



20 August 2009

"To Be All I Can"

FOR YOUR DIARY

21.8	Assembly, 2pm - Room 4 leading
25.8	Board of Trustees meeting, 7pm in the staffroom
28.8	Assembly, 2pm - Room 5 leading
1.9	PTA Meeting in the Staffroom, 7.30pm
9.9	Year 6 Parent Evening, 7.30pm
10.9	Parent Interviews, school closes at 2pm
11.9	Assembly, 2pm - Room 1 leading
14.9	Years 5-6 Nelson Schools cross country
15.9	Motueka Winter Tournament, Years 5 - 8
17.9	Motueka Winter Tournament postponement date
17.9	Passion for Plants, 7pm at the Mapua Hall- PTA fundraiser
18.9	Years 7-8 Interschool cross country
22.9	Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm in the staffroom
24.9	Years 5 - 8 Inter-regional cross country

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Any change in government leads to a degree of apprehension on the part of schools as inevitably the incoming parties bring different focuses and philosophies to their leadership. Consequently we have watched with interest developments within the Ministry of Education (MOE) as to changes that the National Government might make. Last week a group of approximately 10 Nelson Principals, myself included, took up the opportunity to meet with the new Minister of Education, Anne Tolley, and local MP Nick Smith. The discussion was focused and frank and I came away feeling reassured that the changes currently mooted are generally of a positive nature in respect of teaching and learning.

Areas discussed included the introduction of national standards with the minister stressing that successful schools such as ours should notice little difference from developments in this area, a review of special education with terms of reference due out soon, a commitment to resolve the Support Staff Collective Employment Contract impasse by (hopefully) making an offer to the union above the current nil increase mooted, increased funding for physical education through a new KiwiSport initiative with a focus on physical activity and the reduction of child obesity, upgraded broadband facilities for schools, and the refocusing of Ministry budgets to maximise funding for schools.

The outbreak of measles within areas of New Zealand is a cause for concern and the Ministry of Health (MOH) have issued instructions in the last few days regarding this. We ask families to ensure that children's immunisations are up to date and that we have a record of this. Please contact the school office if you wish to check. Immunisation certificates are available from your doctor's practice and once we have this information we can update our pupil file records. The MOH requires students who have no proven immunity to measles (through immunisation or previous exposure) to be sent home if there is a measles outbreak in their class.

Last week we said farewell to our current library and began setting this building up as a new classroom (Room 10) for first year students transferring from Room 2 and Paula Dawkins to Tarnia Pilcher. Classes have selected and taken considerable book collections to their rooms and the remaining stock has been placed in storage. Our thanks to the Cookson family for storing our books and the Thurlow family for storing the library shelving. It is our intention to have our new library built as quickly as possible but cannot give an indication as to when at this point. We are currently working through the construction of a new Room 5, upgrading of Room 3 & 4, expansion of the old library as a teaching space, conversion of the current Room 5 into a resource room, and the addition of our new library to this room. It's a very busy but exciting time for the school.

Our thanks to the PTA who arranged for the planting of five new flowering plum trees around the school. These trees were kindly donated to us by Richard and Leanne Ford of 'Big Trees on Lansdowne', Appleby. They were surplus to their requirements and through discussions around the PTA's garden evening on September 17th the Ford family made them available to us. We are aware that these trees are not necessarily in line with the style of planting here, nor have they necessarily been placed with a view to our long-term property plan. However they certainly add a bright spot to the school and will serve us well in the meantime.

Congratulations to our Mapua Wetlands Gifted and Talented group who put together a fabulous display for Ecofest this year. This display, showing details of their work, can be seen on display in our foyer. Best wishes to our Science Fair extension group who have worked very hard on their experiments and displays in preparation for this year's Nelson Schools Science Fair and also to Mapua School's Mathix Group who have been fine tuning their maths skills at lunchtimes over the past month in preparation for the Mathix Challenge at Nayland College next week. The science fair displays will be on view in the foyer over the next week and then again following the fair itself.

Representing the school at the Primary Nelson Science Fair on Monday 24th August are:

Jake and Kaleb - Full Fat vs Trim - which lasts the longest?

Georgia and Georgia - Coke, Tea, Salted or Plain Water –Which assists with the growth of a plant most?

Representing the school at the Intermediate/Secondary Nelson Science Fair on Thursday 27th August are:

Libby - Is mopping just a way of spreading bacteria?

Kynan, Cacilda and Jessica - What does green have to do with green houses?

Best wishes,

Neil Chalmers
Principal



COMMUNITY NOTICES

PAINT IN - Ideas day for a Mapua Domain mural with local artist, David Kemp. Saturday, 29 August from 10am - 2pm at the Domain and Mapua Hall Supper Room. Bring ideas and designs that you may have already created, felts, coloured pencils, paper etc for your own use or to share with a friend. Some brushes, paints and paper will be available.

Tell other people who use the Domain but are not at Mapua School (perhaps High School) to come and be creative also.

This is an opportunity for the children and their families of this area to make their mark, and show how clever they are by creating great murals which everyone - locals and visitors - will be able to enjoy for many years.

Note: This is a creative process with lots of ideas being tried - some will work and others may not, but out of trial and error something will evolve. Lets have fun doing it!!!

Any queries to Nadienne on 540 2507.

Football An invitation is extended to all supporters, players, coaches, grandparents, friends, family etc to celebrate the end of the winter football season. A fun night out at The Tap, 12th September, 7pm. Dress code - Your Hero/Superstar. \$25 ticket covers meal, live band, great company. Tickets available from Sian phone 5402248, Shelley phone 5402417 or The Tap.

Junior players 'Hero' Disco and prizegiving to be held at the Mapua Hall Saturday 5th September, 4pm onwards.

Tennis Free open day for every Mapua School student. If you come along not only will you go in the prize draw to win \$800 worth of prizes, (first prize a \$650 family tennis prize pack), but you will receive free group coaching with qualified coaches. Held at the Mapua Tennis Club on Saturday 12th September from 10-11am. For further information and postponement dates visit: www.tennisnelson.co.nz or phone 0273 109 722.

Nelson Bays Tennis Association Development Trials For anyone wanting to trial for Nelson Bays Tennis Development squads for the summer season the testing days will be held at the Tasman Tennis Centre, Gladstone Road, Richmond as follows:

Friday 11th September 4-5pm for under 10 - born 1st April 1999 - 31 March 2001

Friday 11th September 4-5pm for under 12 - Born 1st April 1997 - 31 March 1999

For further information please contact Nelson Bays Tennis Development Officer Lynnne Nevin 0273 663 709 or visit www.tennisnelson.co.nz

Cricket: September Holiday Programme, 28 - 30 September and 5 - 7 October at Nayland College. \$20 per day or \$50 for three days. Suited for 5 - 13 year olds, the programme teaches participants the fundamentals of cricket in a fun, learning environment. More information from Andrew Cavill - cavill.cricket@gmail.com or Rburriel@xtra.co.nz or Rachel 545 6903 or Andrew 027 249 5440, 545 2245. Information sheets available from the office.