



WINDWHISTLE SCHOOL

QUALITY COMMUNITY LEARNING

Dear Parents and Caregivers

What a wonderful year we have had, learning with our students. Our new entrants, all 12 of them this year, settled in quickly to the routines of school life with the colourful Mrs Mac. At the seniors' end, Mrs Nimmo and Mrs Mehrstens have been cramming in final revision with our Year 6 students as they prepare to say their farewells at prize-giving on Tuesday. It is always sad to see them go, but as we watch them flourish at high school and sometimes come back and visit us, we can take heart that we were involved in their learning journey. We wish Lachlan, Willy, Ruby, Joe and Luke all the very best - they will go far!

To all our families, have a very safe and happy Christmas and an enjoyable New Year.

Frances Nimmo, Jane McMillan and Kathy Mehrstens

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 Whanau. Reports and Portfolios go home today. These are now yours to keep and should provide you with an overall picture of your child's year. At the beginning of this term, I reported to the Board that the number of illnesses/absences were taking a toll on the results - especially Reading progress, in Room 1. Some of you will see this reflected in your child's overall progress and they may appear lower than expected. If you have any concerns, please contact me and we can make a time to meet (early!) next week. However, Sunshine Classics is still available over the holidays as is Maths Buddy. Meri Kirihimete and have a safe and relaxing new year. Ngā mihi. Jane

ROOM 2: the reports going home today are a picture of your child/ren's overall achievement, with next steps as appropriate. We would recommend regular reading and tables practice over the holidays to maintain their learning, and lots of 'real-life' problem-solving. Providing some opportunities to write up their favourite moments in a journal is also worthwhile - remind them to 'paint a picture'! MathsBuddy will still be available and a great way to keep up - certificates will be provided, next year, for any 'Platinums' as usual. Have a great Christmas everyone - you deserve it! Frances and Kathy.

PRIZE-GIVING DAY – Tuesday 15th December – the 1st bus will run as normal. Please let us know if you wish your child/ren to stay at school. The 2nd bus children will stay at school and have the opportunity to play before getting ready for prize-giving, starting at 4pm prompt. Afterwards, Sam Smedley has offered to take the children for a swim while the BBQ is heating up (she will need some extra helpers/rotation, please). Please bring whatever you need to cook on the BBQ, something to drink (tea, coffee, fruit juice provided), and a salad or side-dish to share. We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing the children's achievements.

Last Day – Wednesday 16th – 11am – the 'man-in-the-red-suit!' - parents and siblings welcome; 11:30am – pool training/ buy keys with Alida; 12noon – Hot Lunches – thank you Vanessa and supportive parents; FAREWELLS - 1pm – 1st bus; 1:30pm – 2nd bus

Thursday – 1st aid training in library 8.30 – 4.30pm with ProMed – let Frances know asap. if you wish to join in – 3 places left (\$100 p/p).

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Fergus, Connor and Lachlan





Fun day out in Darfield with Constables Pup and Chris learning about road and bike safety



TERM 4 DIARY 2015

| | | |
|---------|--------------|---|
| Week 10 | Mon 14 Dec | BOT Meeting – 5.30pm school library Prize-giving – 4pm BBQ 5 – 7pm Hot Lunch provided by parents 12 noon Last day of Term 4 FIRST BUS – 1PM SECOND BUS 1.30PM First Aid Day 8.30am – 4.30pm |
| | Tues 15 Dec | |
| | Wed 16 Dec | |
| | Thurs 17 Dec | |

TERM 1 DIARY 2016

| | | |
|--------|------------|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Mon 01 Feb | First Day of Term 1 2016 |
| Week 2 | Mon 08 Feb | Waitangi Holiday |
| | Fri 12 Feb | WORKING BEE & BBQ – 3pm |

A fun filled afternoon with Jenni Carter learning the gift of “giving and sharing”



Fun in the Sandpit



The Financial Capability Students Hand Over Their Cash!

The Year 6 students were warmly welcomed by the Champion Centre staff last Thursday afternoon. We were given a guided tour around this amazing facility before helping out with the Christmas Party.

It was soon apparent to us that we were very privileged to be invited into this early intervention centre for special needs pre-schoolers, as it is a sanctuary for both the children and their families. Even students of high school age are not normally permitted.

We learned that the students work one on one with the staff of around 60 specialist teachers who provide a safe, nurturing learning environment, with each child on an individually tailored programme, to meet their individual needs such as cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome or autism.

We were told that recent research in the field of neuro science now provides proof that brain function can be greatly enhanced, if specialist learning is put in place while the brain is still developing. Many of the Champion Centre children are able to enter a mainstream school when they are aged 5 or 6.

The centre is only partially Government funded, so relies on donations. Susan Foster-Cohen, the centre's director, was truly delighted with the \$600 dollars our Windwhistle ambassadors raised and gifted to the centre. The funds will be used in the playground area, which has been built with the specific needs of the Champion Centre students in mind.

It was well worth the trip into Christchurch for our students to meet some of the children and their families and see first-hand how the money they had raised would help others. My thanks to Roy Veronese and Sam & Alex Smedley for their time in transporting and supporting the Year 6s. Any queries, please contact Kathy.



WORKING BEE



Friday 12 February 2016 from 3pm. If you own a shovel, rake, wheelbarrow please bring along. A great afternoon to help the school, and catch up with parents and teachers.



Situation Vacant – Glentunnel School is looking for a cleaner(s). 13 hours per week during term time and 6 hours during each term break. For a job description and application pack, please phone the school on 3182 717 or email alison@glentunnel.school.nz

Our little "Santas"



"Ice Cream time" at playgroup

