

West Melton School Newsletter

26 August 2010
Issue 12

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From Sue's Pen

Kia ora, bonjour, bonjurno, hello everyone

As I walk through the school grounds from class to class it is so wonderful to hear all the students greet me and any visitors with a cheery " Good morning" or "Good afternoon". I am always proud of our wonderful well mannered students who are so friendly and happy. It is lovely to hear the new entrant students bringing in the absentee books and giving a bright and bouncy and cheery "Good Morning Mrs Heyde... have a great day!

Life is very busy around school at the moment! I can't think of a time when it wasn't!

Jump Jam

Jump jam started this week and it was great to see the kiwi team children out there giving it heaps! My favourite one is the Deploy one! As I am writing this week's newsletter the Moa team students and teachers are outside skipping as part of their fitness for the remainder of this term

Welcome

A warm welcome Jenny Collins our student teacher. Jenny will be working with LC8 until the end of this term.

Professional Development

Last week various staff and I have been busy attending professional development training for the following: working in partnership with our Maori community, learning about learning walks in all classrooms for all teachers, the importance of student voice in decision making and assessment, National Standards and reporting on student achievement, what is involved in being a 4 D (Dyslexia) school and how we can continue to assist and support our students with their learning. Kim attended a course on Thursday to learn more about the assessment tool E - Asttle

as this will be our major assessment tool especially for monitoring reading levels for year 4 - 8.

This week I am attending a seminar on the newly collated registered teachers' criteria and its implications for the teaching profession.

On Wednesday mornings the leadership team Heather McHarg, Kim Busch, Moira McKendry and Karen Sinclair meet from 8 - 12pm discussing; aspects of school operations, student achievement data, monitoring progress and achievement, National Standards and the impact on teaching and learning, the New Zealand Curriculum, the West Melton Curriculum, Our Assess to Learn contract with the focus this semester on reading instruction and evaluation, reviewing teacher planning, monitoring behaviour management entries and spending time discussing professional readings and research. Yesterday Steve Edwards our facilitator in our Assess to learn contract along with Heather and myself will be observing teachers delivering a reading lesson as part of the goals the teachers have set for this term.

A lot of these discussions are followed through in team and staff meetings every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Classroom environment

There are some great displays in classes. Have you seen an LC 2 displaying of their learning intentions for the current curriculum area of study, Social Sciences - "Our big OE".

It was great that you were able to be shown first hand by your child the wonderful work happening in all classrooms at the recent student- led conferences.

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Property

Thank you to Suzanne Pickford who has indicated her support to be on the school property team. Suzanne and I are meeting to look at a landscape plan for the future of the school. If you are interested in being part of this team please contact the school office.

Many thanks to David and Bev Kilgore, Andy Dachs, Erin and Geoff Griffiths and Greg Blain. These wonderful people gave up 5 hours of their Saturday to cut and sort the hedge debris ready for the Correction Department workers to remove last Saturday. Your valuable contributions are much appreciated. A special thank you to the Correction Department for their assistance over the last month and also to Graham Howden who volunteered his time to drive a truck to take away all the debris.

New building developments

We are waiting to hear from Selwyn Council, for the green light to go ahead and begin the new building project. As mentioned in the last newsletter we are redesigning the bus bay to be used as a drop off zone. We are hoping our building project will commence within the next few weeks.

Reporting on student progress

On Friday you would have received your child's mid year report on progress against the learning goals set mid term one. As this was the first time we have sent home mid year reports, we are interested in parent feedback on both the reports and the conferences. If you go to the school website www.westmelton.school.nz (scroll down until you see a Learning Conference Survey button on the left hand side) there is an opportunity for you to provide valuable feedback by answering a few simple questions as part of our review process. Staff will be reviewing the process at this week's staff meeting. This will assist us to prepare for the comprehensive end of year reports issued in December.

PTA Shindig...

Yea ha... don't forget the PTA shindig on Saturday evening 28 August at 7.30pm at the West Melton Hall. It should be a great night with loads of fun. I am looking forward to participating in the dancing and the silent auction to raise funds for Maddie Collins (did you see her photo in the paper a couple of weeks ago?)

Way to go...

Congratulations to all the students who are well organised and prepared. It was evident when I was reading through the student reports; the great progress students had made not only with their learning, but also with their personal organisation skills. Well done everyone!

School Starts at 8.50 a.m.!

A reminder that school starts at 8:50am! We expect students to be at school prepared for the day before then. Good examples of time management!

Science Fair Exhibits

The Science Fair exhibitors will have their final displays and any accompanying equipment on display in the library this Thursday from 9-2pm to view the exhibits. The exhibitors will then present/discuss their work with LC3,4,5 and 1 between 2-3pm.

These students will be displaying their work on Sunday at the AMI stadium in Christchurch. Feel free to check out the great investigative work 12 of our students have undertaken! I look forward to seeing your great ideas on display on Sunday with all the other schools!

Welcome to New pupils

This week we have welcomed Kaija Harris from Bromley School into L.C. 10 and Bradley Hamburger has started school in L.C. 11 with Maree O'Boyle.

