

Newsletter

‘Supporting parents as they lead their children in spiritual growth and educational excellence by teaching and living Biblical truths.’



322 Sawyers Arms Road
CHRISTCHURCH
Phone (03) 359 3595
Principal: Mrs Jill Garrett

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Sons are a heritage from the Lord,
children are a reward from Him.



Psalm 127:3

“Walk as children of light”

From the Principal's Heart

On the weekend before last The Salvation Army celebrated 125 years of work and witness in New Zealand. From a special event in Dunedin came this declaration about the importance of children. A word from Mrs Gomez! "Any parent, who has moments when they wonder if what they do with their children is important, needs to read this and grasp what it is saying."

Children are not peripheral to the kingdom
They are central to the kingdom.

Children are not disciples in waiting
They are disciples in the making.

Children are not the church of tomorrow
They are the church of today

Children are not the leaders of the future
They are the teachers of the present.

Children are not a town we pass through
on the road to adult ministry.
Children are a ministry destination in their own right.

Children are not stepping stones
to use to reach other people.
Children are living stones we cement into the temple of God.

Bless you all. Have an enjoyable holiday with your young 'Kingdom Builders.'

School News

Health and PE: Thank you to those who attended our "reporting back" meetings to inform you of the results of the PE, Health & Safety survey which we conducted late last year. Comments were wide, varied and somewhat contradictory. It was difficult to sift out the main issues. Physical Activity, Physical Education and Sport have been identified as areas needing further attention though many people were quite happy with what was currently happening. The school has entered into a contract with the Ministry via the Primary Physical Education Adviser at the University of Canterbury and another with Sport Canterbury for the Active Schools programme. Meetings have been held between staff and facilitators and development of school delivery and planning is underway. Approximately \$2000 has been spent on new resources to support the Physical Activity programme. There is a great deal of purposeful activity going on before school, at interval and lunch time. This year children have been involved in bowls, softball, swimming, T-ball and leadership. Two teams played cricket against Rangiora New Life and everyone is currently training for the cross country to be held early next term. In general, the children indicated via the survey that they feel safe at school. The staff members have taken note of the suggestions made and feel very positive about the great start that has been made to the year. Hopefully you've noticed some of the changes too. **Sorry about the car park. We're still working on that.**



Before School/After School Care This issue was raised during the survey and parents have since approached me personally. Let's talk shall we! How does a meeting after school on Thursday sound? We'll make it 2:45pm in the staffroom.

Garage Sale: Thank you to those who helped on Saturday. We raised over \$360. It was a great effort and we gave away a couple of prospectuses too.

Student Achievement

Room 1 Sam for a great start to school. Braedon for being enthusiastic with learning maths.

Room 2 John-Luke for great progress at swimming. Lana for wonderful swimming.

Room 3 Amy for thinking carefully & making suggestions that show consideration for others.
Brenda for fantastic work with Maths certificates.

Room 4 Abigail for great results in spelling tests. Liné for great results in spelling tests.

Room 5 Nerima for wonderful presentation of her Wahine project

Room 6 Abbey for good attitude in class. Gyeore for 100% concentration in science.
Aaron for chasing Alex to practice for cross country.

Lighthouse awards: Leewaine, Rachel, Ashley-Mae and Amy

Sports: Abigail and Aaron.

Achievement: Grace and Tasha.

Change of address, telephone number. Please advise the school office if you have any changes of contact information as this is vital in the event of us needing to contact you regarding any illness or accident involving your child.

Dental emergency treatment during School Holidays: The Community Dental Service has a contract to provide an emergency dental service for pre-schoolers and primary school children over the school holiday period. The service is limited to the relief of acute pain only and will operate from 8:30am until 12:30pm from the Oral Health Centre, 16 Tuam Street, Christchurch for the following times: **Monday, 21st April to Thursday, 24th April 2008 & Monday, 28th April – 2nd May 2008.** Routine treatment will **not** be available over the holidays and any accident related issues will be referred to Community Dentists as per usual practise. Dental Clinic telephones will have a message regarding how to access emergency care.

Head Lice We've had some more in the school. Please check your child's hair and treat, before sending your child back to school.

World Vision 40 hour famine packs are available from the school office for those wishing to take part this year.

Further details from the **The New Zealand Curriculum**

Principles: Foundations of curriculum decision making

The principles set out below embody beliefs about what is important and desirable in school curriculum – nationally and locally. They should underpin all school decision making.

These principles put students at the centre of teaching and learning, asserting that they should experience a curriculum that engages and challenges them, is forward-looking and inclusive, and affirms New Zealand's unique identity.

Although similar, the principles and the values have different functions. The principles relate

to how curriculum is formalised in a school; they are particularly relevant to the processes of planning, prioritising, and review. The values are part of the everyday curriculum – encouraged, modelled, and explored.

All curriculum should be consistent with these eight statements:

High expectations: The curriculum supports and empowers all students to learn and achieve personal excellence, regardless of their individual circumstances.

Treaty of Waitangi: The curriculum acknowledges the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, and the bicultural foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand. All students have the opportunity to acquire knowledge of te reo Māori me ōna tikanga.

Cultural diversity: The curriculum reflects New Zealand’s cultural diversity and values the histories and traditions of all its people.

Inclusion: The curriculum is non-sexist, non-racist, and non-discriminatory; it ensures that students’ identities, languages, abilities, and talents are recognised and affirmed and that their learning needs are addressed.

Learning to learn: The curriculum encourages all students to reflect on their own learning processes and to learn how to learn.

Community engagement: The curriculum has meaning for students, connects with their wider lives, and engages the support of their families, whānau, and communities.

Coherence: The curriculum offers all students a broad education that makes links within and across learning areas, provides for coherent transitions, and opens up pathways to further learning.

Future focus

The curriculum encourages students to look to the future by exploring such significant future-focused issues as sustainability, citizenship, enterprise, and globalisation.

We are in need of helpers to assist in the coaching of some winter sports including netball and soccer. If you are able to help please contact Mr Hadfield Rm 5 to discuss the details.

Term 1 Calendar 2008

Date	School Event
April 7 - 17	Swimming in the afternoons
Friday, April 18	Fantastic Friday and END of TERM!
Monday, May 5	School starts – Term 2

Community news

Creative Kids: We performed at ECS market day. If your child is interested in our group please let me know. We are planning an introduction day. Fiona Brown phone 359 7696.

Holiday Programme: Primary, Intermediate (Age 8 -12)

Date: 21 April – 2 May Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm each day.

Including one out of the School activity each week. Phone: 359 1525 fax: 359 1535
Alpha Educational Institute, 8 Bishopdale Court, Bishopdale Mall, Christchurch.

Mothers Online needs your help to find NZ’s Mother of the Year. If you know that special someone, please go to www.motheroftheyear.co.nz and nominate them. Let them know how special they are and give them the chance to win some fantastic prizes.