



6 April 2016 – Week 10, Term1

WINDWHISTLE SCHOOL

QUALITY COMMUNITY LEARNING

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Some parts of our teaching and learning days are serious while other parts are plain wacky! Yesterday, Tuesday, was a good example: it was crazy hair/hat day, and the children, teachers, and playgroup outdid each other with colourful designs – all in aid of child leukaemia. Back in class, one student asked why some people were shaving their heads, and formative discussions took place. This lead onto how fortunate we are in New Zealand to have our health, peace and freedom. Later, the students were applying their growing knowledge and understanding of ANZAC Day through their writing (see attached examples) and art.; altogether, a very wacky, and serious, day's learning at Windwhistle School.

We look forward to sharing the school's ANZAC service with the community at Glenroy Monument on Friday 15th April at 11am – see notices below.

Frances Nimmo (Principal)

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. Many thanks for all your kind messages while I was away. I am frantically trying to catch up with testing this week. Attached to this newsletter is a sheet with the essential spelling words that we will be focusing on this year and that I will be reporting on to you. Please keep this in a safe place. You may have noticed that some weeks your child may have the same word in their list. This will be because they have used the word in their daily writing and spelt it wrong - again! I will drill these words into them if it kills me! The older year 1s will start having spelling words next term. Reports will go home next week. I will schedule interviews at the start of next term. I won't be here the first day back as it is Grants powhiri at his new school and our family will all be attending and flying home on Monday night. Donna Young will once again be teaching that day. With the days getting cooler please remember to send a coat to school with your child. We have an area under cover which I try to get the boys out to play in otherwise they go into overdrive if stuck inside. The children can also bring a spare pair of slippers to school to wear inside. Please read the notes regarding our ANZAC Day service. We hope to see you all there. **Ngā mihi Jane.**

ROOM 2: Interesting news, sports and 'Did You Knows?' from the class– lots of sharing and learning. Thanks for all the support around the extra home reading and maths – Family-of-Facts; it is really paying off and helping to cement their understanding – applying it to examples around the home really helps. We will finish our fractions' learning next week, and the children know that 'Maths is everywhere!' We are very fortunate indeed to have the expertise and enthusiasm of Kate Lambarth teaching the Room 2s the ukulele every Tuesday (See extra notice below). After only two sessions, the children can already play and sing two songs – to the beat *and* in-tune. (Thanks to Kathy!)



Please ask the children to keep an eye on the weather forecast – and dress in layers of clothing and jackets, in case it rains or turns to a southerly. This means that they can still go outside and play, and get some exercise and fresh air.

Interim reports will be sent home on the last day. Enjoy some quality family time during the April holidays. Any questions, please ask, Frances.

April BIRTHDAYS: George



ANZAC Gift Boxes – Room 2

The children's little gift boxes for 13 soldiers (inspired by Princess Mary's gift boxes to troops in 1914 – see last newsletter) are now complete and I will soon be sending them off to Burnham Camp. If you would like to see them (and the contents your child has put in them) before they go, they are in Room 2 near my desk...the children know where. Any queries, contact Kathy.



ANZAC Wreath making – Room 2 – Thursday 14 April

As per the heads up in the last newsletter, the Room 2 children will each be making a wreath on Thursday of next week to present at our Friday's ANZAC Service. Mary Abbott will be helping us with these. The oasis is supplied (paid for by the school). Each Room 2 child is asked to bring with them to school on Thursday: an array of freshly cut, foliage suitable for pushing into the oasis. Foliage that has strong stems and leaves such as hebes, pittosporums and corokia are ideal; rhododendron leaves (small rather than large) or those from viburnum shrubs are good also. An array of shades of green, brown, silver etc. would be great. Flowers with their soft stems are not suitable. I will have poppies available for each child's wreath to provide extra colour. I will take the children around the school garden to give them an idea of what to bring and will show them photos of how past wreaths have looked. I'm teaching next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, so if you have any queries – please contact me. Thank you. Kathy Mehrtens.

Spelling – Room 2

We are currently having a focus on the correct spelling of words from the Essential Spelling list as per MOE guidelines. In case you are wondering why some basic ("easy") words are appearing in your child's weekly spelling list - these are words that have either been misspelt in your child's writing, or that they are not yet able to spell in isolation, as per the expectation for their age. Any queries, please contact Kathy or Frances.

Maths – Room 2 on Kathy days

Thank you to the parents who are obviously doing a great job at home of helping to maintain your children's learning around measuring time (see last newsletter). We are now focusing on measuring length: Year 3s are estimating, then measuring lengths in metres; Year 4s are estimating, then measuring lengths in metres and centimetres; Year 5s and 6s are estimating, then measuring lengths in metres, centimetres and millimetres as well as converting from one unit to another e.g. 1cm=10mm. All students are applying their learning to real life practical problem solving.....any reinforcement of this learning at home where such problem solving crops up naturally all the time, would be very helpful to embedding your child's learning. Thank you.

ANZAC Poppies – Whole School

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their poppy donation money. Please return all money and any unsold poppies to me (Kathy Mehrtens) by this Thursday 7 April. Thank you. I will get our donations to a RSA person. The money is used for the welfare of service personnel and their families.



