

27th November 2009



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents

Christmas Songs

You are most welcome to come and join us as we sing some Christmas songs on Tuesday 15th December from 11:15am to 12:00 noon. This special event will be held outside on the edge of the field near the library deck. Bring a picnic rug or chair to sit on so you can make yourselves comfortable. At the conclusion of the singing, all visitors are most welcome to stay and join the children for lunch. If it is wet we will be singing in the hall. We look forward to enjoying this festive season occasion with you.

Teachers Leaving HPS

At the end of this year we will be farewelling Desirée Stuart, who is going to live in Egypt, and Penny Joblin, who is going to Wellington. We thank Desirée and Penny for their outstanding contributions to HPS and wish them well in their new ventures.

Victoria Kitchen and Emma Klokke will be going on maternity leave. Victoria will not be returning for 2010 and Emma will go on leave in March.

Junior Athletics

Tuesday 1st December is set aside for our Junior Athletics Day. Come along and encourage the younger children as they participate in a range of events, including running, jumping and throwing. **An important announcement: the coffee cart will be on site.**

Market Day – Wednesday 9th December

This is an annual event on the HPS calendar. The Year 5/6 children are able to purchase space in the school hall, which is the size of one towel, so they can set up a small stall and sell items to other children. Crafts, sweets, second-hand toys etc. are all for sale from 1:30pm to 3:00pm and each class will visit at a set time so the children can purchase from the range of items.

PTA – Calendars

Over the next week each child will complete an artwork, which can be used for a 2010 calendar or cards. The PTA will be sending out further information on the purchasing procedures and costs. These calendars are a great way to give a personalised gift for Christmas.

Sports Gear from Yummy Stickers

Thanks again to all those families who supported the school by bringing in their 'Yummy' stickers this year. HPS has received a supply of tennis balls and small coloured balls for our children's use.

APPA Music Festival Photographs

Please visit the APPA website if you would like to order photographs of this year's Music Festival: <http://www.appa.org.nz>

The link is under "Events" then "Music Festival".

Alternatively, the link straight to the photo website is: <http://www.cactusphotography.co.nz>

School Donation

Thank you to the many parents who have paid their school donation this year. If you have not yet paid this year's donation, this can be paid either online or by eftpos at the office. Part-payments and cash payments are also most welcome.

Parents Visiting the School

If parents enter the school grounds during the day (after 8:50am and before 2:45pm) for any reason, they are required to sign in at the school office on arrival. This is for safety reasons, both for the children's security and for our records in case of emergencies such as fire alarms.



BOARDSHORTS

The next HPS Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 15th December in the staffroom.

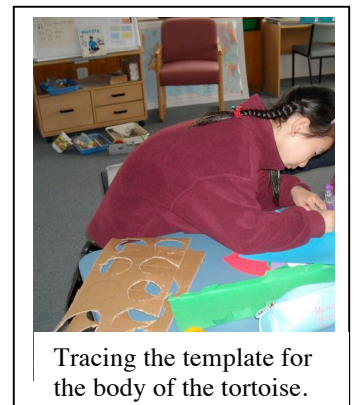
In 2010 there will be elections to select five parent representatives to the HPS Board of Trustees. School trustees have a very important role in making sure every child achieves their potential at school. Here are some of the things they do:

- Work with the principal and consult with staff, student and the community.
- Set the educational goals and strategic direction of the school.
- Monitor progress and let parents know how the school is progressing against its annual targets and how well students are achieving.
- Decide how the school's funding will be spent.
- Select the school's principal and support the development of all staff.
- Oversee the management of staff, property, finance, curriculum and administration.

The school staff and parents elect Boards of Trustees every three years. If you think you would like to contribute to the HPS community by standing for election in 2010, please contact the school office to find out more about standing for election, nominating someone else and voting in the election – the staff will be happy to help.

Learners of English Language Programme

The special programme for learners of English language is taken by Serena Griffiths, who has been trained as an English Language Learning Assistant. This programme, which operates four days a week in Room 15, involves the children and a range of language based activities. The photographs included in this newsletter and the excerpts of children's work, are a celebration of learning.



