



WINDWHISTLE SCHOOL

QUALITY COMMUNITY LEARNING

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Once again, thank you so much for all your support with the Education Outside the Classroom events (EOTC). Without you, we wouldn't be able to let our students participate in all the different areas of learning. Look at athletics on Monday, everyone cheering and encouraging all the children to give every activity a go whether it was competitively or taking part in the SportStart games. Pet Day was another great opportunity for our community to come together and have some fun and celebrate the children's ideas about the care of their pet, creating sand-saucers, Lego and vegetable animals, and decorating hats and pets. It also gave the Year 6s a chance to fund-raise for the "Champion Centre", new financial capability skills, and for Vanessa and her helpers to raise some cash and purchase a much-needed megaphone for school events. Keep up the great work everyone, it really is appreciated.

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. On November 11 we will be travelling to Darfield with Constable Chris to learn about safe walking around the township. We will be leaving school at approximately 9.45am. We will return by lunchtime. Children will need to bring their school bags with their lunches in them. They will wear their school hats. Please make sure they have suitable shoes and wet weather gear, just in case. Below is a permission slip which must be returned by **FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER** please.

With quite a few short weeks coming up, please be aware the children will NOT bring home spelling on these weeks. They are also quite tired with so many activities at this time of year. Ngā mihi. Jane



ROOM 2: WOW! Look at that! How does that work? What would happen if...? These were just a few of the comments that I overheard the Room 2s talking about after the Science Roadshow in Methven last week. Although some of the hands-on exhibits were for more senior students, there was plenty of variety for everyone – electricity, magnets, solar system, engines and gears, physics and chemistry experiments, all kinds of energy – oh, and laying on a bed of nails!!! On Wednesday 4th November, the class is going to be learning with Constable Chris again – this time about road safety on bikes. We will start the day in class, progress to the tennis courts and grounds and then travel in convoy to Darfield to try out our learning 'for real' on the roads. Thanks again parents for your help with transport – I'll be taking a trailer to transport the bikes – please remember to drop them off either on Tuesday sometime or on Wednesday by 9:30am. The following week we are carrying on with our ENERGY learning, this time to look at solar and water power over in Springfield – (see previous newsletter); also to learn Hula-Hooping with Springfield School! *Please note* – I have had to cancel the planned solar energy trip to Christchurch on 19th November. Any questions, please email Frances.



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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS: JESSE, EMILY RICHARDS



Earlier in the year, Windwhistle School was very generously gifted a piece of land approximately 50m x 30m by **Steve and Teena Richards from The Point Station**. It is situated behind the students' Target Wall and backs onto the School House garden fence. Plans, so far, include making a walking / bike track, and planting native grasses, plants and trees for future students to enjoy and learn about. There was one slight problem, the ground was full of recently felled, tree stumps, and broom and gorse were about to fill the area...



WINDWHISTLE CONTRACTING came to the rescue and have cleared the site, ready for planting with their 20 tonne digger. The students loved watching the machine in action from behind the safety of the school fence. Our very grateful thanks go not only to Steve and Teena but to **Ric and Jen Daly, (Windwhistle Pastoral)** and **Will Juhl** and to **Griff** the driver, for all their time and energy.

SWIMMING POOL: Remember to come to the safety briefing on Tuesday at 10 o'clock with Alida. Keys can only be handed over once the pool instructions have been completed. Please arrange to pay online/add to your account – only \$60 for the whole family for the whole season! Plus \$20 deposit (Show week 11th November to Easter 2016).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: End-of-year vacancies and elections are coming up. If you would like to find out more about our Board and how you can make a difference – please contact a Board member (Sam Richards, Sam Smedley, Jen Daly, Annabel Tripp or Vanessa Johnston) and/or come along to a meeting (Monday 23rd November or Monday 14th December – 5:30pm in the Library).

FIRST AID : A 1st Aid Course has been booked for **Thursday 17th December 8:30 – 4:30pm** in the Library, cost \$100, taken by **Pro+Med NZ Ltd**. There are a few spaces left – if you would like to take part please contact Frances by this Friday, 6th November before I open it up to the rest of our community.

BALLANCE AGRI FERTILISER – PLEASE NOMINATE

WINDWHISTLE SCHOOL WHEN PURCHASING AGRI-FERTILISER.

