

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, May 13, 2008

The LORD is faithful to all
His promises and loving
toward all He has made.
Psalm 145:13

“Walk as children of light”

From the Principal's Heart

Over recent months we've been reviewing our **Health and Safety** procedures.

With this newsletter comes a copy of the "Computer and Internet Use Student Agreement" and the "Computer and Internet Use Student Contract." The senior students are being given the opportunity to make a promise before God, their parents, teachers and peers. We are asking them, under your authority and with your blessing, to sign the contract. There is a place for you to sign too. This is only for our Year 4-8 students. The younger children will be linking to the net, only when working with a teacher one-on-one, or in groups.

In signing the Contract they are promising to behave maturely and sensibly when working on the computers. We, of course, have strategies in place to help keep them safe. For example, the students are permitted to work on the computers only when a teacher is in attendance. They will be directed to places on the net for their studies and will not be allowed to surf. If you would like to see the full procedure, please contact me. We also have a "watch dog" system called *Schoolzone* which is so strict it's sometimes difficult for the teachers to access the internet – for the simplest reason. In spite of all this there is a certain amount of trust that is necessary in order for us to function as a school and it is important to for us to give the students the opportunity to prove themselves trustworthy.

Our memory verse this week reminds us of our faithful, loving God who always keeps His promises. Using this contract as a learning situation we are reminding the children that we were created in the likeness of God. By His power and grace we too can be faithful in the keeping of our promises. God bless you as you talk through these issues as a family. God bless our young people as they sign, and in the days ahead as they live by their promises.

School News

Special Assembly: This week we have some very special visitors coming to assembly. The Chatelier family from Australia will be performing. This takes the place of the Room 6 assembly as advertised last week. CD's will be on sale for \$20. You would all be most welcome to attend.

Winter Sports: Our school has entered two netball teams and two soccer teams in a city wide competition to begin on Friday afternoon, May 23 at Hagley Park. We are hoping to simplify life by taking a bus each week.

Before School Care: The school has a legal responsibility to ensure students are cared for before and after school. The appropriate time frame is considered to be half an hour before instruction begins and fifteen minutes afterwards. This can cause some considerable difficulty for parents who have other commitments. Last term a group of parents met to arrange shared responsibility for their children. The gates of the school will be open from 8:00am and parents, who need to, can leave their children in the care of the parent on duty. Until 8:20 they will be supervised in the room closest to the car park. Please understand that if you choose to use this service regularly, you would need to also make yourself available to take a turn at supervision. From 8:20am the children will be able to go to their own classrooms.

"My Greatest Feat" This programme was introduced to you last term. It has been expanded to include all children in our school – from Year 1 to 8. We are using the programme to develop the students' fitness. Please read, sign and return the permission slip included with the newsletter. Thank you parents of Years 3 & 4. You did it last term.

Hillview Christian School Production: We have been invited to take students to see the dramatisation of the life of the Apostle Paul. This will be on Wednesday, June 4 at 10:30am and is staged at the South City Christian Centre on the corner of Colombo Street and Moorhouse Avenue. We are advised that the production includes a scene where Christians are martyred for their faith but we are also assured that it is suitable for students in Years 5 - 8. We have booked seats for the students in Rooms 5 & 6 but if you, as parents, have any concerns about the suitability please let your child's teacher know. We will leave school by bus, around 10:00am and return in time for lunch.

World Vision: The 40 hour famine is on 23-25 May. Some children from our school are participating. Please make sure you have your books and money back to the office as soon as possible after the event so that we can send these off to World Vision promptly.

School Uniform: Very soon we will be sending an updated uniform list. Just a reminder though, the winter skirt is for Year 7 & 8 girls only. Short sleeved T-shirts with long sleeved garments underneath are not acceptable either and regulation footwear is a must. Help us, please. We don't want to be scolding the children and there really are more exciting things to be thinking about.

Change of address or telephone number: If your contact details have changed recently please send this information through to the school office. This information is confidential and important for making contact in case of emergency or sickness. We'll be sending home an update form soon as we put our Pandemic Plan into place but we've had some difficulty lately reaching people and this could be quite a serious issue so give us a call with those details.

Head Lice: Please continue to check your children's hair regularly for head lice and treat as necessary.

Student achievement

Room 1 Brienna and Brianna for settling in to school routines so well.

Room 2 Chaydee for an excellent start at our school. Emlyn for great progress in reading.
John-Luke for great progress in reading.

Room 3 Rebecca for being a great friend. Hannah - a big welcome to our school.

Room 4 Hosoo for always doing her best. Holly for amazing creative thinking.

Lighthouse awards: Melissa and Serena

Sports: Gyeore, Rachel, Khalib, Jaden

Achievement: Melissa

The Cross Country

Congratulations everyone on a successful afternoon today.

