



Bruce McLaren Intermediate School

The 5 C's - Care, Courtesy, Co-Operation, Commitment and Common Sense

Tel: 836 3175

<http://www.brucemclaren.school.nz>

2nd December 2011

Newsletter No. 20/11

MAKING YOUR KID STRONG

This is part nine of a series of short articles on parenting.

Bullying:

What is bullying?

- i. deliberately harmful
- ii. repeated
- iii. a power imbalance

What types of bullying are there?

- i. Verbal - mocking/name calling
- ii. Physical - hitting, stealing
- iii. Social - rumours, gossip
- iv. Cyber - text, email, Facebook

Bullying is not a normal part of growing up.

How do we address bullying?

- i. Nil tolerance
- ii. WISH Programme (Working In Social Harmony)
- iii. School Counsellor Social Skills Programme
- iv. Fostering a safe and caring school climate

How can you help?

- i. Make it clear to your child that bullying is wrong and very hurtful
- ii. Supporting us in our work to prevent it

(Based on 'Wellbeing at School' by Sally Boyd and Helena Barwick).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting will be held on
Thursday, 15th December at 5.00pm
in the Boardroom.

PTA

The next meeting will be held on
Tuesday, 6th December at 1.30pm
in the Boardroom.

For further information phone
Michael Brennan on 836-3175.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Friends of the School

Kia ora Kotou,

Welcome to the final fortnightly newsletter in an awesomely successful year. There will still be the end of term/year colour newsletter, but this is the last black and white one.

ERO:

The Education Review Office visited us this time last year and did a full-on review. Their report was fairly positive, but there were still areas where we needed to improve.

Last week they came back to see how we are getting on and I am very pleased to say that we were able to show that we had addressed all of their concerns. In fact the meeting with the ERO team was extremely positive and I am looking forward to their report back next week.

CHANGES:

There will be several changes next year as follows:

- **Staffing** - We had to reduce our staffing by 1.4 teachers, because of Ministry of Education predictions for 2012. Katie Ross has been appointed to a full time position in Glendene Primary and we wish her every success there. Her leaving means that we can reduce Music by .4 of a teacher, and still be able to offer the subject to all our pupils.

Michelle Siaoloa is also leaving and we wish her the very best for her new adventure. Losing Michelle means we cannot replace her, but between her and Katie, we can cover the 1.4 teacher reduction.

However, that leaves one class without a teacher and that will be covered by Brett McKenzie and Carol Brooks, who will share the class next year, on a subject basis, ie, the pupils will receive the same teachers for the same subjects all year long.

- **I.W.C.** - The Independent Workers Classes will be moved into Rooms 1 and 3 next year, so that they can work co-operatively in various areas. Room 2 will be used as a resource room for project work.

- **Boys Only and Girls Only** - Our data shows that boys are falling well behind the girls in achievement, especially in Maths and English. Next year we will run a pilot project, with one boys-only class and one girls-only class in Year 7, taught by Mr Wileman and Mrs Ingoe. Research world wide shows that there is an ever-growing gap between the sexes and single-sex classes for certain subjects is seen overseas and in New Zealand as one way to address the issue. Schools with boys-only arrangements report an increase in boys' achievement, more engagement in schooling and less disciplinary problems. A wonderful irony is that girls in an all-girls class, tend to improve even more - so it is a win/win situation.

- **RTL B** - Our RTL B unit will stay open in 2012, but will be phased out over the year and the pupils transitioned into mainstream.

- **PB4L - Positive Behaviour For Learning** - This is a school-wide programme that we will be running next year. While our pupils' behaviour and academic results have really improved in 2011, we still want to do better. This programme is supported and funded by the Ministry of Education through its Special Education Group.
- **MORE SUCCESS!** - We have had lots of success this year and the icing on the cake has been our recent success in Maths.

64 of our Year 7 and 8 pupils entered the Otago University Department of Maths and Statistics Problem Challenge 2011. The Challenge involved solving advanced problems using multi-level mathematical skills. I am very proud to report that all 64 received achievement certificates, and out of that group, 17 reached Merit status while three gained Excellence Certificates. Those results are a perfect example of the tremendous improvements we have achieved this year and they reflect well on the pupils involved and their teachers (Mr Emmitt, Mrs Harding and Mrs Ingoe). Outstanding!

Roy Lilley - Principal

(M.Ed., D.A.E.S., Cert. Ed., G.D.M.M.)

• END OF TERM DATES TO REMEMBER

8 December	Sports & Culture Prize Giving (1pm)
9 December	School Ball (7pm - 10pm)
13 December	Academic Prize Giving (1pm)
14 December	End of Year Trip to Waiwera
16 December	Reports and newsletter posted home
16 December	Last day of Term 4 - School will finish at 12.30pm. The Ritchies school buses will run at this earlier time.

• KEL ROBINSON CUP

- Week 5

The Kel Robinson Memorial Cup was awarded to **Leon Nunn** from Room 8 for having a caring approach and showing consideration towards his peers.

Well done Leon!

- Week 6

The Kel Robinson Memorial Cup was awarded to **Monica Prakash** from Room 3 for always showing 100% focus in class.

Fantastic Monica!

• CHOCOLATE FISH AWARDS

Weeks 5 and 6, Term 4

The chocolate fish in the Merit Card draw were awarded to:

Katelyn Tasker	Rm 8
Paula Tatafu	Rm 6
Valerie Lui	Rm 8
Chassis Bond	Rm 1
Danielle Noa	Rm 1
Carlos Benseman	Rm 1
Levi Matthews-Taiapa	Rm 1
Ann Alaia	Rm 1
Katie Williscroft	Rm 8

Well done!



• HIKOI AGAINST VIOLENCE



Last week a representative group of six of our School Councillors took part in the Waitakere March against violence in the home. The march included a vast range of community groups in West Auckland, as well as local politicians, famous sports people, well-known Westies and even a cavalcade of bikies against violence. Along with Swanson School we marched under the Banner 'Violence Free Begins With Me'.

• TAG

On Tuesday, 29th November the girls and boys tag teams played at Moire Park.

The girls played five games and fought hard all day. Unfortunately they lost their semi, placing us third overall. Special thanks to Riki Tu'ua for helping Mrs Ingoe coach the team.

They boys played great and the results were:

Draw	2-2	against Glen Eden
Drew	2-2	against Rangeview
Loss	4-3	against Blockhouse Bay
Win	4-0	against Kelston
Win	8-1	against West Harbour

Overall our boys came fifth. Well done to all the boys for playing on Tuesday - you all did great!!

• YouTube

Don't forget to check out our songs on www.youtube.com - search 'the rugby song hamish' to see *The Rugby Song*, but also check out *Time* and *Follow Me*. Fantastic!