Kind regards

Sue



PRINCIPALS AWARDS AUGUST 2010

Daphne O'Rourke - L.C. 3 - Being a helpful citizen because she offers to help others with their learning.

Kobhyn Ross L.C. 7 - Developing independence in all areas of learning especially with his story writing. He can read his story to us.

Chelsea Parrett L.C. 10 - Knows all her basic facts for the 2x, 5x, 10x. She can do all the questions on the sheet in 1 min 20 seconds.

Ben Harrison L.C. 9 - Ben knows all his halves and doubles to 20!! And he knows all his basic facts for 2, 5 & 10.

Liam Constable L.C. 2 - Has mastered using capital letters and full stops in all his writing. He is using commas, and question marks in his writing.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our latest Student Achievement Board stars: Matthew Blain and Nicky Dachs who both achieved high distinction in the recent ICAS Computing exam! Our school is very proud of you both!!

SHINDIG - tomorrow night!

Lucy Sinclair and Kellie Coakley would like to thank everyone for supporting the Shindig. Ticket Sales have gone beyond what we anticipated and we are now looking forward to a great night with you all. Only a few tickets are left at the office and there will be no door sales on the night.

If on Saturday you do decide to put your dancing boots on, please call Lucy on 0210 453 101 to see if there are any tickets left.

We are urgently short of helpers to clean up on Sunday morning so if you have an hour or two to spare we would love to see you! Many hands make light work!!!!

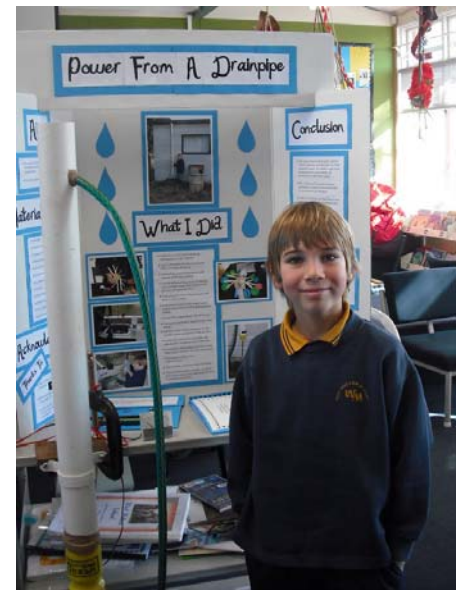
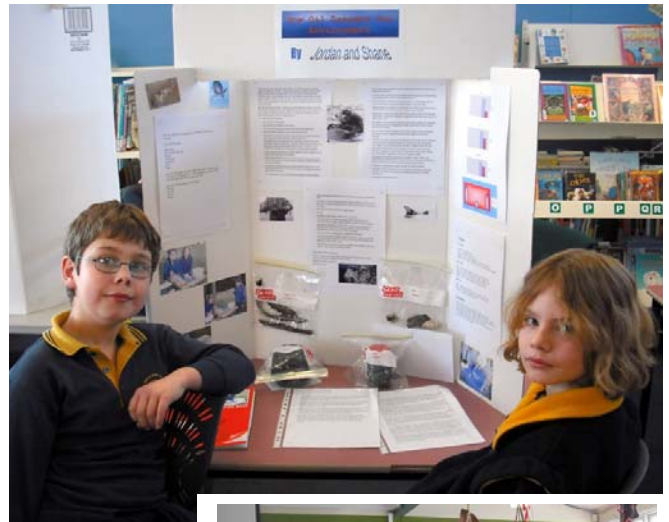


Science Fair

Our school representatives at the 2010 Canterbury-Westland Science Fair presented their exhibits to LC1,3, 4 & 5, plus Mrs Jackson this afternoon. The exhibits were also on display in the library for the duration of the day so classes could come in and inspect them close up and admire all the work and effort that has been expended by these students to complete their projects.

Our school science fair representatives are: George Watson, Henrietta Haskell, Gemma Waters, Dylan Simpson-Mabey, Kate Jenkins, Matthew Hadler, Harriet Watson, Jordan Hay, Shane Stewart, Matthew Blain, Johan Esterhuizen and Tom Gullery.

We wish these students' the best of luck and are sure they will represent our school well at the judging at AMI Stadium this Sunday



News from the Enviroschools Groups



Our Eco Warriiors group has been extended (we now have 20 students) and all members are now busy working on three big projects in the school; promotion of environmentally-friendly lunchboxes, recycling food scraps from lunchboxes and recycled paper collection. Another group is also currently researching costs of classroom lighting. Thank you to all families who are supporting the concept of rubbish-free lunchboxes and avoiding the use of plastic wrapping / packaging.

Children's Gardens

Thanks to some enthusiastic parents and children from the Groovy Gardeners group the children's gardens are now all ready for planting and a new raised garden for growing vegetables has been created next to the whare.

School Website - enviro group link

The Enviroschools groups now have a link on the school website - the first page relates to the Eco Warriors' activities and there is a link at the top of this page to the Groovy Gardeners' activities.

Our Enviroschools facilitator, Toni Watts, has given us some very positive feedback about our website / enviro group link. If you haven't already done so, check it out on: www.westmelton.school.nz.