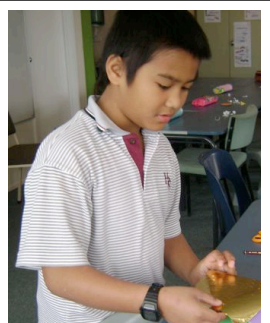
Tracing the template for the body of the tortoise.

The children in the ESOL programme have been very busy throughout the year doing lots of learning, talking, sharing and having fun doing the various topic units that were introduced. Some of the topics were:

- Different ways of Communication
- Wheels – Useful Invention
- Recycling
- Fossils
- Food – Making Healthy Choices
- Seasons
- Plants and Food from Different Parts of the Plant



Fossils made from salt dough.



Decorating my toy tortoise.



We followed our recipe instructions.

The main focus of the programme was to

encourage lots of oral language. The hands-on activities led to a lot of talking and listening skills. Children also wrote stories and instructions to complete tasks.

Children's Sentences About Plants:

We can eat the roots of some plants. Carrots, sweet potato (kumara) and potatoes are roots of plants. - By Kian Arefi, Room 12

I eat broccoli and it is the flower of a plant. - By Andrei Infante, Room 12

Children's Sentences About Wheels - Toy Tortoise:

My toy tortoise has a red head. - By Kristian Pejcinovska, Room 12

I am drawing the eyes and mouth on the toy tortoise's head. - By Shams Ali, Room 11

I am going to decorate my toy tortoise with some shiny paper. - By Jari Jacobs, Room 11

Children's Made-Up Stories About Fossil Hunting:

My Fossil Hunting - By Angelo Vegara

I found a bone and it looked very old. It was in my garden and it was giant size. My family dug and dug for 10 days. When we finished digging, we put the bones in the bag and brought it to the museum.

My Adventure - By Kelvin Wen

A Paleontologist went in a dark cave. He found a fossil. He cut around the fossil and he dug farther into a deep hole. He took the big fossil and put it on display at the museum. It was a T-Rex.

Fossil Found - By Ibrahim Ali

I was playing with my friend at the playground at Howick Primary and tripped. I looked at what had made me trip and I saw something that looked like a bone. I tried to move it but it was too heavy. I asked a friend to help but still it was too heavy. We went and told the teacher and she told us to move the bark

chips and dig. We did it and we found a big bone about 10m long.

Serena Griffiths and The Room 15 Students

Our special thanks go to Serena for all her hard work with these students in 2009.

Vision, Virtue and Habits of Mind

This term the Vision focus is 'Independence', the Virtue is 'Self-Discipline' and the Habit of Mind is 'Managing Impulsivity'.

SCHOOL CAR PARK

Parking spaces in the school car park are very limited and we are unable to cater for parent parking. We ask all parents and caregivers when visiting the school at any time to please ensure you park outside the school gates and not in the staff car park. This also applies when dropping your children off in the morning and picking up at 3:00pm. This is a child safety issue. Thank you for your co-operation.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2009

School will finish for this year at **12:00 noon on Thursday 17th December.**

HOWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM DATES 2010

Term 1	Thursday 4 th February to Thursday 1 st April
Term 2	Monday 19 th April to Friday 2 nd July
Term 3	Monday 19 th July to Friday 24 th September
Term 4	Monday 11 th October to Fri. 17 th December

ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS AT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS FOR 2010

Please check the specific schools' websites below for information on enrolments for 2010.

Websites:

Buckland's Beach Intermediate

www.bbi.school.nz

Farm Cove Intermediate

www.farmcove.school.nz

Howick Intermediate

www.howickint.school.nz

Somerville Intermediate

www.somervilleintermediate.school.nz



KBB Music Lessons

Have you always wanted to learn a musical instrument? Do you want to be part of a cool band? Call Barbara at KBB Music on 623 8028 about the KBB

Music School Concert Band Programme for 2010. Learn to play saxophone, flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone or percussion! You'll love it!

