

5th March 2010

From the Principal's Desk



Dear Parents

Walkathon

11 days to go!

Tuesday 16 March at 11:00am is our annual Walkathon start. This event is our major PTA fundraiser for the year. We focus our fundraising on this event so that financial support can come from our wider community. Many families seek sponsors through parents' work, neighbours and by phoning or emailing friends and family. Please make every effort to gain sponsors so that we can spend the funds raised on digital cameras for classroom work and a data projector for the school hall. We intend to purchase these items as soon as funds are available so that all children will benefit from their use this year.

Just a reminder that every \$30 raised by a child qualifies that child for a small reward. The prize-giving will be on Friday 30 April at an 11:00am assembly. This will include a prize for the family that raises the greatest amount and prizes for the top individual fundraisers.

We are delighted with the response for parent support. We have over 20 helpers, but are still looking for barbecue cooks. I am sure that we will all enjoy this family day. Look out for an information update next week.

Kiwisport Funding

Each school now receives an additional grant through the Ministry of Education to support the promotion of sport. This year the funds we have received will allow for all children in soccer, netball and hockey field day teams to participate without any expense and for all Year 5 & 6 children to participate in a skills-based introductory session for golf.

Reading Book Amnesty

Please have a look around your home for HPS junior readers. Each junior reader costs \$8 to \$10 and every book lost has to be replaced. Any books returned to the administration office will be gratefully accepted. No questions will be asked.

Chinese New Year

新年快乐

(xīn nián kuāi lè)

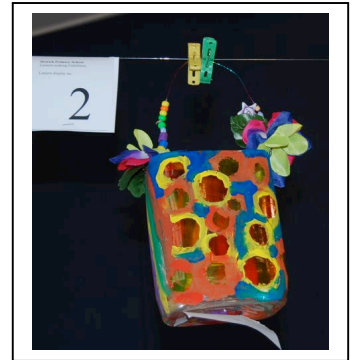
Our lantern making competition for Chinese New Year involved children in creating lanterns of many different shapes and sizes. The winning lanterns were made by Emma Hewetson (Years 1-3) and Helaina Hatley (Years 4-6). These lanterns were sent to the lantern festival in Albert Park. Congratulations to Emma and Helaina. Congratulations also



go to Jessica Dunkley, Renee Veltman, Heath Galloway and Nataylia Butler who were also highly commended in our school competition.

The lanterns that were hanging in the hall are now displayed in Room 15. Special thanks to Serena Griffiths for organising and supporting this competition.

Thanks also to our special courier, Charles Clifton, who delivered our two lanterns to Albert Park.



Weetbix Triathlon

A small team trained to participate in the Weetbix Triathlon. Each team member successfully completed the course and received a 'gold' medal. Carmen Goodyer trained the team here in our school grounds. We hope to make this an annual event.

Special thanks to Carmen for her initiative and enthusiasm in training our team.



Bible in Schools

Bible in Schools has now begun for this year. If you wish for your child to attend the alternative supervision programme in the library, please email the school or inform us in writing. Even if you advised the school last year that you do not wish your child to attend Bible in Schools sessions, would you please update this request in writing for 2010.

Three-Way Conferences

The three-way conferences were well attended this week. We have received positive feedback from parents about the new online booking service for interview times. Once again our Howick Primary parents proved that they are highly supportive of their children's education.

BOARDSHORTS

The next HPS Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 23rd March in the staffroom.



In 2010 there will be elections to select five parent representatives to the HPS Board of Trustees. Election date is 7th May 2010. 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, students 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.

Cottage Evenings

As part of the HPS Board of Trustees' requirement to consult with the community, we plan to hold a small number of cottage meetings this year. The purpose of these meetings is to get feedback on how well the school is catering for the children's education needs. The meetings run for 2 hours, with representatives from the school Board, HPS staff and parents from the school community. If you would like to host a cottage meeting, please advise the school office.

Hat & Shoes Reminder

During Term One all children need to wear their school hats during play time and lunchtime. School uniform is black shoes or sandals. Plastic shoes are not suitable for school (this includes Crocs).

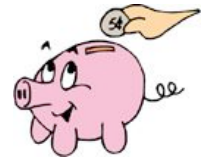
PTA Family Barbecue

The sun even put some effort into attending the barbecue. We had a great turnout with lots of families enjoying a splash in the pool, and some yummy sausages and cheeseburgers. The popcorn and snow cones were a big hit with the children!! There were a few new faces and we hope you all met some new parents and even some new friends. We'd like to thank the Montessori classes for donating the face painting, and thank you also to Suzanne for the Avon stand. A big thank you to the parents who helped with the popcorn and BBQ. These events can't be held without your help. With that in mind, a big THANK YOU to all those who signed up on our PTA Helpers List. To any other parents who would like to help, please contact us on pta@howickprimary.school.nz

Saskia Huggard – PTA Treasurer

Banking

Every Thursday morning from 8:15am to 8:50am in the boardroom (next to the office) your child can bank at school with their own Howick Primary School Tellers. This is a great way for your child to learn about the essential life skills of savings. Each child who opens a School Plus Account will receive an Opening Pack and a Deposit Book. Application forms are available at the school office or you are welcome to come along on Thursday morning at 8:15am to meet with a staff member from The National Bank. There is a benefit to the school from your child using this banking system.



If you open a new School Plus account in Term One and have a minimum balance of \$25 by 31/3/10, you will go into a draw to win a family pass to either Kelly Tarlton's or to the movies.

Permission to use Photographs of Students

We take photographs of special events and activities on a regular basis. These photos may be posted on our website, used for a newspaper article, printed as part of the prospectus or an advertising pamphlet. If you do not wish for photographs of your child to be used for these purposes please inform the school office in writing.

Vision, Virtue and Habits of Mind

This term the Vision focus is 'Excellence', the Virtue is 'Purposefulness' and the Habit of Mind is 'Striving for Accuracy'.

IMPORTANT!

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If you, at any time, wish to have medication administered to your child by Howick Primary School staff, **it is imperative that you complete the necessary form at the school office.** We are unable to administer medication on your behalf without this being done. A copy of this form can be downloaded on the community page of our school website: www.howickprimary.school.nz

All medication brought to school must be handed in to the office. No medication is to be kept in classrooms, schoolbags etc.

IMPORTANT!

Cell Phones

Cell phones are not to be brought to school. If there are special circumstances and your child needs to have a cell phone to use before or after school we request that you do the following:

- Put the cell phone in a zip-up plastic bag with a label including: child's name, room number, address and contact phone number.
- Hand the cell phone in at reception on arrival at school.
- Collect the cell phone as soon as the bell goes at 3:00pm.

