



# WINDWHISTLE SCHOOL

QUALITY COMMUNITY LEARNING

13 October 2015 – Week 1, Term 4

*Dear Parents and Caregivers*

As usual, it was great to welcome back all the children and to hear their exciting tales. This term is always a really busy one with plenty of learning activities organised for out of school, on top of the normal class lessons. Please continue to help your child/ren with their reading, maths and spelling revision. It is really good to see lots of 'self-management' and ownership taking place amongst the students.

Talking of which, PET DAY is looming, and the children will be expected to answer questions from the judges about the care and well-being of their pet. It is always a fun afternoon (see attached information), we look forward to welcoming lots of parents and whanau. We are also hoping to unlock some of the mysteries of the Numeracy programme in maths for you – see you on Wednesday, 3:30pm in Room 1.

*Frances Nimmo*

## Vision

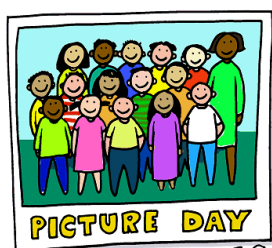
***Windwhistle Students will be self-managing, inquiring and enterprising learners, contributing to their communities, and seizing new opportunities, as they strive to be the best they can be.***

**ROOM 1:** Kia Ora Koutou. Great to see so many smiles back at school today. The children have done a lot over the holidays and were keen to share their news (it took 3/4 of an hour!). Well done to those who kept reading over the holidays. Topics this term: Caring for our Pets; Athletics; Safe Walking; Toys and Games; Swimming; Christmas Fun. We also have Golf lessons on Friday afternoons. For our unit on Safe Walking we will be going to Darfield with Constable Chris on Wednesday 11th Nov. We will need parent helpers on the day (sorry no preschoolers though as we will be learning how to cross a busy road safely). Please let me know if you are available to help/transport. Ngā mihi. Jane

**ROOM 2:** Hold on to your hats – it's Term 4! Always a hectic term and one full of learning and adventure! For the Year 6s it is their last chance to 'top-up' on any learning they might be unsure of – please encourage your child to ASK us if they are concerned, confused or needing revision in any part of the curriculum – Kathy and I are MORE than willing to help. In maths, we are looking at patterns in algebra; reading for deeper meaning; and writing more descriptively plus re-reading and editing more effectively. Our class theme is still, 'Energy' and we will be investigating Solar Energy and visiting homes and a school that has embraced this technology, as we want to look into ways that we could use it at Windwhistle. We will be going to the Science Roadshow on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October (details will be sent home soon). Pet Day and Athletics coming up soon, the children know to practise and keep fit. Swimming won't start until about Week 5, in time for Teacher Only Day. We are looking forward to welcoming Constable Chris back to Windwhistle – this time for some Bike Safety around Darfield – details later. The children are currently setting personal, social and academic goals for the term – keep up the great work with helping them achieve them. Any questions, please ask, Frances.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

**Happy Birthday to Jed, Martha, Kate, Rosa**



**School photos – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**Family groups = 8:30am; Class = 9am; Individuals = 9:30am; followed by Playgroup – all welcome!**

## 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

## TERM 3 DIARY 2015

Week 1	Tues 13 Oct Wed 14 Oct	STOP, DROP, HOLD – Earthquake shake-out with Playgroup Numeracy explanation afternoon – 3.30pm meet in library	
Week 2	Tues 20 Oct  Fri 23 Oct	SCHOOL PHOTOS – 8.30am Family Groups - 9am class photos followed by playgroup photos PET DAY 12:30pm (no animals before then)	
Week 3	Mon 26 Oct Tues 27 Oct Wed 28 Oct	Labour Day Holiday BOT Meeting – School Library 5.00pm (guest speaker) Room 2 Science Trip	
Week 4	Mon 02 Nov Wed 04 Nov	Athletics Day – Darfield High School Room 2 – Constable Chris – Bike Safety	
Week 5	Wed 11 Nov  Thurs 12 Nov Fri 13 Nov	Room 1 – Constable Chris – Road Safety SWIMMING POOL OPENING WEEK (details later) Teacher Only Day Canterbury Anniversary Day	
Week 6	Fri 20 Nov	Golf Tuition starts Friday afternoons	
Week 8	Mon 30 Nov	BOT Meeting – 5.30pm school library	
Week 10	Mon 14 Dec Tues 15 Dec Wed 16 Dec	BOT Meeting – 5.30pm school library Prize giving afternoon Last day of Term 4	

**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.**



## Hororata Domain Working Bee

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 12.30pm – 4pm followed by free sausage sizzle – bring your own refreshments. Any questions please email Dave Sligh  
[hamptonsligh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hamptonsligh@xtra.co.nz)



**BALLANCE AGRI FERTILISER – PLEASE NOMINATE WINDWHISTLE**

**SCHOOL WHEN PURCHASING AGRI-FERTILISER. THANK YOU**

**ASING**



## Recorders (Room 2)

Recorder lessons resume on Fridays for the first 4 weeks. We will then take a break from that part of the music programme until next year. (My teaching days this term return to Thursdays and Fridays most weeks). Any queries, please contact Kathy.

## Four Frellly Fridays - whole school (Year 6 fundraising)

Frellies are back! Frellies were invented by a previous Year 6 Financial Capability fundraising group. They are a pottle of jelly with some fruit salad added: **Fruit+ jelly = Frellly**. They are made by the Year 6s at school on Thursday mornings, according to the orders they have received by then. The Year 0-6 children who have ordered them, get to eat them as part of their lunch on Fridays.

