

Board of Trustees Newsletter

Term 2, 2011

Beachlands School, 18 Bell Road, Beachlands, Manukau City 2018
www.beachlands.school.nz, Ph: 536 6757

Chairperson's Chat

By Jane Winterman

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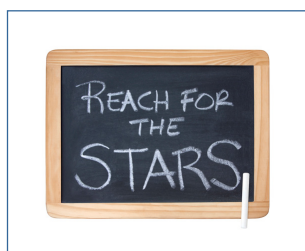
Welcome to the second newsletter for 2011! It's hard to believe we are at the half way point in the school year already! Time is certainly flying by and there is a lot being done, so in an effort to keep things brief but still informative, I'm going to focus my section on up coming communication activities.

As we have done for the past three years, again this year we are seeking feedback from you on how we can best continue to meet the learning needs of our students. So, if you haven't done so already, we encourage you to complete the 2011 Beachlands School Community Survey. The survey is on-line and the link can be found by visiting the Beachlands School website: www.beachlands.school.nz, then go to: About Us/School Information/Board of Trustees. We are really keen to hear from as many families as possible to gather as much information as we can to better inform our future thinking. This feedback has been invaluable in the past and has greatly aided our strategy planning flowing through to the school programmes we implement. If you are unable to access a computer, please pop into the school office and they will be happy to provide you with a paper copy to complete. Results will be collated during July and will be published in the Beachlands Buzz in August and also on the school website. Also as we have done in the past, in an effort to round out the feedback, at the same time as the community survey is being conducted, we are also surveying the school staff and students.

"We encourage you to complete the 2011 Beachlands School Community Survey."

It's also worthwhile mentioning now - earlier rather than later - that the mid-term Board of Trustees elections will be held on Friday November 18th. At our school we opt for 'staggered elections' where half the number of parent elected representatives is elected 18 months following the triennial elections. [This is so we don't have a complete new BOT every three years which can be quite disruptive for schools]. We have two positions available. So, if you have ever thought about joining the BOT - but want to "try before you buy", now is your chance! We encourage those of you who may be interested; to come along to a meeting or two, see what work we do and how we operate. This will give you a sense of what you'll be signing up before putting your name in the hat for the election and formally committing to a 3-year term. [Meeting dates and times are published in the Beachlands Buzz and can be found on the school website under the Board of Trustees section].

Finally, on behalf of the Board, we hope everyone keeps warm, safe and well over the school holidays and we look forward to more great achievements in the coming terms.



Learning opportunities are limitless

"In the Learning Pathways Centre students are highly engaged in the Wearable Arts"

Principal's Portion

By Brian Gower

A SNAP SHOT of Term 2 Education Review Office [ERO]

Was very much business as usual, the feedback from ERO was very positive; we enjoyed the opportunity to show case our school and celebrate the great practices that we have at Beachlands.

Jump Rope for Heart

In between days of rain we finally held our jump off day - it was awesome! There is something extremely special about Beachlands School when we all get together; wonderful examples of FERN in action, add a little music and the atmosphere is delightful.

Koru team

We are building a stronger link with some of the early childhood providers that feed into our School. We now have both of the Coastal Kids Centres and the Maraetai/Beachlands Kindy visiting us each term. These early childhood providers are able to see for themselves the gap between pre-school and school and are working with us to support children to be better equipped with independent skills for starting school.

This term has seen a big leap learning ability plus personal growth spurts.

Year 3 and 4

We have completed another busy enjoyable term. They have one more netball session with Te Puru and a tournament coming up involving 12 students from each class. In Numeracy they have finished cross cluster numeracy for the term. Teachers and students have all felt this was beneficial.

In Learning Pathways they have finished KOS and are beginning a new pathway - "Why should we show respect to people who are different to ourselves?" With this they have also been looking at Matariki - and how and why it is celebrated in NZ.

Year 5 and 6

Are currently learning all about different cultures and the impact that they have had on New Zealand culture; they have had some very interesting discussions and the teachers are really impressed with the quality of questions and depth of thinking demonstrated by students.

Once again each year 5 and 6 class have braved the elements, donned gumboots and planted trees at both Omana and Duder Regional Parks. This is a yearly event for them and as a school we can be very proud of their contribution to our local environment.

Intermediate School

The intermediate years are seen as a two year transition to College. One of the major changes between primary and secondary is the timetabling system. On a Friday morning we run a series of options classes to help students to become more independent, organised and able to adapt to a range of different teaching styles.

Learning Pathways Centre

This term in the learning pathways centre students worked on a mural in a group based on a children's poem. These are going to be displayed on the top field fence. They are continuing to work on their children's book sculptures that will be displayed throughout the school. The new projects for this term are wearable arts- where they work in groups to create a recycled costume for a show at the beginning of Term Three.

Kind regards, Brian Gower

Finance Focus

By Raechel Cummins

Term two is always a busy time for the finance team, and this year has been no exception. The school had its annual visit from our financial auditors, and I'm pleased to report that we got a clean bill of health. We are also busy juggling budgets trying to stretch each dollar as far as it will stretch. As Trustees, we are accountable to the Crown and the community for improved student progress and achievement. To make this happen, we rely on government funding. However, as a decile 10 school, we are in the 10% of schools that receives the least amount of Government funding. Therefore to balance our budget we are heavily reliant on the voluntary donation.

