The purpose of this is to help young people take part in sport and physical activity by providing financial assistance where paying fees is a barrier to participation. Grants to a maximum of \$50 per application are available for 5-16 year old who reside in Tasman or Nelson and applicants are entitled to a maximum of two SportStart applications per year (eg one winter and one summer sport). Further details available from Steve Mitchell, 5463304 or call in to the Office and collect an information sheet.