



"To Be All I Can"

FOR YOUR DIARY

1 .5	Mad Hair Day
5.5	PTA Meeting, 7.30pm in the staffroom
8 .5	Assembly, 2pm - Room 7 leading
11.5	Book Fair this week
22.5	Assembly, 2pm - Room 8 leading
27.5	ICAS Computer Skills
28.5	Disco Years 1-4 5.30pm - 6.45pm; Years 5-8 7pm - 8.30pm
29.5	Teacher Only Day - school closed
1 .6	Queen's Birthday - school closed

Dear Parents

So much to say and so little space! I'll keep it as brief as possible.

Welcome to the new term, it's going to be a great one and we have a huge number of interesting things going on to stimulate children's interest and add that WOW factor to learning. On top of focused programmes in language and mathematics we have a 'PAST and PRESENT' focus for our integrated learning (you might like to follow this through at home by sharing and resurrecting aspects of the past from your own family background or the community we live in), and subject to ages, stages, and classes we have the MAD HAIR DAY (tomorrow Friday May 1st), ICAS competition tests in Computer Skills, Science, Spelling and Writing, gymnastics, Otago Problem Solving skills challenge tests, a Book Fair, the Rock Band, GATE programmes, Tackle Rugby, Rippa Rugby, assemblies, discos, whole school singing, careers education, Kiwi Dex, a visit from Rarotongan School Principal Rari Rari, and the Takaka Sports Exchange all happening. We're keen to see our students 'Be All They Can' and believe that our teaching programme, supported by these activities, provides this opportunity.

A very warm welcome to new Mapua students Braden, Tegan, Izaak, Chloe, and Jasmine who have either moved into 'Marvellous Mapua' or are New Entrants having turned five years of age. We welcome these students and their families to our school and this community.

I wish also to welcome Gordon Worsley to our staff team. Gordon has very kindly offered to help us for a period of time whilst Wolfgang is on leave back in Germany. Sadly Wolfgang's father died recently and we pass on our condolences to Wolfgang and the Bathen family. On a brighter note though, Wolfgang and his family will be in Germany to celebrate the marriage of his daughter. We are very happy to have Gordon helping us out through this period and appreciate the great work he is doing.

On behalf of the children and staff of Mapua School I wish to pass on a huge message of thanks to Angela Fon, The Easter Fair Trust members, the Mapua PTA team, and everyone who helped out in one way or another to make this year's Easter Fair such a tremendous success. This was my first year at the fair and I was blown away not only by the size of the event and the enormous work that went into putting it all together, but also by the fabulous sense of community that pervaded the meetings and work parties associated with it. 'Marvellous Mapua' is not just a throw away line!

My thanks also to Oliver Sircombe-Kohen (Reading), Tim Podlucky and Haydn Bannister (Wreath Layers), and the team of students who attended Saturday's ANZAC service here in Mapua. They all performed very well and were a credit to the school. The service was very meaningful and I would encourage every Mapua child to attend next year's service if only to gain a deeper understanding of our history and the sacrifice made by our servicemen. The only hiccup in the programme was caused by 'yours truly' who pushed the wrong buttons on the sound system. I'm in training now for the 2010 service!

I trust everyone who uses our overflow car park has successfully negotiated the new entrance recently completed by Tasman Civil and funded by Transit NZ. We believe it should help traffic flow at the intersection and reduce the risk of accidents. In respect to this we ask all parents to take extreme care when entering or exiting this area, to travel at no more than 5 kph within either of our car parks, and to insist that children walk around the designated pathways (where available) or boundary fences when moving to or from cars.

Have a great term and 'Be All You Can'.

Neil Chalmers,
Principal.

CAN YOU HELP?

Rari Rari, Principal of Nikao Maori School, Rarotonga, Cook Islands is visiting Mapua School for several days from May 8th onwards as a part of a Twining Programme linking Nikao Maori School and Mapua School. The timing of this visit has caught us a little off guard and we are urgently looking for accommodation for Rari Rari for the period of his stay. Ideally this would be with Mapua families and could be shared by a small number of families (i.e. 2 or 3 days with each). Alternatively if you could offer Rari Rari accommodation in a self contained unit this would prove valuable too. Rari Rari's visit has benefits to both Nikao Maori School and Mapua students and so we are keen to support his visit. If you can help please contact our office a.s.a.p.

Upcoming Events from the House Leadership Group

MAD HAIR DAY

This Friday it is MAD HAIR DAY. Mad Hair Day is a fun day for everyone to be part of, where you can show your creative side in your hair!!!! There are three categories: Most Colourful, Most Gel Used and Most Creative Hair. Last year everyone got involved and it was really cool to see all the funky hair styles parade around the big tree.



DISCO

In week five this term it is the annual disco where you can show us what you've got on the dance floor. We haven't decided on a theme yet but there will be two discos one for the juniors and another for the seniors.

There will also be some new sports events that we will be organising this year.

From The House Leaders

RONALD MCDONALD VISIT Ronald McDonald will be making a visit to school on Wednesday 6 May at 10.15am to support road safety. The children from Rooms 1,2,3,4 and 6 will be attending. Parents are most welcome to attend this half hour show. We understand that some parents may wish to not include their children in this event and recommend to those concerned that their children come to school at approximately 11am on the day as morning break will be held later.

BOT SPOT – APRIL '09

Welcome to Term 2! I intended to wait until a little deeper into the term to do another BoT Spot, but trumpets definitely need to be blared and banners waved for all of those involved in the Easter Fair both this year and last.

To Angela Fon and her team this year, including all of you who rattled buckets, baked scones, directed traffic, sorted toys, donated prizes and a myriad of other duties, a huge thank you for your efforts in what no doubt was a hugely successful day.

As Neil reported in our last newsletter, Sue Fox presented the school with a greatly appreciated donation of \$18,440 from the Mapua Easter Fair Trust for the 2008 fair. With the need to plan for development, we earmarked a portion of these funds at Tuesday's meeting for the proposed new library (as you may recall, the old library is going to be converted into a needed classroom). While our property development plan must remain fluid to respond to the ongoing maintenance needs of the school, we hope to get this project underway early next year.

An example of those maintenance needs is the upgrade of the main toilet block, which has become a priority project. With improvements initially scheduled for next year as part of the Five Year Property Maintenance Plan done in 2007, we feel that a more urgent and extensive renovation is required for the children's well-being. So, listen out for the sound of hammer-banging and budget-juggling as we get this project underway in the coming months.

All the best for Term 2,

Kim Francis
Trustee

2009 TERM DATES

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



A G M - 7.30pm Wednesday 13 May at the Library, Aranui Road, Mapua. Refreshments provided. An open invitation to the Mapua, Ruby Bay, Mahana & Districts community to attend

Rangers RFC are looking for more players in the Under 6, Under 8 and Intermediate 2 grade. Under 6 is Rippa rugby and Intermediate is full field 15 a side. Enquiries to Justine Read phone 5432325.

Child Car Seat Restraint information As a result of the local Councils, Police and Plunket recently child car seat restraint clinics, it was felt that a lot of parents are unaware of the requirements for safe car travel once their child reaches school age. An information sheet has been produced and copies are available from the school office if you wish to call in and collect one.

Don't forget to check out

www.mapua.school.nz