

18th February 2010

Artists in the making

MURAL

A group of our students who have been identified for their artist ability were selected to work with Dan Mills, artist, on the mural. Not only will the mural leave a lasting impression on our brick wall, but our students will have great memories of this special event. Our thanks goes to the Hutt City Council for sponsoring this.



The mural representing our school house system, and syndicates as designed and painted by our students.

Building progress

Our new classroom and staffroom are progressing well. The builders are on schedule and will hand over the building at the end of the term, so that Room 11 can move from Room 4 into their new learning environment. The staff are also looking forward to having morning teas and lunches in a less cramped room as we have truly outgrown our existing staffroom. The board have now asked the architects to look at the administration block to make the space more useable and to improve the entrance to the school so that it is easily identifiable and eye-catching for visitors to the school. I will keep you posted on this.

Stationery

Thank you to those parents who have purchased their child's stationery. It is important for all students to have their stationery now as classes are working in exercise books and these replace our portfolios in showing the progress of our learners.

Sun Safe

It is important that students wear a sunhat when outside in Terms 1 & 4. Please ensure your children have hats at school. It is also best to put sun block on before leaving home each day.

Parent Helpers

Parent helpers are valued at Maungaraki School. If you would like to be a regular parent helper, please discuss suitable times with your child's teacher. Staff have asked if parents can consider helping with sporting events throughout the year as without the commitment from parents we cannot enter all the competitions or events. The school will do its best to inform you of events in advance but for regional events we do not always know which children will be representing the school until a previous event has been held so notice in these cases can be shorter than we would like.

Parents please report to the office before entering a classroom during school time. Please do not just "drop in" to classrooms during school hours as this disrupts teaching and learning.

Students are not expected to be in class or at school before 8.30am as there is no one to care for them.

After School Care

An after school care programme runs in the Maungaraki Community Hall but this is independently run from the school. Please contact Cathy on 569 7577 for bookings.

Sign Out / In Book

We have a book on the office counter in which we ask parents picking up or dropping off their children during the school day to sign them in or out. An accurate account of student whereabouts is essential in case of an emergency.



Student Detail Up-dates

A print out has been sent home to ensure that the contact details we hold are accurate. Please complete and return to the school office as soon as possible so that we can contact you in case of an emergency. Also if your details change throughout the year remember to update the office.

WEETBIX TRI



I had the pleasure of watching my grandchildren compete at the Weetbix Triathlon on Sunday 7 March. What an amazing event with 1200 children competing in their age groups in the three disciplines, it was so very well organised. Besides my grandchildren several Maungaraki School children also competed in this event. Congratulations to all our great sportsmen and women who entered this amazing event!

National Standards

National Standards are very topical at present. Everyone has a different opinion of them. Maungaraki staff would have liked the standards to have been trialled prior to implementation and to have been given a little more time to implement them. Research in many countries has shown that National Standards alone has done little to improve achievement standards, however Maungaraki School is ready and able to implement them in conjunction with the many successful methods of assessment that we already use. The staff and board will be attending workshops on the National Standards this term.

Assessing students against National standards does not involve an exam, it is not a list of things to tick off, and it does not replace the good assessment practices that already are in place at Maungaraki School.

Assessment:

What is assessment and what is its purpose?
How does assessment influence learning?
Assessment is part of life. The most common and probably most useful assessment is self assessment. We know what we are good at and what we have to work harder on. In order to learn, we all think about what we have done or are doing, we decide whether it is working for us and whether we need to change what we are doing. We seek out ways to find new information or to learn new skills. It is the same for children. The only difference is that the teacher and parent are there to support and guide the child.

Good useful assessment comes from a variety of different sources that together form a global picture of a student. National Standards is one of these sources.

"Assessment informs or guides teaching."
Assessment not only tells us whether the student is below, on, or above expected levels for their age, it tells the teacher and the student what they know or can do, what they don't know, and what their next learning step is. We are all different. We all learn at different rates and in different ways. We can't all be outstanding at everything. The most

important thing about learning is that we keep on learning, that we know what we need to learn next and what it will look like and feel like when we get there.

