



27 August 2009

"To Be All I Can"

FOR YOUR DIARY

28.8	Assembly, 1.55pm - Room 5 leading (Note earlier start time)
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
25.9	End of Term 3
12.10	Start of Term 4

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Risk versus challenge. Each time we take children away from the school setting a degree of risk is involved and this is something we weigh up very carefully before taking up any such event. On the one hand we wish to minimise, if not negate, the possibility of any risk or injury, while at the same time wishing to provide students with programmes and opportunities that challenge and extend them. Getting the balance between these two poses the school with challenges of its own. The Board of Trustees and staff take this responsibility very seriously and aim to provide a rich, stimulating, and relevant programme where all risks are analysed and carefully managed.

Snow Day is one such activity and with good luck on our side the weather and the day turned out to be superb. In excess of 130 students and family members made the journey to Rainbow and enjoyed a great days tobogganing, snow boarding, and skiing. Unfortunately two children had accidents and, as one of these involved a broken arm, this child was airlifted off the mountain. Everything indicates that these injuries were the result of accidents but despite this we, as a school, have carried out a review of the events that led up to these incidents and will, where possible, do everything to see that such incidents do not reoccur.

A very warm welcome to new Year 1 student Megan and Year 5 student Saskia. We wish each of you and your families every success here at Mapua School.

The last week has been a busy one and has included a number of interesting events. Room 4 led a great assembly last Friday, a large group of students sat the ICAS Mathematics Exam, the Easter Fair Trust met to sum up the 2009 event and to distribute the profits (the details of which are heading your way via the Board's Hot Spot), local resident Kerri Bainbridge has joined Room 4 as a student teacher for the next few weeks, the New Curriculum Development Team have completed work on the Key Competencies/Habits of the Mind documentation, the Board held its monthly meeting, Room 10 (the old library) received its furniture, three junior school teachers from Wakefield School visited Room 2 to view our skilled Assistant Principal Paula Dawkins in action, several senior and intermediate aged children entered exhibits in the Nelson Region Science Fair (some of whom were highly successful), and last night (Wednesday) a Year 7 and Year 8 team took on other Nelson Schools at the Mathex Competitions.

Coming up Room 5 are facilitating a 'performing' assembly on Friday. Groups and classes have been invited to contribute items and so this is one assembly you may wish not to miss. Dental Technicians Judy Lyle and Helen Billington begin work here on Thursday and will work their way through the school student population during the next few weeks. On 09/09/09 the school intends to take up an invitation by the local Business Association for everyone to join them in Mapua's version of the Longest Lunch. We have been invited down to the wharf area to join other members of the community for a picnic style lunch between 12.00 noon and 2.00 p.m. Children are to bring along their normal lunch and we will walk them there and back. Parents and other family members are invited to join the children for this occasion and we would appreciate your assistance with supervision on the walk to and from the wharf and during the lunch period. If

you can assist then please phone our office to let us know. If you would prefer that your child does not take place in this event then please also phone us regarding this. The Longest Lunch is intended to bring to everyone's attention the fact that the Rugby World Cup takes place in 2011 and games will be played here in Nelson (all involving the Italians and thus the Longest Lunch concept), but it is also a great opportunity to join and interact with the community.

Enjoy the remainder of the week and remember 'To Be All You Can'.

Neil Chalmers

Principal

SNOW DAY

As you are aware the senior students last Thursday went up to the Rainbow Ski Field. Our day started early (7.10am) with a safety meeting at school before departing in a range of vehicles. Once we were at the ski field, the Level 1 and 2 skiers and snowboarders had their lessons while some students set straight off to the toboggan track. Believe me that ride is not for the faint hearted! The other skiers with instructors, Mandy Stephens, Malcolm Hepburn and some parent helpers went skiing until their lesson started which was later in the day. We all had a fabulous day and the staff at the ski field commented on how well the students listened to the instructors and on their excellent behaviour. I would like to say a thank you to all the students as I know that the teachers had a great day with you and a BIG thank you to all the parents/helpers for driving and helping the students throughout the day. It would not have been possible without you all.

