

From the Principal's Desk



Dear Parents

The Junior School is growing plants. The Middle School has just visited the museum to discover more about fossils and dinosaurs. The Senior School is exploring inventions. Rooms 9 & 10 (Montessori) are visiting the Maritime Museum as part of their history studies. It is wonderful to see the children enthusiastically involved in their learning.

This newsletter features photographs of the Junior trip to the Botanic Gardens. If all the magnolia seeds grow, the Howick area will be surrounded by beautiful spring flowering trees in the coming years. Thanks to all the parents who supported the trip by sending your children along well equipped for the day and a special thank you to parents who set aside their day to look after a group of children and support the teaching and learning goals. The children benefited considerably from the hands-on experience.

These photos show Susy, the teacher who taught us about the life cycle of a seed/plant. She got us to plant small plants to extend the already started gardens under the bamboo triangle-shaped garden arrangements.



The children used their own gloves and trowels, and watered their plants with 'worm tea'. They also learnt how to dig and to turn over the soil ready for more planting by the next class. Then the children planted

some magnolia seeds in their yoghurt pottles. They brought these back to school to look after and nurture further.

It was a wonderful trip that was thoroughly enjoyed by the children, parents and teachers.

Chickenpox

Over the school holidays there were several cases of chickenpox amongst our school families. New cases of chickenpox are still occurring, so this is just to alert you to the possibility of your children catching this highly infectious disease. A person is infectious from two days before the rash first appears until after the

final crop of blisters have formed scabs, which is approximately 7-10 days later. If you child catches this disease, please ensure they stay away from school for the required timeframe.

Immunisation

Thank you to the families who have now brought in their child's immunisation records so we can update our records. It is very important that our database is up-to-date so we can take appropriate action if there is an outbreak of English Measles.

Enrolments 2009/2010

If you have a child who will be starting school either this year or in the first six months of 2010, it would be really good to have them enrolled so we can plan our staffing. You can call in at the administration office for an enrolment form, or phone the school and we will post a form to you.

End-of-Year Leavers

If you are moving house and your children will not be returning to HPS next year, would you please contact the administration office. This will enable us to accurately plan the classes for 2010.

Outstanding Musical Opportunity for Families

The Howick All Saints Music Spring Concert Series is underway. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy outstanding musicians each Thursday from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The next concert is John-Paul Muir, one of New Zealand's top young pianists. This concert on Thursday 5th November will be a presentation of classical pieces. While the church is used as a venue, these concerts are not church based. Entry is by donation and no bookings are required. Further information can be accessed on www.wattsandwatts.co.nz

Willoughby Avenue After School

Many parents travel by car to pick their children up after school and Willoughby Avenue becomes very congested. It requires patience and understanding for everyone to pick up their children safely. Please ensure that residents' driveways are not blocked, that cars are not 'boxed in' and that you apply common road courtesy at all times, even when it is wet and raining. Remember that the school also has entrances off Freyberg Avenue and Juliet Avenue. Thank you to Mary Harmsworth (Granny Mary) and to the wonderful parents who help with road patrol after school. Your support and assistance is really appreciated.

HPS Sporting Stars

We are keen to recognise our children who have achieved well in either sporting or cultural events. Congratulations to:

- Caleb Speck - rugby tour in Australia
- Rory Cavanagh - rugby tour in Australia
- Dylan Tavita - rugby league Under 10's to Tonga
- Dale Phillips - cricket tour in Australia
- Aaron Dahmen - soccer Under 13's UK trip

Daffodil Day

We have received a letter from the Cancer Society thanking HPS for supporting Daffodil Day and raising \$275.00 for the Cancer Society.

Yummy Stickers

Thanks to all those families who supported the school by bringing in their 'Yummy' stickers this year. HPS has \$370 to spend on Champs sports gear.

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 24th November 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 – they will be happy to help.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2009
School will finish for this year at **12:00 noon on Thursday 17th December.**

Lost Property

We have had several incidences recently of items of school uniform being lost at school. We ask that parents please check their children's clothing to ensure they have not brought home another child's uniform item by mistake.

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

IS YOUR CHILD'S EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE?
Please advise Ann-Marie at reception if you have changed your phone number or address so we can have up-to-date information to use if there is an emergency or concern.

NEW INFORMATION FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS

ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS AT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS FOR 2010	
Please check the specific schools' websites below for information on enrolments for 2010.	
Farm Cove Intermediate:	
Students' Orientation	Friday 27 Nov. 2009
Day:	1:30pm to 2:30pm

New Parents'	Wed. 18 Nov. 2009
Orientation Evening:	7:30pm (School Hall)
Buckland's Beach Intermediate:	
Students' Orientation	Friday 27 Nov. 2009
Day:	9am-10am or 11am-12noon
Howick Intermediate:	
Students' Orientation	Tue. 3 & Wed. 4 Nov. 2009
Days:	9:30am to 11:00am
Somerville Intermediate:	
Students' Orientation	Thurs. 5 Nov. 2009
Day:	1:30pm to 2:30pm
Parent Evening:	Thurs. 5 Nov. 2009
	7:30pm (School Hall)
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	

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.

