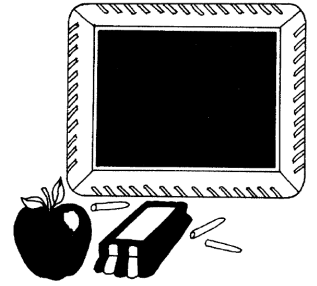


Berkley Korero

Number 4

Thursday 7 April 2011



New Horizons

Last week our entire school participated in a unique, exciting programme of outdoor challenges. Students were geographically spread from Paihia in the North, Whitianga (East) Waitomo (South) and Raglan (West) and many points in between.

Our fisherman came back with stories of the one that got away, cavers about wetas and glow worms, surfers about the perfect wave, horse riders about trekking and grooming, mountain bikers about jumps, speed and spills, divers of a silent fishy world, seafari about sailing on a tall ship in Bay of Islands, and the stories go on.

All these experiences have been captured on film and video. In the foreseeable future these will be collated and available to our intrepid adventurers.

This entire programme would not have been possible without the support of parent helpers. There were more than 140 parents that supported us in the field. Together with good planning and adult teamwork, students enjoyed a nice balance of excitement and adventure inside a cocoon of safe practice. There was only one incident that needed medical attention.

The way our community embraced this outdoor education programme is outstanding. Students were able to choose different activities, levels of challenge and cost. Staff was very appreciative of the many complimentary comments and acknowledgements of time spent planning and ensuring a memorable experience for students.

It is nice to be appreciated!

Sun Strike

For the next two weeks, at about the time students are being brought to school, the rising sun shines directly down Morrinsville Road. Drivers please be extremely careful. Visibility will be impaired, and students will not always be aware of this.

Makuhari Cultural Exchange

Our exchange students from Makuhari Junior High School left Berkley on Monday 28th March to head up to Auckland before returning to Japan.

They would like to extend their appreciation and thanks to families who hosted them. All students had a wonderful time and went away really appreciating our beautiful country and the friendliness of our people. Our small population, lots of space, plus the lifestyle our children lead were major differences that impressed them.

Events leading up to their visit was very distressing. Every student wishes to acknowledge and thank families for helping them forget, for just a moment, the tragic events that they are facing at home. This was one special week they will always remember with happiness.

We have 10 Berkley students are who looking forward to a similar set of experiences when they travel to Japan in September/October this year.

Noumea

In recent years a group of 10-15 students have spent a week in French-speaking New Caledonia. The theme is "Vive la difference". For seven days students are immersed in a culture where another language is spoken 99% of the time.

Students stay in a resort that has its own food preparation facilities. Each day they shop at the supermarket and produce market for their daily rations. Most of this interaction requires them speaking some French and dealing in local currency (franc). They then participate in the preparation of their meals.

events, adjacent islands, the Aquarium, shopping, using the local transport system and snorkeling (The water is approx 23/24 degrees).



This year we are booked for 05–11 November. The price is approximately \$2300. To secure a position, a deposit of \$300 needs to be paid by 14th April. Application forms are available at School Office.

Students in this group will have the option of joining Mrs. Frogley’s “special” French language class, commencing at the beginning of term 2.

Lost Property

The frequency of students misplacing their clothing is something a uniformed environment learns to manage and live with.

This is made so much more frustrating when items are not named. It is estimated that more than 60% of students do not have their clothing fully named. Our “lost” property bins are full of unnamed clothing. Chances are that many students end up wearing another persons clothing of a similar size without knowing it.

We can minimise this happening by ensuring all garments are clearly named. Lets tackle this problem together!

Keeping Us Informed

Student Attendance

If your child is absent from school due to sickness or for any reason, it is important that you contact the school before 9.00am that morning. Our preference is that you email our school website – www.berkley.school.nz and use ‘**Absence**’ link (on the home page) to enter the details. If this method is not possible then please ring our **message line** – 856 5956 to

leave a voice message. If your child is absent for more than one day a note is required upon their return to school.

Students who need to leave the school grounds during the day **must** present a note from their parent/caregiver on each occasion, and sign in and out at the school office. **All students must be collected from the school office.**

Contact Phone Numbers and Email Addresses - If your contact information changes – please inform our office. In an emergency this is often the only way in which we can make contact with you.

It is essential that our records are up to date and accurate. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Big Night In

This is a showcase of student talent. Items will include Orchestra, Kapa Haka, and a selection of home grown talent!

When: Thursday 14 April
Where: Performing Arts Centre
Time: 7.00pm

Strike Percussion Performance

On Monday 11th April this internationally acclaimed group will perform for students. The cost is \$5.00.

This is a must for all those learning drums. They make amazing sounds with what many would regard as throw away rubbish. Back by popular demand! They performed at our school four years ago. Money must be paid by Friday.

Ko Au Books

Next week students will bring home their Ko Au books. These will contain samples of student achievement in Literacy and Numeracy. There is a section for parent(s) to write an encouraging comment.

Ko Au books are to be returned to school before the end of the term.

ICAS

The 2011 ICAS (International Competitions and assessments for Schools or formerly NSW

Exams) are taking place this year in terms two and three.

Computer Skills	25 May
Science	09 June
English	03 August
Maths	17 August

The final day for entries to be paid is tomorrow - **Friday 8th April**. No late entries will be accepted.

Reminder - Holidaying During Term Time

It is essential that parents seek the school's approval before planning a holiday that extends beyond school holiday time. Students by law must attend school and an explained absence, prior to taking leave, is a requirement and common courtesy. Some classes have several students away at a time and this can have a big impact on programmes and achievement.

It is important that there is a written record of such occurrences as it can have staffing and funding implications. This is particularly so for the July holiday period. If students are marked absent around these holidays then we need written evidence that these students will be returning to our school for audit purposes.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April

Friday	08	ICAS entries due – no late entries
Wednesday	13	SS3 Smallball
Friday	15	Last day of term one

May

Monday	02	First day of term two
Tuesday	03	Inter-school Squash Next BOT Meeting
Monday	09	Focus – Aranui
Tuesday	10	Inter-school Soccer
Thursday	12	Next Korero home.

3D Animation and Games Design

Next term for eight weeks there is an after school programme for participants that want to develop their computer literacy and skills.

This course has proven to be very popular with parents who are wanting *to improve their child's computer, design and invention skills*

with links into many other curriculum areas such as science, maths and literacy.

Each week students are involved in a series of different and *highly creative challenges* that develop their lateral thinking and problem solving skills while also developing their computer literacy. There are strong links into Art, Design, Animation, Games Design and Inventions with a different focus each week.

Students are given *free software lists* to take home so they can download the software used in class. This provides students with a great resource for personal hobbies and endless opportunities for adding a new dimension to school homework projects.

The cost is \$189.

Course - 3.30-5.00pm

Where – Berkley Computer Suite

When – Starts week 4, term 2

Read more about the course at www.bubbledome.co.nz

If interested complete the form and return to office. Course is limited to first 15 paid enrolments.

After-school Programme – 3D Animation & Games Design

Student's name.....

Rm:..... Enclosed is \$189.00

Signed:
Parent/Caregiver

Community News

Tamahere School Pumpkin Night...

Saturday 9th April from 4.00pm.

Come along for an afternoon/evening of fun rides, entertainment, food stalls, giant pumpkins and pumpkin creations!! Lots of fun for the whole family

