



WINDWHISTLE SCHOOL

QUALITY COMMUNITY LEARNING

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are hopefully coming out of one of the worst flu-seasons now. All the absences due to sickness have been very disruptive to our teaching and learning programmes. I know that all of our cluster schools have been equally affected with up to half of the children being away from school at a time. When we assessed the students reading progress and maths last week, there was a noticeable flat-line or drop in achievement in most pupils. To this end, please support your child's learning with some reading and maths around the home. We are now trying to cram six weeks of learning into four!

The ski programme is proving to be very successful again with most students now able to ride the lifts and ski their way down. It is a wonderful opportunity for parents to share the progress with their child/ren and enjoy some family/community time together. The children are really doing well – it's wonderful to ski behind them and see lots of great linking turns when only a few weeks ago, for some, it was their first time on skis.

Frances Nimmo

Vision

Windwhistle Students will be self-managing, inquiring and enterprising learners, contributing to their communities, and seizing new opportunities, as they strive to be the best they can be.

ROOM 1: Kia ora koutou. Over the last 3 weeks we have had lots of students away with illness. Unfortunately many children have had recurring coughs, colds, sore tummies, high fevers etc. Can I suggest that if your child is unwell in the morning, they are kept home for the day. Children who are still unwell and returning to school too soon, are re-infecting the other children. Repeated absences are also having an effect on their learning and I will be contacting some parents to come in for an interview over the next few weeks so that we can put in place a plan for your child over the holidays. Ngā mihi. Jane

ROOM 2: We're finishing our fractions in maths and revising number with problem-solving. The paired-reading programme is proving successful – really positive feedback from students – this is being monitored by RTLB to support readers. Creative writing and thinking is flowing and our Energy projects are finally getting underway after so many disruptions due to sickness. Thanks for your help in keeping up the reading, spelling and times-table practise at home.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:
Happy Birthday to Sam & Tahu



Room 1 and Room 2 students proudly displaying their hard-won medals for playing rugby this season. Willy won 'Player of the Year' in the under 10 Selwyn team. GREAT EFFORT, boys!

NO SKIING this FRIDAY – 4 September

Financial Capability – information for new parents

Towards the end of each year, the Year 6 students learn Financial Capability, which is part of the required Maths curriculum. I like to give it a real life spin by challenging the children to raise money, as we talk about the big stuff.....budgets, expenses, profit etc. The money they raise is split between buying something of their choice for Windwhistle School and donating to a children's charity. Past recipients have been Ronald McDonald House, Riding for the Disabled and the Make a Wish Foundation. The Year 6 children get to interact with the people involved with these charities, which provides another opportunity for learning and thinking about others beyond our community. Over the next few months there will be occasions when the Year 6 students ask you to help them, as they seek to raise funds as part of their Financial Capability learning. I thank you in advance for supporting the initiatives of this enthusiastic bunch of students. If you have any queries, please contact me - Kathy Mehrtens (Room 2 teacher, two days/week).

An Invitation to Parents to “Windwhistle School's Got Talent 2015” – Thursday 24 September 1pm, in the library.

The Room 2 children are keen to have another Windwhistle School's Got Talent “show” on the above date. The winner of the last event a couple of years back, was Ruby, so she will be our student judge this time. Robyn King and Tammy Mehrtens (Sport Canterbury) have kindly agreed to be the other judges. The judges will have set criteria to score the participants on.

At a staff meeting, it was decided that entrants would be mainly limited to Year 3-6 students, as they would be able to self-manage their own rehearsing. (However if a Year 0 -2 student has a particular talent they would like to share with the community, we would welcome their participation also, if they are able to do so without needing teacher help to rehearse/prepare). All participants must practise in their own time at home and have any CDs, costumes etc. at school the day before please. Last time, talents included guitar, keyboard, drums, dance and juggling.

This show is not about excelling. It is a hands on opportunity for the children to engage in the NZ Curriculum's fundamental key competencies of: Participating and Contributing, Managing Self, Relating to Others and Thinking. It is also an opportunity to perform to an audience, which is an integral part of 'the Arts'(dance, drama, music, visual arts) curriculum.

Our list of participants so far for this year's event is: Tahu, Emily, Emma and Georgie, Rosa, Willy and Luke, Lachlan, George, Jimi. (Each child was asked to check with their parents first before putting their name on the list). Other entries are still welcome. At the end of the show, Year 6 students will present a play about their current Social Studies and Health topic of “Risky Business”.

So please parents/extended family: put the date on your calendar and come along and join us for a fun afternoon, near the end of this action packed term. It's a gold coin entry please.....the first of the Year 6's fundraising initiatives. Please remember to let Robyn and the school know in advance if your child/ren will not be needing the afternoon bus that day.

If you have any queries, please contact Kathy Mehrtens. Thank you.

Police Visit – Room 2 - during the morning of Thursday 10 September.