Windwhistle School's ANZAC Ceremony – Whole School Glenroy Monument at 11am on Friday 15 April

- The children will come to school on the morning bus as usual with their normal packed morning tea and lunch. They will need a drink bottle for this day.
- We will have an early morning tea and then the children will all travel either by school bus or teachers' cars to the Glenroy Monument.
- We ask that children be neatly dressed and prepared for any weather....the ceremony takes place regardless of the weather conditions. (One year we were nearly blown off the hill, while singing of all things "The Answer Is Blowing in the Wind," but the children showed their respect for the people they were honouring by remaining steadfast).
- Safety at that dangerous S bend is foremost in the minds of the staff regarding both the children and the adults attending the service. With teachers, RSA representatives, army personnel and the school bus needing to park at the monument, there is not much safe parking left at this dangerous corner. Therefore we request that if at all possible, you park your car at the Glenroy Hall and the school bus will transport you up to the monument. (You will see as you park your car at the hall that an area is coned off...this is where the children can play safely after eating their lunch).
- Please note that out of respect for the occasion, we like to start the ceremony on time.
- After the ceremony, adults will be transported back to the hall first and then the bus will go back up to the monument to collect the children.
- The Glenroy Hall Committee is very kindly providing lunch refreshments (partly sponsored by SDC) for all adults/guests at the hall straight after the service.
- Children will eat their **normal packed lunch from home** and can mingle with guests and /or play in the coned off area outside afterwards. Staff are very conscious of the busy SH72 nearby and will endeavour to provide some supervision outside at this time but would very much appreciate parent help also.
- After lunch, parents are free to take their children home
- **PLEASE FILL IN THE PERMISSION SLIP AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND RETURN IT TO SCHOOL BY THIS FRIDAY 8 APRIL.** Any queries, please contact me. Thank you – Kathy Mehrstens.



Wacky Hat / Hair Day – Well done everyone getting dressed up in colourful wigs, hats, and hair colours! All the \$2s will be sent to the Shave-for-a-Cure, child leukaemia fund.



Ukelele & Piano – Kate Lambarth (Music Teacher) available for tuition in piano – 20 minute lunch and Tuesday afternoon sessions until 3pm (Room 2) - \$15 (email: kate.lambarth@hotmail.com)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – 2016 ELECTIONS – 3 JUNE

*Are you passionate about the education of children in your community?
How about becoming a Trustee and using your skills and experience to help shape a positive future
for our children?
Please see attached for further information...*

SWIMMING DEMO DAY – A fun afternoon with the children showcasing their swimming skills! A big thanks to Yvonne Hawtin, The Selwyn Aquatic Centre & SDC!



SELWYN EQUESTRIAN in Burnham have had two great years of running holiday camps each school holidays.



Monday to Friday fun with or without your own pony. Everything is included (accommodation, riding, grazing, meals etc) for \$350 (\$50 family discount offered for subsequent children) Children get to have great fun with like-minded horse crazy kids. Any ages up to 17. Please email buistbrowns@clear.net.nz, or phone Rochelle on 0211338288, 3476007. Or check out Selwyn Equestrian Centre on Facebook.



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TERM 1 DIARY 2016

Week 10	Fri 8 April	Elgregoe @ Greendale Hall with Hororata - "You've Got The Power!" – Room 2
Week 11	Tues 12 April Fri 15 April	Mobile Library – 1pm ANZAC Ceremony & Glenroy Monument 11am – then light lunch at Glenroy Hall End of Term (+ interim reports home)

TERM 2 DIARY 2016

Week 1	Mon 02 May	Term 2 starts

CUT-----

REPLY/PERMISSION SLIP FOR ANZAC CEREMONY TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL BY FRIDAY 8TH APRIL, PLEASE

My child/children: _____ have permission to travel by school bus or teachers' cars and partake in the school's ANZAC service at the Glenroy Monument on Friday 15 April at 11am, wet or fine. **YES / NO**

I will transport my child home from the Glenroy Hall after the light lunch. **YES / NO**

Number of adults likely to attend the service _____

We will park our car at the Glenroy Hall as suggested and use the school bus to travel to and from the Glenroy Monument on the day of the service. **YES / NO**

PLEASE NOTE: OUT OF RESPECT FOR OTHERS, THE BUS IS NOT ABLE TO WAIT FOR YOU....IT WILL LEAVE FROM THE HALL FOR THE CEREMONY AT 10:50AM

Parent signature _____

Date _____

The team who brought you 'The Bitches' Box' & Mel Parsons are back on the road with a brand new show! (Some shows are close to selling out already, so don't dilly-dally - **BOOK NOW!**)

Sat 16 April - Snowdon Station
Sun 1 May – Quartz Hill (2nd show)



To book tickets and for full info click:

<http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/tour/2016/sons-of-bitch-mel-parsons>

'Sons of a Bitch' & Mel Parsons is a brand new show, and promises an unmissable evening of music, theatre and comedy, complete with BBQ and bar - coming soon to a wool shed near you! Each event will start with a fundraising BBQ dinner run by the local school (*these shows = Windwhistle School*) - come hungry and support your local kids!