Two pupils per age group will represent ECS at the Christian Schools' Cross Country to be held at Hansen Park on Friday, May 16.

The children who are going to Hansen Park have a letter for their parents advising times and travel arrangements.

Thank you, Mr Hadfield for organising some very intensive training sessions prior to our run today.

Best wishes for Friday!!!

Term 2 Calendar 2008

Date	School Event
Wednesday, May 14	PE & Health Adviser in the school working with the teachers and students
Friday May 16	Special Assembly
Friday May 16	Christian Schools Cross Country at Hansen Park 12:15 pm start time
Friday, May 23	Winter Sports programme begins
Friday May 23	Room 2's assembly
Friday May 30	Fantastic Friday – no assembly
Monday June 2	Queens Birthday – no school
Wednesday, June 4	Rooms 5 & 6 are attending the Hillview Production in the afternoon. Travelling by bus from 10:00am
Friday June 6	Room 5's assembly
Friday June 13	Room 1's assembly
Friday June 20	Room 4's assembly
Friday June 27	Room 3's assembly
Friday July 4	Fantastic Friday. Last day of Term 2
Monday July 21	First Day of Term 3

Community News

Is anyone interested in **car pooling** from Redwood? Please contact the office 359 3595.



The NZ Curriculum: This week we feature the *Key Competencies* subtitled, *Capabilities for living and lifelong learning*

The New Zealand Curriculum identifies five key competencies:

- * thinking
- * using language, symbols, and texts
- * managing self
- * relating to others
- * participating and contributing.

People use these competencies to live, learn, work, and contribute as active members of their communities. More complex than skills, the competencies draw also on knowledge, attitudes, and values in ways that lead to action. They are not separate or stand-alone. They are the key to learning in every learning area.

The development of the competencies is both an end in itself (a goal) and the means by which other ends are achieved. Successful learners make use of the competencies in combination with all the other resources available to them. These include personal goals, other people, community knowledge and values, cultural tools (language, symbols, and texts), and the knowledge and skills found in different learning areas. As they develop the competencies, successful learners are also motivated to use them, recognising when and how to do so and why.

Opportunities to develop the competencies occur in social contexts. People adopt and adapt practices that they see used and valued by those closest to them, and they make these practices part of their own identity and expertise.

The competencies continue to develop over time, shaped by interactions with people, places, ideas, and things. Students need to be challenged and supported to develop them in contexts that are increasingly wide-ranging and complex.

Thinking is about using creative, critical, and metacognitive processes to make sense of information, experiences, and ideas. These processes can be applied to purposes such as developing understanding, making decisions, shaping actions, or constructing knowledge. Intellectual curiosity is at the heart of this competency. Students who are competent thinkers and problem-solvers actively seek, use, and create knowledge. They reflect on their own learning, draw on personal knowledge and intuitions, ask questions, and challenge the basis of assumptions and perceptions.

Using language, symbols, and texts is about working with and making meaning of the codes in which knowledge is expressed. Languages and symbols are systems for representing and communicating information, experiences, and ideas. People use languages and symbols to produce texts of all kinds: written, oral/aural, and visual; informative and imaginative; informal and formal; mathematical, scientific, and technological. Students who are competent users of language, symbols, and texts can interpret and use words, number, images, movement, metaphor, and technologies in a range of contexts. They recognise how choices of language, symbol, or text affect people's understanding and the ways in which they respond to communications. They confidently use ICT (including, where appropriate, assistive technologies) to access and provide information and to communicate with others.

Managing self is associated with self-motivation, a “can-do” attitude, and with students seeing themselves as capable learners. It is integral to self-assessment. Students who manage themselves are enterprising, resourceful, reliable, and resilient. They establish personal goals, make plans, manage projects, and set high standards. They have strategies for meeting challenges. They know when to lead, when to follow, and when and how to act independently.

Relating to others is about interacting effectively with a diverse range of people in a variety of contexts. This competency includes the ability to listen actively, recognise different points of view, negotiate, and share ideas. Students who relate well to others are open to new learning and able to take different roles in different situations. They are aware of how their words and actions affect others. They know when it is appropriate to compete and when it is appropriate to co-operate. By working effectively together, they can come up with new approaches, ideas, and ways of thinking.

Participating and contributing: This competency is about being actively involved in communities. Communities include family, whānau, and school and those based, for example, on a common interest or culture. They may be drawn together for purposes such as learning, work, celebration, or recreation. They may be local, national, or global. This competency includes a capacity to contribute appropriately as a group member, to make connections with others, and to create opportunities for others in the group. Students who participate and contribute in communities have a sense of belonging and the confidence to participate within new contexts. They understand the importance of balancing rights, roles, and responsibilities and of contributing to the quality and sustainability of social, cultural, physical, and economic environments.