

March 4–15	Testing Week begins
March 14	PTA Kids Camp Out at school
March 17	Trip to North Head for Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4
March 20	Swimming starts for Rooms 1, 2 and 3
March 22	Shore to Shore 5km Fun Run / Walk

Dear Parents and Caregivers
Kia Ora

SCHOOL VALUES:

The classes are focusing on **Responsibility** as our highlighted value for the next few weeks. Responsibility means being dependable and making good choices:

- Taking care of things that belong to them and or others
- Taking care of themselves

Ways you can help develop responsibility is by:

- Encouraging your child to make good choices e.g., friendships, healthy food etc
- Encouraging them to look after their belongings and other people's belongings
- Encouraging them to take care of themselves by encouraging independency
- Giving your child a chore/job to do at home for the family. (I remember having to fill the wood box every night in winter with my brother – we quite enjoyed it).

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY:

The School Banner was presented to Ms Findlay-Clarke's Room 12 at last week's School Assembly to celebrate their Holiday Writing and the Writing Garden they have set up on a wall in the classroom.

The season for the next few weeks is "Ropes" – this can include knitting, skipping ropes, or scoobies.

TEACHERS ONLY DAY: ALISON DAVIES:

Alison Davies spoke to the EHSAS Arataki Cluster on our combined Teacher Only Day. Alison has written a book called "Teaching Reading Comprehension" which is considered to give the latest information on reading comprehension in New Zealand. She gave the staff the latest theories about reading which focus on children knowing in detail what strategies to use when they don't know a word. Alison also spoke about the need for children to have strong word knowledge taught clearly to develop reading understanding. Alison then gave the staff practical examples on how to teach word knowledge to children. Her book will be soon available for parents through our Parent Library which we are currently developing.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

To the parents and caregivers that drive their children to and from school:

We have received a notice from New Zealand Police advising the school that there are a considerable number of drivers who are **NOT** stopping at the compulsory stop at the end of Lyford Crescent. Drivers who fail to stop at this compulsory stop will receive a fine in the amount of \$150.00. Please consider the safety of the children when exiting Lyford Crescent both in the morning and in the afternoon. **Police will now take enforcement action.**

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS:

A notice regarding Parent / Teacher Interviews came home with the children last week. Please complete the form and return to the school by **Friday 13 March**. Appointment times will come home with your child on **Monday 23 March**.

The interviews are 10 minutes each and are held over the two nights of **Wednesday 25 March** and **Thursday 26 March**.

SPORT:

Sports Information Evening. The Sports Information Evening has been postponed to a later date as Mrs Naran has been off school this week due to illness. To the parents who have already sent in their interest in coaching/managing a team, a notice will be sent home with your child advising you of a new date.

Netball Trials (Year 5 and 6). Trials will be held on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March at 12.30pm. If your child is interested in playing netball this year please see the Office urgently (Room 4).

Shore to Shore Fun Run. To date we have about 100 entries including staff. Good luck on the day.

Netball North Harbour Coaching Clinic. There is a Coaching Clinic being organised by Netball North Harbour on Thursday, 26 March from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Registrations close 13 March and the cost is \$25.00. If you are interested please contact Gail Griffiths at Netball North Harbour.

Tackle and Rippa Rugby. We are looking for coaches for the Rippa Rugby and Tackle Rugby Team. If you are interested and have a child in Year 5 or 6, please contact Shona, our Sports Coordinator at school, so we can arrange to start trials. Rippa Rugby is similar to touch rugby and is designed to help develop some of the basic rugby skills. Tackle Rugby is 10 a side and follows particular rules (e.g. no contesting in scrums and line outs) as well as being full contact.

PTA NEWS:

Congratulations to Keryn Bradley (Chairperson), Rachael Blunden (Secretary) and Juanine Montile (Treasurer) on appointment to PTA positions at last night's Annual Meeting. The meeting also approved the revised Constitution that enables the PTA to be a registered charity.

CAMP OUT

The Camp Out this weekend has received a lot of interest with 41 tents being set up. If you are interested and have not booked a site please call into the Office and complete a form (Payments are \$5.00 per person with Breakfast Rolls \$ 3.00) before 10am Friday 13 March. The Camp Out begins from 3pm Saturday with tent sites allocated on a "first come – first serve" basis. Parents are reminded that they are responsible for the supervision of their children over the weekend. The Camp Out will go ahead rain or shine. A reminder notice is going home today also.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS:

The campaign for Entertainment Books begins today with the promotional flyer going home with this Newsletter. The books are \$65.00 each with the books going home to all families. If you don't want the book please return it to school or send us \$65.00! The books will go out on 26 March.

SHORE TO SHORE:

PTA will have a stall at the end of the Shore to Shore walk/run next weekend. All contestants can bring along \$1.00 or \$2.00 for their end of race ice block/drink.

DISCO

Please diary Friday 3 April.

UNITE:

Unite, the people who will be sponsoring our newsletter this year ask if anyone is interested in having an advertisement on the back page to contact Kim on 021 938 627.

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

ANZAC Day Commemorative Service – Saturday 25th April. The Takapuna Service this year will take place in The Strand Plaza, The Strand, Takapuna commencing at 9.30am.

Auckland Down Syndrome Association invite friends and family to join them on a 3.5km Buddy Walk, followed by a fun fair and entertainment on Sunday, 22 March 2009 leaving from Tahaki Reserve, 250 Mt Eden Road, Mt Eden. Registry brochures pledge forms and posters are available from the office.

Yours sincerely

Peter Mulcahy
PRINCIPAL