

6 February	Waitangi Day – Public Holiday
9 February	Swimming begins for Rooms 7, 19 and 18
11 February	PTA Meeting 7.30pm
17 February	BOT Meeting 6.30pm in Staffroom
18 February	Wheel Day Meet the teacher

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Happy New Year and Chinese Year of the Ox!  
Welcome back to the 2009 School year. I hope everyone had a festive holiday season and will be beginning the school year with a positive focus. I would like to particularly welcome all 42 new children and their families to the Sunnynook School Community.

We begin the year with five new teachers. I would like to welcome Mrs Philippa Kelsall (Room 16), Miss Shelley Eaton (Room 17), Mrs Karen Blume (Room 15), Miss Fiona Lister (Room 6) and long-term reliever Mrs Nicole Varadi (Room 2) to our school community. If you haven't already met your child's new teacher there will be an opportunity on Wednesday 18 February at the Meet the Teacher Evening.

### 2009 LEARNING GOAL:

The main focus for teachers and children over 2009 will be the Extending High Standards across Schools Project (EHSAS); particularly in Reading. Reading is one of the primary skills our children need to further their education and to be able to communicate. Sunnynook School already has a strong reading programme and the professional development the staff receive this year will aim to enhance this programme.

### SCHOOL PROJECTS

Over the holiday break several of the classrooms received a "make over" involving new wall coverings, new carpets, interior painting, whiteboards and screens. The whiteboards have been set up to complement projectors that will enable the boards to be used as interactive whiteboards. This new technology will be progressively rolled out throughout the school over the next two years to support our focus on modern teaching techniques for your children.

Today the children will be able to use our brand new **all weather cricket pitch**. The cricket pitch has a sand and lime base with astro turf on top. The pitch has been made possible through the support of the Auckland Cricket Association who have provided a large amount of the funding. It will be a great help in developing our students ball skills as the flat even surface will allow for much better bowling without the erratic bounce from the old turf. Parents are most welcome to use it after school.

### SCHOOL FUNDING

This week you will have received the annual request for School Donations. There are various ways to pay this and these will be outlined in the letter. As a school we are dependant on parents to help with the funding of the school programmes. A school is funded through an Operation Grant that is based on pupil numbers within a graded decile system. Each year the Board has to pay the fixed costs of the daily running of the school e.g. costs such as rates, power, telephone, audit, accountants, and staff to clean and manage the office. The only real negotiable items are the learning resources in curriculum, library, staff development and repairs /maintenance. As a school we do not wish to cut back in these areas so the money raised through the PTA and School donations enables us to maintain our school to the standard we expect with extra Teacher hours, teacher aides, professional development for staff, computer equipment and new classroom resources. Thanks to all those who can pay their school donations promptly. These donations do have a direct impact on the quality of education we can offer your children.

The Activity Fee is for school activities over Term 1 for each of the Teams. A separate notice re Activity Fees is coming home today.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES and PTA:

The first Board Meeting of the year will be on 19 February in the school staffroom at **6.30pm**.

The PTA Committee will be having their first meeting of the year on Wednesday **11 February** in the staffroom from 7.30 to 9.00pm.

## **MINDLAB**

MindLab is again available at Sunnynook! A newsletter is attached outlining the programme and cost. The programme is well-presented, educational and huge fun!

## **SAFETY:**

The roads around the school, particularly Lyford Crescent, become very congested at the start and end of the school day. I would encourage parents to make alternative arrangements with their children rather than drive up Lyford Crescent. If you need to use Lyford Crescent please remember:

- The **Drop Off Zone** is for **2 minutes only** with parents remaining in the car
- The **No Stopping area** (by the NSCC Carpark)
- The **Clearway signs** from 2.30 – 3.30pm (marked by cones)
- The staff carpark is **not** for parents
- Please walk across the Pedestrian Crossing on Tonkin Drive (i.e. walk your bicycles)

Reminder notices will be put on infringing cars for the next few weeks.

## **STATIONERY:**

A stationery list is available from the office and stationery can be purchased from Paper Plus, Sunnynook or Warehouse Stationery. We ask that you buy the brands indicated on the stationery list. For children **who have not attended Sunnynook School prior to 2009**, an additional charge of \$5 will be requested for a Cumulative Folder which is the folder kept by the teacher for each child. This folder includes all their official records throughout their years at Sunnynook. All children are expected to have their stationery by Monday to enable all children to start work in their books next week.

## **HATS**

A reminder that all children must wear hats when outside during Term 1

## **LUNCHROOM:**

The lunchroom will be open on **Thursday and Friday this year** and will reopen next **Wednesday 11 February**. Subway lunches will once again be available each Tuesday starting next week. Menus will be sent home towards the end of next week.

## **EVENTS:**

**SHORE TO SHORE FUN RUN:** The Shore to Shore Fun Run is on **Sunday 22 March 8.30 to 11.30am**. Invite friends and family to join the Sunnynook School team. Entry Forms will be coming home soon.

**LANTERN FESTIVAL:** The school is participating in the Auckland Lantern Festival being held over this coming weekend at Albert Park from 5.00 – 10.30pm daily. This is a fantastic occasion and worthwhile going to see. There is free family entertainment, overseas performers, Chinese New Year lanterns and delicious food stalls.

**KEAS OF SCOUTING NZ** invites all girls and boys aged 6 – 8 years from 5.30 to 6.30pm each Monday night. Games, activities and fun times are assured. This term there is a trip to a 'Warship' in Devonport. For further information email [sunnynookscouts@hotmail.com](mailto:sunnynookscouts@hotmail.com)

**GIRLS' BRIGADE** meet each Monday at the Milford Baptist Church, Dodson Avenue from 6.00 to 7.30pm for 5 – 8 year olds and 6.00 to 8.00pm for 9 – 16 year olds. For further information contact Angela on 478-1399 or Marion on 444-9556 after 6.00pm

Yours sincerely

Peter Mulcahy  
**PRINCIPAL**