Theresa Brown

WHAT ARE THE ICAS EXAMS

ICAS (International Competitions and Assessment for Schools) are a series of tests produced by the University of New South Wales that provide students with the opportunity to test themselves against New Zealand age related peers. The tests are sat under exam conditions, are made up of a mix of multi-choice and written answers, and are marked by the UNSW. Tests are available for Year 4 students upwards to Year 13 in the areas of computer skills, science, spelling, writing, English, and mathematics. We advertise the opportunity for children to enter these competitions early in the school year. An entry fee is payable to UNSW via the school. Once marked the students receive certificates, award rankings, and analysis of their results from the university. We encourage students to try these exams when they are doing well in a subject area and they are interested in seeing how they compare with their peers. We also encourage children to try them out so that they may gain experience sitting an external test under strict exam conditions. To date we have had some very exciting results with some students achieving 'Distinguished' and 'Highly Distinguished' awards. As the top 2% and 1% of NZ students respectively these are impressive results.

UKULELES

Our school ukulele orchestras are up and running and going strong!! As a follow up to this, we are able to offer a special deal to purchase ukuleles through the school for \$51. These come in a variety of colours - midnight purple (really, really dark), candy floss pink, canary yellow, chocolate brown, pillar box red or royal blue. Order forms for the orchestra members are being sent home separately. Please note that payment needs to be made at the time of ordering and orders close on 4 September. Cheques to be made payable to Mapua School please. Any enquiries to Struan McKenzie in Room 4. Please note that this offer is available to anyone and a colour brochure is in the Office if you wish to see the colours available.

Room 3's Thoughts on the Cross Country

Yesterday, it was the Cross Country Race. First, we walked around the course. Next we did the race. We had to sprint at the end. I felt itchy. Lily

Yesterday it was Cross Country and everyone shouted, " Angel, go! Angel go! Angel go!" and I felt happy. We all ran over the seats. Angel

On the Cross Country at the first bit I was first, then I came fifth and then at the end I came fourth. We jumped the seats. I felt happy at the start and finish. Macgregor

Yesterday, it was the Cross Country. We ran around the field two times. It was fun. I felt good. Holly

Today it is the Cross Country and my Dad is coming... At the Cross Country we got changed and waited. The Year Fours went fast. Josh

In the Cross Country I raced as fast as I could and people were jumping over the seats so I jumped the seats and so did our friends in Room 2 and 4. Tyler

Yesterday, the whole school ran the Cross Country. First the Year 4's went and then the Year 3's ran next. Then the Year 2's went then the Year 1's went. I came first. I was happy. Tristan

First we had lunch then we went to Cross Country. We sat on the mats, then we had our race. Before I had my race I felt powered up to go. I came 5th. Bryn

Yesterday it was the Cross Country Race. We had to race as fast as we could. I felt happy and excited, and it was fun. Lucy

Results were:

Year 0-1 Boys	1st Tristan; 2nd Josh L; 3rd Sean
Year 0-1 Girls	1st Amelia; 2nd Lulu; 3rd Sasha
Year 2 Boys	1st Marco; 2nd Gus; 3rd James
Year 2 Girls	1st Sarah; 2nd Olivia; 3rd Milly
Year 3 Boys	1st Travis; 2nd Ethan; 3rd Reece
Year 3 Girls	1st Tia; 2nd Venka; 3rd Emily
Year 4 Boys	1st Mac; 2nd Jake; 3rd Daniel T
Year 4 Girls	1st Brooke; 2nd Bethan; 3rd Issy

PASSION FOR PLANTS
– guest speaker Jack Hobbs

Thursday 17th September @ The Mapua Hall
Tickets available now \$25/person

Planning is well underway for this evening which will be a major fundraiser for Mapua School this term.
This event proved very popular last year and a great deal of money was able to be raised for the school through both ticket sales and silent auction goods.

We require your help to acquire auction goods!!
Nothing too big or small - your efforts would be appreciated.

A lot of local businesses have once again generously donated fantastic goodies – but do you or your contacts have something that can be donated, the more the merrier as we have a captive audience!!

We are also keen to find some keen bakers to make up a slice or two for the evening – please contact either Justine Millar 5403779, Mary Duncan 5402992 or Jackie Hall 5402770.

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.

Learn to Sail Pamphlets on courses for the September and Christmas holidays are now available in the Office.