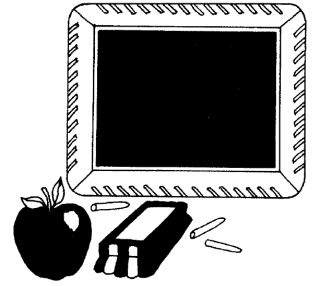


Berkley Korero

Number 3

Thursday 10 March 2011



Meet The Teacher Evening

Teachers want to convey a big thank to those who could make the evening. Our staff look forward to meeting parents in this informal setting. Meeting parents helps personalise, at an early stage, a relationship that is paramount in ensuring our emerging adolescents get the most from their learning opportunities this year.

Working as a team – learner, parents and teacher, enhances and strengthens the partnership so important to the fulfilment of our mission statement “we can, we share, we dare”.

Getting Into Berkley Life!

The pace of life for many of our students is beginning to quicken. This is a period when there are interschool competitions in our summer sports codes. Swimming, Cricket, Touch and Tennis are squeezed into the latter half of this term. All these sports have trials and practices prior to their respective tournaments. Overlapping these is the preparation cycle of starting up winter codes.

In addition, 260 students have just started learning a musical instrument in our ‘out of school’ programme.

This abundance of opportunity is exciting and demanding. It is important that we monitor carefully the demands this places upon our students. Enthusiasm to “take up the challenge” and become involved can have some students find they are over committing themselves. Often they focus on the event but not all the practices, meetings and notices that are a part of being involved.

It is important, that on behalf of our students, we monitor carefully their extra curricular commitments so that they have enough energy left to participate fully in their classroom programmes.

If you see signs at home of fatigue please liaise with the teacher so that we can craft appropriate support and bring balance back into their lives.

Makuhari Cultural Exchange

On Saturday 12th March, 24 students arrive from Makuhari, our sister school in Japan. They will be hosted with Berkley families over the next two weeks. Each year at this time Makuhari students enjoy the experience of living in a NZ home, attending school and taking in some of our magnificent scenery and iconic tourist attractions.

International Opportunities

Makuhari & Noumea

Over 40 families attended our information evenings which were held after each Meet the Teacher meeting last week.

Fourteen students have now paid their deposit for the Makuhari trip in Sept/Oct and there are now no longer any more places for further students on this trip. However there is an opportunity to be on our waiting list.

We are still taking deposits for the Noumea trip in November. A deposit of \$300 is due by Thursday 14 April. Application forms can be obtained from the school office.

Students that are members of these travel groups will have the opportunity of learning Japanese or French.

Student Councillors

Our Year 9 student councillors have been chosen for 2011. They are:

Khashayar Ghafouri
Ezra Jefferson Cope
Joel Thompson
Hannah Fox
Tiara Smith
Jamie Hodge
Alyssa English

Congratulations to all of these students, they are very motivated and looking forward to representing the students of Berkley.

School Attendance and Rock On (Reduce Our Community Kids Offending Now)

Berkley school is part of the 'Rock On' project - a truancy initiative between schools, various community agencies, MoE and the police. Its aim is to reduce youth offending by increasing student presence and participation in education.

We have just completed our analysis of the first month's attendance figures. It has become apparent to us that a small group of students have already missed many days of school. While the majority of these absences are for legitimate reasons, unfortunately some are not, and some are simply unexplained.

We are concerned about the effect a large number of absences has on a student's learning and are required to investigate non attendance above 10%. This includes those we believe are condoned absences without good reason. As part of our follow up procedure we will be sending letters home to parents requesting information where school attendance is of concern. This initiates the 'Rock On' process.

Some interesting facts and figures to be aware of:

- If a student misses one day a week of school, by the time they get to the end of Year 8 they have missed over 1 ½ years of school.
- If a student is 10 minutes late everyday, then by the end of Year 8 they have missed nearly a term of school.

School attendance is significantly linked to achievement and life opportunities. We are thankful that many parent/caregivers understand and support this rationale. If your child is going to be absent for the day please ring our school office with the reason, and if the absence is longer than 3 days a written note from parents is also required and a medical certificate may be asked for.

Early Finish

There is one more early finish day this term. On Monday 28 March school will finish at 2.45pm to release staff for Professional Development.

Ministry buses will continue at normal times however, the Berkley bus will leave 30 minutes earlier.

Netball

The netball season starts early next term and trials will get underway next week.

Trials for yr 7 girls will be on Wednesday March 16th and the call back on Thursday March 17th. The yr 8 trials will be held on Wednesday March 23rd and a call back on Thursday March 24th. These will start at 3.30pm and finish at approximately 5.00pm.

There will also be a netball meeting for all players, coaches and parents on Wednesday April 13 in the school Cultural Centre starting at 6pm. We are always on the lookout for coaches, if you are able to assist please contact Natalie Walker at nwalker@berkley.school.nz

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 |

Your child should have brought home an entry form by now and the final day for entries to be paid is **Friday 8th April**.

Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop is managed by Direct Group Ltd. The opening times are :

**Tuesdays 8.00am – 9.00am
3.00pm – 4.00pm**

Please make all cheques out to '**Direct Group Ltd**'. Eftpos facilities are available in the shop on Tuesdays.

