

BUS PUPILS

Parents, if your child catches the School bus (the one with wheels, as opposed to the one with legs), please notify the office if they are not catching the bus. This saves time chasing up children who we think are meant to catch the bus and instead they have gone off to play at a friends house.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We advertised last year that we would be increasing our After School Care fees at the beginning of the 2010 school year. As such the new fees are as follows:

1 child - \$15 2 children - \$26 3 children - \$38

The new prices will take effect from Monday 15th February.

If you wish your child to attend After School Care, either on a permanent or casual basis, enrolment forms are available at the school office. You can also phone 4129105 extension 715 and leave a message for the After School Care staff. Messages are checked daily at 2:00pm.

OUR BRILLIANT KIDS

Well done to the following students who have performed well in their chosen sport / activity over the weekend:

Harriette Overend - Helensville Pony club – Outstanding rider certificate along with numerous ribbons for her great riding achievements

Angeline van Zuilen - Hilton Brown 40 metre swimming award



SCHOOL CAMPS

As per school policy we undertake school wide camps every second year, with the exception of our Year 8 students who attend every year.

This Year School Camps are as follows:

Year 7 & 8 – Mototapu 24th – 28th May – Approximately \$250 per child

Year 5 & 6 – Shakespear Lodge Week 10 Term 3 – Approximately \$250 per child

Year 3 & 4 – Zoo Night Safari 2nd & 3rd November – Approximately \$60 per child

Years 1 & 2– Kelly Tarlton Sleepover 1 group 10th November & 2nd group 11th November – Approximately \$50 per child

Please note that these prices are approximate prices only and will fluctuate depending on numbers/fundraising/bus & food costs.

If you do wish to start up a payment system so that you don't become overwhelmed with these costs later in the year, then please see the ladies in the office who will be more than happy to set this up for you.

The Year 7 & 8 students are already into the swing of fundraising with their Sausage sizzle last night at the Meet the Teacher evening and tomorrow they will be holding a Cake Stall – cakes available at morning tea for 50c, \$1.00 & \$2.00.

SCHOOL BANKING

The school currently operates a student banking system with ASB. If your child wishes to join up then application packs are available at the school office. We have "Kashin" the ASB Elephant in the school office foyer where children may drop their banking off every Tuesday.

COMMUNITY NEW

Riverhead Community Ball – It's time to start the ball rolling again...if you are interested in being a part of the ball committee please speak to Greer McNally, Donna Cleveland or Wendy A'Bear. There will be a meeting at the Kauri Gum Café on Thursday 18th February at 9:15am. All help & involvement appreciated.

RIVERHEAD TENNIS CLUB Are you keen to play tennis? Or maybe you're keen to learn. The Riverhead Tennis Club invites you to come along and join us for a game of tennis in a social & friendly environment. All levels catered for. Club times Tuesdays 6pm – 8:30pm and Saturdays 10am – 1pm (Kids 10-11am & adults 11am-1pm)

KUMEU INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE – will be opening so if you are interested in playing netball, soccer, cricket – for all ages. Contact us on 4127993 or email harriet@kumeuindoorsports.co.nz

Norwest Soccer – registration dates: 6th, 11th & 14th February at Huapai Domain or online at www.norwestsoccer.org.nz

GUITAR LESSONS – For beginners after school from a Riverhead resident. Adult lesson also available \$15 per lesson Ph 4125581 & leave a message.

Kumeu Rugby Club – for registration information visit www.kumeurugby.co.nz



Ron Irwin is a resident of Riverhead and works out of the Harcourts Kumeu office. He is actively involved in supporting the community and is well qualified to assist anyone requiring the services of a local Real Estate consultant. **For professional and dependable advice call:**

Ron Irwin

Mob: 027 240 8599

Bus: 412 7666

A/H: 412 7040

Email: ron.irwin@harcourts.co.nz

RIVERHEAD SCHOOL Newsletter

WELCOME

to your first regular Thursday newsletter of the year! The children have settled into their new classes extremely well, and the learning is well underway.

We would like to officially welcome all the wonderful new students and their families to our school community. A great big hello to **Victoria, Logan, Bryah, Luaatta, Lindzey, Olivia D, James, Olivia G, Sam, Mitchell, Bradley, Ngaire, Mataaga, Tayla-Jane, Ashley, Zachary, Seth, Danielle, Annalise, Jack, Jorja, Billie-Jo and our new International student from Korea, Joshua Yu.** Our roll currently stands at 255.

PLEASE check the 'Key Dates' in this newsletter carefully and note the dates/times pertaining to your child/ren – we'd hate you to miss anything important! You may also view the School Term Overview on our wonderful school website – www.riverhead.school.nz You may also view the latest newsletter on our website if yours comes home covered in vegemite or in with the wet swimming togs & towel!