As part of Room 2's Social Studies/Health topic of “Risky Business”, I have invited Senior Constable Chris Wiltshire, of the Ashburton Police to come and talk with the students. The key learning concepts I prioritised when planning this unit are:

- *identifying and managing risks to myself (student) and others*
- *interacting with my family/community to assist risk management*
- *making good choices in risky situations*
- *the roles of people whose job it is to help when people are at risk eg. Police, SAR, St.John.*

Constable Chris will help us with our learning of the role Police play when “risk goes bad” and how we can help keep ourselves and others safe in a variety of situations.

If you have any queries, please contact Kathy Mehrstens. Thank you.

The Windwhistle District Society would like to inform all local residents that the water tanker/fire truck is available for use at a cost of \$150.00 donation per day. A Class two driver's licence is required for all drivers of the truck. To request further information please contact William Innes 0274 444237 or 03 3186929.

Payments can be made to: Windwhistle Fire Group, Westpac Bank 03 1583 0005368 00

Windwhistle District Society AGM = Tuesday 29th September at 7pm

Windwhistle School Library - All Welcome

TERM 3 DIARY 2015

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| Week 7 | Tues 01 Sept Wed 02 Sep Thurs 04 Sept | Mobile Library 1pm Year 7 Dean visiting Year 6s – 9:45 – parents welcome Year 6 / 7 Open Evening Darfield High School – 6:30pm |
| Week 8 | Thurs 10 Sept | Staff Professional Development – Students - ½ day – first bus leaving school 12.30pm |
| Week 10 | Mon 21 Sept Thurs 24 Sept Fri 25 Sept | BOT Meeting school library 5.30pm Windwhistle's Got Talent – 1pm Library – all welcome Last day of term |

Term Dates this Year:

Term Three: Mon 20 July – Fri 25 Sept

Term Four: Mon 12 Oct – Wed 17 Dec

Public Holidays in term time:

Labour Day – Mon 26 Oct

Canterbury Anniversary – Fri 13 Nov

ABSENCES: PLEASE REMEMBER TO PHONE SCHOOL, OR TXT YOUR TEACHER, BEFORE 9AM IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK – WE NEED TO KNOW THAT YOUR CHILD IS SAFE – SCHOOL POLICY.

SKIING/TRIPS – REMINDERS: CHILDREN UNDER 148CM MUST HAVE A CAR SEAT. A PARENT MUST ACCOMPANY 5 YEAR OLDS UNLESS FULLY SUPERVISED BY ARRANGEMENT. SKI TRANSPORT NEEDS TO BE SORTED OUT BY FAMILIES FOR CAR-POOLING BY THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE SKI TRIP.

The Worry Bug Project –

A unique new resource, to support families/schools with anxiety as the region recovers from the earthquakes. The Worry Bug Project consists of two books 'Wishes and Worries' (for use in classrooms) and 'Maia and The Worry Bug' that have been written by registered psychologist Julie Burgess Manning and teacher Sarina Dickson who are both Christchurch mothers. They have been illustrated by award winning artist Jenny Cooper and have the support of the Children's Commissioner Dr Russell Wills. Thanks to funding from the Canterbury Community Trust and the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust.

www.theworrybug.co.nz

INVITATION

This is an invitation to join an ESOL Language and Laughter group to help people feel comfortable living in New Zealand. We meet from 9.30-11.30am on Mondays at Darfield Baptist Church Lounge, Greendale Road. There is no cost and all are welcome.

Phone Virginia on 318 0198 or Bev on 318 8881 for more information or just come and join us. Let us know if you would like a ride to get there.

MALVERN COMMUNITY BUS

Do you need a ride somewhere, into Darfield or into Christchurch? Talk to us – the Malvern Community Vehicle Trust. We have a van for larger groups and a car for the ones or twos needing transport.

A low fee will be charged to cover running costs. Please phone Kathy Stirrup 3187077

Are you keen for your daughter to be involved in Guiding, but don't live near a group?

GirlGuiding New Zealand's focus is to provide the most opportunities possible for girls, even when they are isolated by distance or other factors.

If for some reason you are unable to attend a local unit, you can still be involved in Guiding by joining the Aotearoa Region.

The Aotearoa Region provides the GirlGuiding programme and activities in a different way, using a variety of methods i.e. post, email, internet, texting and other social media.

And should circumstances change, it's easy to transfer from the Aotearoa Region unit to a regular unit.

For more information about GirlGuiding NZ's Aotearoa Region contact 0800 449 663 or email southernzone@girlguidingnz.org.nz

Helping girls develop skills, values and a sense of adventure



FUEL for SCHOOLS



SouthFuels have a sponsorship programme whereby for every 100L of bulk fuel is purchased, \$0.50 is donated back to your nominated school. We can choose between a technology package or a sports package. For more information on how you can participate, contact SouthFuels or check out their website: <http://www.southfuels.co.nz/fuel-for-schools/>

SPRING Work?

Got that job that just needs doing?

Contact us to book or discuss your needs on 318 8228, www.73hire.co.nz, or enquiries@73hire.co.nz



Cool for School Programme

- Check out Pulse Energy and compare with your own energy provider. Are the power bills cheaper? Every year, for every customer, \$50 will be donated to their school of choice. Make Windwhistle School of choice to receive \$50 if you decide to sign up for Pulse Energy!
- Check out their website: www.pulseenergy.co.nz