Community Meeting

We have had information from the Selwyn Council community Development Advisor about a meeting to discuss the idea of forming an Environmental and Sustainability Group in West Melton. This meeting will be held in our school library on **Thursday 9 September at 7.30 p.m.** Anyone in the community who is interested is very welcome to come to this meeting.

LC6 and LC8's Big OE to India

For our Social Sciences Inquiry, LC6 and LC8 have been learning about India. On Wednesday 25th August, we had two guest speakers from India visit our classes. They were Dr. Kamal Ghose and his wife Ila. Before their visit we were able to send them an e-mail of all our questions. When they visited us they showed us a power point slide show of pictures and facts about India. They also showed us some Indian jewellery and a DVD of a Bollywood dance. At the end we were able to ask questions.



Alessandra Ward, from LC8, made a speech to thank our guests and Anne-Marie Ward, Alessandra's mum, shared some Indian food with us. It was yummy!

LC8's Four Seasons Art Work

Over the last few weeks, the students in LC8 have been busy creating four pieces of canvas art works to contribute to the Maddie Collins Fundraiser. The theme of the pieces is based on the four seasons: summer surfing, autumn leaves, winter storm and spring lambs.

The pieces will be included in the auction at this weekends 'Shin-dig' in the Community Hall and are currently on display in LC8. If you wish to make a bid on our art work you will find a bidding form alongside each piece in the classroom.



Jump Rope Day

Tuesday 14th September we are having a Jump Off Day from 2.00 - 3.00pm with demonstrations of the skipping skills we have learnt. Both the Moa and Kiwi teams have been out practising skipping and wish to invite their parents and caregivers to come and join in. Children will need appropriate footwear for the day and a drink bottle.



The Heart Foundation kindly donated some skipping ropes and in support we are asking that children bring a gold coin donation on this day for the Heart Foundation. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Staff / Pupil Netball Game

Some staff members participated in a friendly netball match against the Year 7/8 students. A close game, with lots of laughs (mainly at Mr D in a short skirt!), a few props and great sportsman and sportswomanship!!



Jump Rope for Heart

The Moa Team have been practising their skipping on a daily basis after morning tea, in preparation for Jump Rope for Heart.

Photo: George Brown masters his skipping style.
Who can jump the fastest?



Lost Bus Vest

Jorja Parsons bus vest has gone missing since Thursday 19th Aug. She wore it to school that day but it disappeared that afternoon. I'm sure it has been picked up by accident and ask that you all could check your bus vest number in the back. We are looking for No# 182. If you have this, please return to LC9. Thank you, Rita Spadoni



FUNDRAISER FOR MADDIE COLLINS
 (to help towards her ongoing costs)
At the WEST MELTON TAVERN
DISCO & KARAOKE NIGHT



When: Friday 3 September
Time: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
For: All School age children
Supervised: By a local Youth Group
Entry Fee: Donation for Maddie

Kids School Holiday Golf Programme

This new and exciting Kids School Holiday Programme is running at a club near you. Join us for lots of fun. We are offering three different sessions so there is something for everyone. For coaching venues and times check out details on our website www.canterburygolf.co.nz or contact Rachel on 359 4000 or pop into the school office to pick up a brochure.

Time Holiday Programme: 'Music Video Production', 5 - 7 October 2010

During this three day programme each child will experience the exciting roles of producer, director, composer, musician and star! The children will learn how to produce a unique music track and will combine this with digital footage to create a music video. On the final day friends and family will be invited to eTime to watch the premiere viewing on eTime's large screen.

Location: eTime, 17 Armagh Street, Christchurch. Time: 9am-3pm each day. Cost \$180 incl. GST. Please go to www.etime.co.nz for further information and to register.

West Melton Playcentre Presents

The Inaugural West Melton **Frock Swap**

It's time to clear out your fabulous frocks, darling dresses, tremendous tops and trendy trousers. Come along and find a good bargain on near new quality clothing.

Wednesday 15 September,
7.30pm
West Melton Community Hall

All Welcome
 Gold Coin Entry
 Coffee and Cake

Clothing and accessories sold on your behalf with 20% contributed towards the new look Playcentre.

Drop off your immaculate women's clothing on a hanger on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th September, 7-8pm at West Melton Playcentre, call in anytime during a morning Playcentre session or phone one of our contact people below to arrange collection.

Contact: Jenny Pitts 3478 400

Cash or cheques only
 Unsold clothing can be returned or donated

Upcoming Events

- + 28 August - Shindig at West Melton Hall
- + 29 August - Science Fair - AMI Stadium
- + 31 August - PTA Meeting
- + 13 September - BOT Meeting
- + 14 September - Jump Rope for Heart Day
- + 16 September - School Photos
- + 24 September - Last Day Term 3

2010 Term Dates

Term 3 - 19 July - 24 September

Term 4 - 11 October - 16 December

2011 Term Dates

Term 1 - 2 February - 15 April

Term 2 - 2 May - 15 July

Term 3 - 1 August - 7 October

Term 4 - 25 October - 16 December