SCHOOL TERMS 2010

Term 1 2nd February – 1st April

Term 3 19th April – 2nd July

Term 2 19th July – 24th September

Term 4 11th October – 17th December

IMPORTANT NOTICE - COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL POOL

Please note the pool opens for community use at 3:00pm on school days. Please be aware that it is closed from 2:30 – 3:00pm as after 255 children have used it through the day we need this time to check the chemical levels and let the pool 'sit' for a period of at least half an hour.

Swimming Pool concerns.... Over the past week we have had 2 instances of serious vandalism. After spending over \$25,000 on the painting this is extremely disappointing. The matter has been reported to the Police. If you do have any information regarding any of these incidents we would love to hear from you.

We also have concerns about the number of people swimming without a guardian over the age of 16. This is an extremely serious breach of rules which puts our children at risk. One of the rules signed by our keyholders states that all children must be accompanied by a person over the age of 16. A breach of this rule can result in the confiscation of your pool key. Another of the pool rules (and these are stated clearly on the sign in the pool grounds) is that there is to be *no* bombing in the pool and *no* running around the pool surrounds. Parents and guardians, we do stress that if pool users are not adhering to the rules, please tell them off, it is most embarrassing for the staff to have to do this on your behalf in front of you.

Pool Closure – The Riverhead Scouts will be using the pool for Kayak training on Wednesday 17th February from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. The pool will therefore be closed to the key holders during this time. We thank you for your understanding and apologise for any inconvenience.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

"Our communities need great boards to help build great schools"

With the Board of Trustees elections coming up shortly we ask that you check that the school has your correct mailing details. Up to 3 parents/caregivers/guardians are entitled to vote per family. If a parent/guardian is not currently living with the child, they are still eligible to vote but we will of course need their mailing details.

Who can become a Trustee? Parents, Caregivers, and people from the wider community can be nominated for election to a school board.

You may nominate yourself or have someone in the school nominate you.

Nominations will be called for in April with voting taking place on May 7th.

Trustees are active leaders in our schools and we need more people willing to use their skills and experiences for the benefit of our students. If you would like further information on what is involved in being on the Board of a school go to www.trustee-election.co.nz and click on "What is a trustee". Alternatively you may view a copy of the papers at the school office.

We hope that you will give serious consideration to putting your name forward.

Week 2, Term 1, 2010

Newsletter no 2

11th February 2010

Phone 412 9105

www.riverhead.school.nz

LEARNING DIRECTION MEETINGS

Riverhead School will be holding Learning Direction meetings for parents on Thursday 25th February commencing at 2:30 p.m. Each class will have 10 minute block interviews where you can communicate with your child's teacher a little about your child, how they respond to different situations, habits, etc.. anything really that helps the teacher get to know your child better to enable them to teach them more effectively. In return we will tell you what the class will be focussing on for the term. You will also receive a 'Learning Direction Plan' which has been produced by the students. Interview request time sheets will be sent home shortly with your child.

HATS, TOGS AND SUNBLOCK!

We are once again enjoying some very sunny weather and whilst it is awesome that we can all enjoy long hot summer days, we need to be extra vigilant when it comes to protecting our children (and ourselves for that matter), from sunburn. For this reason we are re-enforcing our strict hat policy for all of term 1 – and will again in term 4. This means that ALL students must wear a school uniform issue wide brim hat or if a Year 7 or 8 student they can also wear the Riverhead School cap. Caps may be purchased at the school at a cost of \$12. Please order a school hat this week if your child does not have one. From week 3 these will be the only acceptable hats to be worn at school and students with no hat or the incorrect hat, will be required to sit under the shade structure or shade trees for morning tea and lunch intervals – no hat, no play. This policy is purely for the safety of your children, and we appreciate your support in ensuring it is followed.

While on the topic of sun, it is imperative that your child applies a Waterproof SPF 30+ Sunblock on their face, arms and legs every morning before school, AND we strongly recommend you send a named bottle of sunblock to school in their bag (a roll on type is great for this) for them to reapply at lunchtime (the Teachers will remind all students). The school does have a 'Shade Policy' whereby we have a certain percentage of shaded areas for children to play in. Please note that school staff are not permitted to apply sunblock to children.

Finally, during term 1 and 4 swimming forms part of your child's health and physical education curriculum. Please ensure your child brings their named togs and towel to school each day. If they do not have their swimming gear they will be required to produce a note from a parent/caregiver explaining why they are unable to swim.

PLAYGROUND PROTOCOL

Values, such as manners, underpin all activities at Riverhead School, and children are expected and encouraged to always conduct themselves in a way that does not cause offence to others. We therefore really appreciate your support in role modelling appropriate behaviour when you are in the school grounds dropping your child off or picking them up. This means using appropriate behaviours, adhering to traffic safety rules (please always cross at the crossing), and approaching staff appropriately if you have any questions or concerns. We are always happy to discuss anything with parents and caregivers; the education of your child is a partnership between home and school. However to ensure we can give you our full attention, and allow a reasonable amount of time; it is recommended that you ask for an appointment time if the staff member is unable to talk to you immediately. Your first port of call for any concerns is your child's teacher, followed by the Syndicate Leader (Junior – Mrs Sue Shields, Senior – Mrs Philippa Randell); Acting Principal, Mrs Dianne Cook if you feel a situation has not been satisfactorily dealt with or is serious enough to warrant managerial involvement.