THANK YOU



WORK WANTED

Looking for work in the Windwhistle / surrounding area. Available for farmwork, cleaning, gardening. Please contact Mel on 021 0859 7430

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 4	Mon 02 Nov Wed 04 Nov	Athletics Day – Darfield High School Room 2 – Constable Chris – Bike Safety (see notes)
Week 5	Wed 11 Nov Wed 11 Nov Thurs 12 Nov Fri 13 Nov	SWIMMING POOL OPENING WEEK (see notes) Room 1 – Constable Chris – Road Safety Room 2 trip to Springfield School – Solar Energy, Hydro Energy, Hula Hoops and Gymnastics (see notes) Teacher Only Day (no school) Canterbury Anniversary Day
Week 6	Fri 20 Nov Fri 20 Nov	Year 6 trip to Darfield High School 11.20 – 1pm Golf Tuition 1 – 2.30pm (every Friday)
Week 8	Mon 23 Nov Tues 01 Dec	BOT Meeting – 5.30pm school library Year 6 trip to Darfield High School
Week 9	Wed 09 Dec	Christmas giving and sharing with Jenni Carter
Week 10	Mon 14 Dec Tues 15 Dec Wed 16 Dec Thurs 17 Dec	BOT Meeting – 5.30pm school library Prize giving afternoon Last day of Term 4 First Aid Day 8.30am – 4.30pm

‘Generations’ International Buffet Night @ Terrace Downs

Friday 6th November at 5.30pm

“Grandparents, parents, children and friends”

We don’t need an excuse to have a night out, so join us for a relaxing social evening with all the family. Without a doubt it will be a great night. A movie will be played in the snug for the children to watch after they have eaten while the rest of us enjoy a drink or two and a ‘good old catch up’.(Greek, Japanese and Jamaican) *Adults \$40.00
*Children **ONLY** \$10.00 each RSVP directly to Terrace Downs Phone 3186943 by 2nd November. Booking reference: *Windwhistle School*



MOTIVATING KIDS TO READ:

Keeping Kids Off the Summer Slide

Something is waiting for many children each summer and their parents don’t even know it’s out there. It’s called the “summer slide,” and it describes what happens when young minds sit idle for three months.

As parents approach the summer break, many are thinking about the family vacation, trips to the pool, how to keep children engaged in activities at home, the abrupt changes to everyone’s schedule—and how to juggle it all. What they might not be focusing on is how much educational ground their children could lose during the three-month break from school, particularly when it comes to reading.

Experts agree that children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not often slide backward. According to the authors of a report from the National Summer Learning Association: "A conservative estimate of lost instructional time is approximately two months or roughly 22 percent of the school year.... It's common for teachers to spend at least a month re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer. That month of re-teaching eliminates a month that could have been spent on teaching new information and skills." The report's authors further note that family income plays a significant role in determining the magnitude of this summer slide. Students from low-income families "...experience an average summer learning loss in reading achievement of over two months." Not only do these students suffer greater sliding during the summer, they also experience cumulative effects of greater learning loss each summer. Sociologists Karl Alexander and Doris Entwisle have shown that the cumulative effect of summer learning differences is a primary cause of widening achievement gaps between students of lower and higher socioeconomic levels. Research demonstrates that while student achievement for both middle- and lower-income students improves at similar rates during the school year, low-income students experience cumulative summer learning losses throughout their elementary school years.

Summer slide affects millions of children each year in this country—but it doesn't have to. Other articles in the "[Motivating Kids to Read Section](#)" offer tips for parents, caregivers, and members of community organizations to help keep learning fun throughout the summer break and the rest of the year. **Source:** Reading Is Fundamental www.rif.org/books-activities

Golf Lessons

As mentioned in a newsletter a while back, we have arranged a series of golf lessons for all of our children. These are on 3-4 consecutive Fridays as part of our PE programme and begin on Friday 20 November. They are taken by a professional golf tutor and are especially tailored to the needs and abilities of young children. The Year 0-3 children will have 3 lessons and will doing the Starting New At golf programme. The Year 4-6 students will have 4 lessons, the last of which will be at the Hororata Golf Course (Glentunnel) on Friday 11 December.

Any queries, please contact Kathy Mehrtens

Year 6 Visit to Darfield High School

Recently Windwhistle staff had a meeting with Darfield High School staff to discuss the transitioning of our students to high school, with a view to making this important next step a positive process. Scott Jermyn, the Year 7 Dean has invited our students who will be attending Darfield High School next year, to have an extra look around the current Year 7 classes in action so that our students get to see the Year 7 curriculum in action and get to feel more comfortable with (and excited about) what is ahead of them. This visit is just for our Windwhistle students and is in addition to the normal DHS new entrant day held early in December for all new entrants from around the Malvern schools. Our visit will take place on Friday 20 November. Sam Smedley has kindly offered to transport and accompany the children. They will leave Windwhistle School at 10:45am and return by 1:30pm in time for their first golf lesson. Please fill in the permission slip and return to me (Kathy) by the end of this week. Any queries, please contact Kathy Mehrtens. Thank you.

Permission slip for **Year 6 Visit to Darfield High School**

_____ has permission to travel by private car to Darfield High School to watch Year 7 classes in action on Friday 20 November.

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

PET DAY 2015



Room 1 Darfield Walk Permission Slip PLEASE RETURN TO MRS MAC BY FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

I give permission for my child/ren _____ to go on the Safe Walking Trip to Darfield on November 11th with Constable Chris.

I understand I must provide my child with a car seat for the trip.

I am able to help with transport. Yes/No

I can take _____ children in my vehicle.

Signed _____