Assessment provides evidence that guides teaching and learning. At Maungaraki we already gather assessment data from a range of different sources:

- Classroom observations and work samples
- Nationally normed test in reading, writing, spelling and maths
- Class or school assessment tasks
- Students' self evaluations
- Writing, reading and Maths progressions which the Ministry of Education provide.

National standards will now add a 6th source of information.

Teachers gather all this information on each child and make a judgement based on all the data they have collected. One piece of data or test is not enough. That is why the National Standards cannot stand alone.

A critical aspect of successful learning is the quality of the relationship between us, you and your child.

Some key elements of good learning relationships are:

- Trust, the child is encouraged to take risks and make mistakes and learn from them without feeling bad
- Student ownership of the learning, encouraging them to make decisions and take responsibility. Listening to their own thoughts about their learning journey.
- Valuing the student's contribution, their opinions and ideas
- Enjoyment, learning should be a joyful experience.

Maungaraki staff continue to refine and improve our student assessment processes. We look forward to discussing your child's achievement, progress and next learning steps with you at our **three way conferences** on 16 and 18 March and again 27 and 29 July. I encourage you to book your first session on line at www.schoolinterviews.co.nz so that you get a time most suitable to yourself.

Mud slide - this Sunday!

The Scouts are having their annual mud slide from 11am to 2pm at the den on Barberry Grove. All welcome. Food and drinks will be on sale.

HOUSE CAPTAINS



Pukeko Captains 2010
Alana Kirby and Vaughan Austin



Morepork Captains 2010
McCauley Ross and Shania Lomax



Kakapo Captains 2010
Sam Ashford and Jessica Hujink



Takahe Captains 2010
Laticia Senior and Ifraaz Ali

Congratulations to
our newly elected
House Captains

We are an Enviroschool!

Congratulations to all Maungaraki students, parents and community - Maungaraki School has been accepted into the Enviroschools Programme for 2010. We will be one of 69 schools taking part in this programme for the Wellington area.

The rationale of Enviroschools is about the well-being of the whole school, community and eco-system. It's about working out how to live so that our society and economy nourishes the natural systems that give us life. Enviroschools gives our students the opportunity to explore real life challenges and to apply their energy and ideas. The approach is to build a network of schools committed to environmental learning, action and creating sustainable communities.

Our school will go on its own enviroschool journey, beginning this year. This involves exploring some guiding principles of the programme. It also involves working through a whole school process. This will enable our students to be empowered to investigate, explore ideas, make decisions, take action and reflect on the changes they have created.

Our school will work in a collaborative way between people with different skills and knowledge. These different perspectives help create healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities. There are over 60 organizations making up the Enviroschools support network, which we will have access to.

The staff are looking forward to this opportunity. You will undoubtedly be hearing more about what is happening from your children.

Bikes at the
transition of the
Weetbix Kids
triathlon



Women's Challenge

For all walkers, runners or beginner cyclists – join us at “Start Me Up Women's Challenge” on 7 March at Hikoikoi Reserve, Petone.

This is an event for women and teen girls to ‘kick start’ and continue their exercise! Entry \$15, great prizes including gym memberships, a bike, ipod, lots of health and beauty vouchers. For details and online entry see www.ignitesport.org.nz/startmeup or flyers available at libraries, pools, cycle shops. Contact Andrea Bolton ph 9713152.

Back to School with Visique

No-one is more passionate about kiwi eye care than Visique Optometrists.

This year our back to school promotion includes the free sunnies for five-year-olds starting school, AND also we have a Fly Buys offer of 20 bonus points for every child's eye test.

To obtain free sunglasses for your new entrant starting school please visit our Visique website www.visique.co.nz and download your voucher today. Bring this voucher into Visique Capital Eyes and swap it for some stunning new sunnies. If you are unable to download a voucher for any reason please call 0800 Visique and we will post one out to you.