Despite a very generous prize (kindly donated by the PTA) to encourage all families to pay the donation in full by the end of term one, this year we have received \$39,860 from a possible \$90,640. The \$50,780 shortfall is desperately needed to cover things like teacher aides, teaching resources in the classroom, up-to-date ICT equipment. That's a lot of sausage sizzles and cake stalls to have to run to cover the deficit.

If you are one of the families who have not yet paid a donation for whatever reason, please don't delay. Donations are needed throughout the year, so it's not too late! There are a range of payment options available - lump sum, weekly, term by term and automatic payments. See our office staff to set up a payment plan that works for your family.

We are also extremely grateful to our hard working, tireless, energetic and fabulous PTA. This year the PTA is again helping the School to bridge the current financial gap by running end of term parties, intermediate and communities balls, galas, contests and lots of other fun events. The hard work and enthusiasm of this dedicated group of parents directly contributes to the learning for every child at the school and for that, we always say a big thanks.

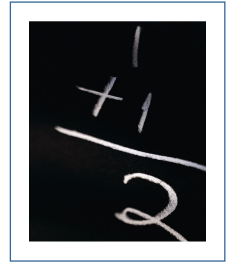
Enjoy the holidays and keep warm.

Property Profile

By Bill Sole

Not much to report on the Property front since the last newsletter; we are still waiting for feedback and funding approval from the MOE for our next five-year maintenance plan.

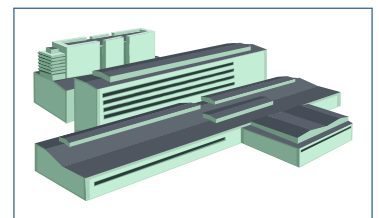
You may have noticed however large amounts of cabling work being carried out both inside and outside. This is part of the School Network Upgrade Project (SNUP), a government-subsidised initiative to upgrade school's internal cabling infrastructure to provide high quality data infrastructure to allow for future network expansion and for the use of ultra-fast broadband in teaching and learning programmes. The Board and School Management is very pleased to have been successful in our application for SNUP funding, which we are sure will prove a good investment for the future as technology plays an ever increasing role in teaching and learning.



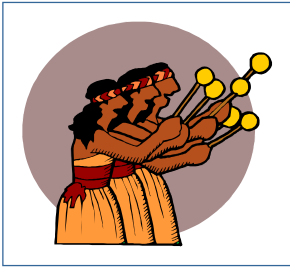
Funding for the future

“Voluntary donations this year are budgeted at \$90,640. So far we have received \$39,860 or 44%!

Thank You!



Building for the future



Culture should be embraced

"We encourage whanau to assist with the Maori/Pasifika mahi..."

Cultural Corner

By Sheryl Witehira

Kia Ora Whanau

Another term gone and half of the year. We are pleased with the progress Beachlands School is making in the te reo, kapahaka and waiata. It is an on-going journey with great support from the teaching staff and community. Our kapa haka team once again impressed our ERO visitors with a warm welcome and they even had the pleasure of meeting our kapa haka tutors Anaru and Hemi. I hope everyone has embraced Maori language week, and also learnt something from the Matariki Maori New Year celebrations and we now look forward to the annual Koanga Festival. These are significant events that we can build on from year to year at Beachlands School. I was honored to be invited to a Matariki celebration at our Beachlands/Maraetai Playcentre recently. The whanau went to a lot of effort, with much curriculum based learning to go with it. The evening concluded with a lovely shared feast.

Once again, we encourage whanau to assist with the Maori/Pasifika mahi at Beachlands School, your knowledge is most valued (taonga). The kaitiaki contact at the school is Miss Nixon. On that note, enjoy the holiday break and keep safe.

Health and Safety Section

By Konrad Heinemann



"An apple a day keeps the doctor away"

"We finally have a Kea crossing on Bell Road."

After a lengthy process with the Council we now finally have a Kea Crossing on Bell Road. We have long identified the crossing of roads as a major hazard facing our school so this really is a major step in the right direction. The crossing will be supervised by Tania Foote and a number of children have been trained to operate it. The crossing will operate for 15 minutes before and after school. Please advise your children that if they are going up Bell Road they will need to use the Kea Crossing. [We would also like to point out that for safety reasons if children come on site after school hours, they do need to be accompanied by an adult]. Hopefully the crossing will also help in reducing the speed that some cars use through the area - and now is a good opportunity to remind our community to take it easy on all of our roads and slow down (what's the hurry? - it's Beachlands!). During wet weather and especially when visibility is poor, we need to keep an eye out for children and be careful around footpaths, roads, and school entranceways.

From a Health point of we're in the thick of cold season, so now is a good time to remind your children of hygiene basics like washing hands, covering your mouth when coughing and sneezing, and to not share food and drinks. All of these really do help prevent the spread of viruses. Finally, if you have any concerns relating to safety (or health) at school, please raise them in the first instance with the principal, associate principal or the office personnel. If you wish to email a concern to the school please send it to the school office at: info@beachlands.school.nz. The issue can then be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Have fun in the holidays