Frellies will be on sale for the first 4 weeks of this term. Orders must be given to Year 6 students BY the Thursday of each week please. An order form is attached. Cash would be appreciated, so that the students are in direct control of funds. If you need to pay via the office, please contact me (Kathy) as well, so I can keep track of arrangements. **No orders can be taken without prior payment.**

Thank you very much for your support. This year the Year 6s have agreed to donate part of their fundraising proceeds to the Champion Centre. Any queries: please contact Kathy Mehrtens. Thank you.

## The Champion Centre

Info from their website: *The Champion Centre provides relationship-based early intervention services to infants and young children with complex disabilities. Parents and children visit the Centre each week and have one-on-one individualised sessions with each of the members of a multi-disciplinary team. All teams involve either a physiotherapist or an occupational therapist, a speech and language therapist, and an early intervention teacher. Most teams also have music specialists, computer supported learning specialists and playroom specialists. All families also have access to the family support team; and most children over three years old are supported by an Education Support Worker when they attend their community early childhood centre. The Champion Centre programme is based on the philosophy that all learning occurs in the context of healthy relationships between the infant or child and those who live with and love them. We operate from the perspective that every child, no matter what developmental challenges they face, will learn and grow through the intervention of skilled therapists and informed parents/caregivers. All staff are trained in human development and use this knowledge to both teach the underlying components of functional skills and help children integrate these into daily living and learning through play-based activities that utilise children's interests and strengths.*

When the Year 6s have completed their fundraising, it is hoped we can visit our local Champion Centre based at Burwood Hospital to deliver the Year 6 donation, see some of the sessions in action and meet some of the children. Any queries: please contact Kathy Mehrtens. Thank you.

## Year 6 Fundraising at Pet Day

Year 6 students are planning to have a couple of fundraising activities at Pet Day next week, like "Guess the Weight of the Pig"; selling cold drinks etc. They would be very grateful if you could please have some cash on hand for these. The Year 6 raffle tickets are still being sold and the prize(fish) will be drawn on Pet Day. Any queries: please contact Kathy Mehrtens. Thank you.

## LWIWTL (Room 2)

As outlined previously, all Room 2 children are given the opportunity during this term to learn about something of high interest to them. They are given the responsibility of managing their own learning. In education circles it is sometimes known as Student Directed Learning. The students at Windwhistle School know it as: LWIWTL = Learning What I Want To Learn.

Student Directed Learning is a big thing in education at the moment and could well be the way of the future more extensively, before too long. Basically the children choose a topic to investigate and immerse themselves in...something THEY want to learn a lot more about. It can be anything... what an opportunity!

The teacher is hands off, a mentor and guide only. The children themselves **drive** their research, **organise** their collation of new found information, skills and understandings and eventually **present/share their findings** with their peers.

To give new parents an idea...the children's choice of topics in past years have included taking apart motors, flax weaving, photography, kittens, rafier swords, silage making, knitting, firefighters (including the child organising a visit to a fire station), making puppet costumes/puppet theatre, high country farming (3 farms were compared and an Otago owner interviewed by email), geology (a specialist was visited), the army, making up/directing/performing a play (writers/directors were emailed), producing an exhibition of water colour paintings (one was auctioned as part of Year 6 Financial Capability), pig hunting, motor mechanics (including the child involved visiting Steve at the garage), learning to do pencil drawings, designing and sewing items, space inquiry (NASA employee was interviewed), Jack Russells, the Bentley car etc.

The children have a planning booklet as a guide where they set out their big questions of inquiry, note what they've achieved so far and what their next step will be. THEY organise their individual research, interview at least one person on their topic and if they wish: organise a fieldtrip for themselves (which can be taken during school time).

As I am teaching every day of next week, I intend to dedicate a lot of school time to LWIWTL so that we can give it a good nudge and complete it by week 5 of this busy term.

Therefore children will need to be ready to get under way next Monday (19 October) please, by having a clear idea of their topic and what it is **specifically** they want to learn/achieve. They also need to know where/how they are going to get their information for their learning from.

Please return the reply slip to me by this Friday indicating: "by the end of my independent inquiry topic, I will know/be able to do....."

If any child does not wish to partake in LWIWTL, I am happy to direct their topics of learning, as usual. Please let me know by this Friday if this is the case.

Any queries: please contact Kathy Mehrtens. Thank you.

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**Sewing and Knitting Craft Group and Morning Tea – at GELNROY HALL, 10am – 12noon, every second Monday – starting 12<sup>th</sup> October. Phone Cathy for details: 021 0274 1969. ALL WELCOME**



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**LWIWTL Reply slip Room 2 Due back Friday 16 October to Kathy Mehrtens**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

By the end of my independent inquiry topic, I will know or be able to do:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Frelly Order form

**Please hand to a Year 6 student by 9am Thursday of each week** (as that's when the Frellies are made):

- Either cut and return the appropriate piece of the order form AND the money
- Or if you wish to order for the 4 weeks all at once that would be great! (please include the money)
- Frellies are \$2 for each pottle of fruit and jelly (ingredients and pottles have been donated)

<b>Frelly Order</b>				
<b>Week 1</b>	Child's name	Child's name	Child's name	Child's name
<b>Frelly Order</b>				
<b>Week 2</b>	Child's name	Child's name	Child's name	Child's name
<b>Frelly Order</b>				
<b>Week 3</b>	Child's name	Child's name	Child's name	Child's name
<b>Frelly Order</b>				
<b>Week 4</b>	Child's name	Child's name	Child's name	Child's name