Win the Ultimate Back To School Haul

Visique has teamed up with Avanti Plus and Paperplus to offer the Ultimate Back to School Haul competition. Just spend \$25 at any of our stores and to in to win!

To enter visit www.bigsschoolhaul.co.nz

Home and School News

At Monday night's Home and School meeting Deanne Scott was voted in as chairperson, Charmaine Wessels as secretary and Adele Yee as treasurer.

The school greatly appreciates the assistance of the Home and School in bringing our community together and in supporting the school by purchasing fantastic equipment. I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work but I would especially like to thank Lauren Fox for the wonderful work she has done in the chairperson's role over the past two years. Lauren has been extremely hardworking for the Home and School, co-ordinating a great number of events, writing great newsletters and communicating and supporting others in their roles.

The Home and School have some great things lined up for us over the up-coming months.

School Roll

We have started 2010 with a school roll of 244 students. To help us with our future planning if you have a child turning 5 this year, or know of a neighbour with a 5 year old please ensure enrolment forms are completed as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Newsletters

A school newsletter is sent home on alternative Thursdays. The eldest child in your family will be given the responsibility to give this to you. The newsletter will also be posted on the school website

www.maungaraki.school.nz

Yummy Stickers

Thank you to Aren Valentine for counting and collecting the Yummy stickers over the past few years. We greatly appreciated his support in this way. We are now looking for a parent to take on this responsibility. It is not an onerous job. Please see Brenda in the office if you are prepared to take on this role to support the school.

Parents please continue to collect Yummy stickers for our school as we gain a great deal of sports equipment from this scheme. A new sticker sheet has been included in this newsletter. House points are also given for Yummy stickers handed in to the office.

Hey Kids, kick start your savings for 2010...

And you could get \$50.00 added to your savings!

Each week that you make a deposit into your Hebblebit account during Term 1 (from 6th February 2010 to 4th April 2010) through ASB's School Banking programme, you're automatically in that week's prize draw to win one of the 25 prizes of \$50.00 on offer.

ASB The more weeks you make a deposit, the more chances you have to win!

Morepork House meeting



Three Way Interviews

(Bookings are now open online)

Our three way interviews are on Tuesday, 16 March and Thursday, 18 March. Please note **the school will be closing early** to allow for teachers to begin interviews at 1.30pm on the **Thursday**. Children can be collected at **1.15pm**. The school will provide care for children whose parents cannot make other arrangements for their care. Please inform the school office if your child is to remain at school on Thursday. To book your interview time please go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz Our school code is **5XUTJ**. If you do not have access to the Internet please ask for assistance at the school office.

We hope to see all families at the interviews.

NB: Belinda Postma is in Room 11 and Karen Samuels in Room 4 on the interview schedule.

Paid Union Meeting

On 26th March all our teachers will be attending a Paid Union Meeting as each staff member is also an NZEI member. In the teachers award they are permitted to have two days annually to attend a union meeting. The school must remain open, however staffing a school under these circumstances is very difficult. Principals attend their own paid union meeting at another date. Therefore I will be the only staff member apart from the office and caretaking staff left on site. As I am unable to take on 245 students on my own, it leaves me in a difficult position and the majority of our relievers are also NZEI members. I would therefore ask parents to do their best to find an alternative for the afternoon. If you really do need the school to care for your child please return the slip below and return it to the office before Friday 12th March so that suitable arrangements can be made.

Paid Union Meeting Return Slip

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

I require supervision for my child/ren on 26th March from 1.30 - 3pm.

Child's name: _____ **Class:** _____

Child's name: _____ **Class:** _____

Coming Events

22 February Grasshopper Tennis (R4-7)	23 February	24 February	25 February	26 February Grasshopper Tennis (R8 - 11)
1 March Immunisation Yr 8 girls Chizuru Mituyama, Japanese teacher arrives Grasshopper Tennis (R4-7) Kia Kaha Programme	2 March 2.00pm Assembly	3 March "Power of One" afternoon 1.30pm - 2.15pm Grasshopper Tennis (R1 & 2)	4 March	5 March Grasshopper Tennis (R8 - 11)