STATIONERY SUPPLIES

A list of books etc. required has been issued to your child last week. These orders and accompanying money in an envelope should be sent to school with your child. Students who are ordering their stationery through the school will then go in class groups to get their stationery. Parents PLEASE do not go to the office or Room 8 to shortcut this system. We appreciate your support in sending the orders with your child.

Once the bulk orders have finished, stationery for school needs is sold at the school office at reasonable prices throughout the year.

SCHOOL DONATION

The Board of Trustees sets a school figure at the beginning of each year. Although these are a voluntary donation, the money collected is much needed to supplement the Government Grant received to run the school each year. The money helps to provide equipment in the school not provided by or allowed for in the Ministry of Education figures. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt is issued (slightly delayed at this time of year, but it will come home with your child over the next few weeks attached to your newsletter)

Donations can be paid with your stationery order at the commencement of the school year. There is a 20% discount if paid in full by 31st March. Alternatively they may be paid by instalments each term.

This year the Board has set the donations at:

\$140.....1 child (20% discount = \$112)
\$180.....2 children (20% discount = \$144)
\$210.....3 or more children (20% discount = \$168)

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1

Please note key dates on your calendar. Details of events are in the newsletter as the dates approach.

Wednesday 17 th February	-	Board of Trustees meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday 25 th February	-	Learning Direction Parent Meeting – from 2:30 pm
Wednesday 3 rd March	-	5 Week Rewards
Thursday 4 th March	-	Junior Swimming Sports
Friday 5 th March	-	Senior Swimming Sports
Thursday 25 th March	-	NW Zone Softball – Years 7 & 8
Thursday 18 th March	-	Year 7 & 8 Zone Swimming Competition
Friday 26 th March	-	Hearing & Vision Testing
Thursday 1 st April	-	Last day of Term 1 & 5 Week Rewards
Friday 2 nd April	-	Good Friday
Sunday 18 th April	-	School Pool Season ends
Monday 19 th April	-	Term 2 begins

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

A full school assembly is held every Wednesday at 8:30 am. These assemblies are a time where we celebrate the successes of our children and where each week a different class will share an 'item'. All students who have awards can bring them to the school office by Tuesday each week. Mr Mathers will then take a photo of the student with their award and a slide show will be shown at assembly as well as being acknowledged in the weekly newsletter.

LANGUAGES

We are most fortunate to once again secure the services of our wonderful language teacher, Patsy van Dael. Patsy has been our Language tutor for several years now, teaching the students both French and Spanish. Patsy will tutor our Year 5, 6, 7 & 8 students in French ...so get used to hearing "bonjour" "oui" and "merci beaucoup" around the house as your child practices their newly learnt skills.

HAIR

I'm sure many parents and or grandparents remember the 70's as being the days of males having long hair...well it seems the trend is coming back again. Whilst we certainly don't want to curb this fashion trend, we do ask that boys, and of course girls, with longer hair keep it tidy and off their face. You will also find that long hair kept tied up is less prone to the dreaded nits, something we can all do without!

LOST PROPERTY

All items of lost property are kept in a box in the foyer of the MPC. If an item of named clothing is found, this is returned to the owner...hence the reason we do ask that you name all items of your child's clothing, especially important this time of the year when children are swimming.

We do also ask that from time to time you check that your child has brought their clothes home and not somebody else's. With uniforms children quite often just grab the first sweatshirt in view and don't bother to check that it is theirs. If you do find an item not belonging to your child then just bring it into the office and we will return it to its rightful owner and endeavour to find your child's clothing.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

We are once again in need of new drivers for our very valuable "Walking School Bus". If you are able to assist just one afternoon a week then please leave your name at the school office. In return for your services you will receive the use of a lovely fluorescent vest...definitely a fashion statement which will cause you to be the envy of others!

If your child uses this service it is important that you notify the school office if they are not going to be on the Walking Bus on a particular day. Alternatively, if your child no longer uses the service then we need to know this as well.

If your child does wish to join the 'bus' an application form is available at the office.

SCHOOL GALA

We will be holding a Gala meeting early in March – date to be advised. Please keep an eye out for this and come along with your ideas and enthusiasm.

WHANAU GROUP MEETING

We will be holding a Whanau meeting on Monday 15th February at 2:00 p.m. in the staffroom. The object of the meeting is to discuss the future of the Kapahaka Group and other relevant issues. We would love to see you there.

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS FOR FANTASTIC WORK

****Shannon MacDougall ** Michael Martin **Stella Harkin **Casey Trott**

For great work with their Written Language. Keep up the fantastic work!