School Gates

We are fortunate to have two entry points to our school. The Berkley Avenue gate is only for buses and students who live in streets off Berkley Avenue. This is also the main car parking area. To avoid congestion and minimise

the risk to students and vehicles, this is not to be used by parents who are dropping off or collecting their children.

Mullane Street is our designated entrance for dropping off and picking up of students. Teachers provide supervision around this entrance and it is adjacent to School Zone speed restrictions.

Over the next few weeks policing of this request will be in place. Please assist us by avoiding an embarrassing moment when students are directed to Mullane St and a parent has come to the Berkley entrance.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March

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|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Friday | 11 | Focus – Team Singing |
| Saturday | 12 | Makuhari students arrive |
| Tuesday | 15 | SS2 Smallball |
| Thursday | 17 | Focus - Team Singing |
| Monday | 21 | Focus – Kia Kaha |
| Tuesday | 22 | Interschool Touch BOT Meeting |
| Thursday | 24 | Farewell Makuhari Students |
| Friday | 25 | Focus – Speeches |
| Monday | 28 | Early finish – 2.45pm |
| Tuesday | 29 | Interschool Tennis |
| Wed – Fri | 30-1 st | New Horizons |

April

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|-----------|----|---|
| Tuesday | 05 | 1 st HPV Vacc and Boostrix |
| Wednesday | 06 | Mufti Day |
| Thursday | 07 | Next Korero home |
| 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 |
|--------|----|-----------------------|

Community News

Candace Mayall Dance School

Dance Classes available for 3 year olds to adults. There is Jazz, Ballet, Musical Theatre, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Tap, and an adult Zumba class.

Classes are held at Berkley Normal Middle School (Berkley Avenue)

Enquires:

Phone: 07 210 0299/ 021 1205013

Email: candace.mayall@hotmail.com

Hillcrest Hockey Club

Skills Clinics will be held on Sunday 13th & 20th March at the Berkley School turf for anyone wanting to play for the 1st or 2nd XI Intermediate hockey teams.

A muster will be held on Sunday 27th March from 11.00 – 12.00noon at Berkley School turf. Registrations will be held prior to the muster.

Bring along water, shin pads, mouth guard and stick.

Fraser Tech Junior Rugby Club

Registration day for new and returning players is on Sunday 13th March from 10.00am – 1.00pm at clubrooms, corner of Norton Road and Mill street by the Waikato Waikato Stadium.

New players – must bring passport or birth certificate.

For further information contact – Sally Thompson on 027 5041 834

Or Camilla Jefferis – 021 450 122 or 854 6277.

Hillcrest Junior Soccer

Revised muster – 2011 season

All grades (8-open) Sunday 13 March

12.30 8th Grade 1.15 9th Grade

2.00 10th Grade 3.00 11th Grade

4.00 Open Grade

Please be 20-15 minutes early to the trials. Bring shin pads and boots, if the weather is wet bring sneakers for use of the turf.

Note: This is the formal registration period for ALL grades. Players in 5th 6th and 7th grade still need to register as soon as possible. The process of team selection and placement begins immediately after trials.

www.hillcrestsoccer.org.nz

Claudlands Rovers Junior Soccer

Club Muster and Registration Day

Sunday 13 March, 1.00pm at Galloway Park, Galloway Street, Hamilton East.

Kids kickaround, sausage sizzle, refreshments.

For more information contact Anna Jenkins 829 6100 or Lu Cope 856 6363 or check us out on Facebook!

Helen O'Grady Drama Academy

Our acclaimed programme uses developmental drama activities to develop Creativity, Confidence, & Communication Skills.

Weekly classes for children - 5-17 years held throughout the Waikato. Contact: **Andrea (07) 827 0526** or jagdramatics@xtra.co.nz

Edventure. Is running holiday programmes designed for Kiwi kids (aged 8-13) Keep your kids active these coming school holidays by enrolling in one of our Holiday programmes.

2-Day Fishing Module, (Monday 18, Tuesday 19 April) \$110

Day1. A classroom based lesson where children can learn new skills and brush up on the old ones. We have planned a day to teach you the in's and out's of fishing. Knot tying, fish ID, rules and regulations.)

Day2. We head out for a day's land based fishing at Raglan and we have had great success in the past with kids catching snapper to take home. A practical day for kids of any skill level.

Edventure Outdoors "Camp Kani" 3 days 2 nights. (Wednesday 27th to Friday 29th April) \$265

We will be fly fishing, eeling, tramping, caving, river crossing, completing night activities and cooking on an open fire. Children log their experiences and adventure achievements in their own camp learning journal. A camping school holiday programme guaranteed to challenge and excite children these holidays.

Please phone 02102241576, email mark@edventure.co.nz or check out our website www.edventure.co.nz

Waikato Rugby

Presents - The NZRU Trophy Drive

Where: Willoughby Park

When: Saturday 12th March 10am-4pm

As seen on tv, fun skills to try like

All Blacks Kicking Drill, All Blacks Passing Drill

plus loads more. Bring your Cameras and get photos with the trophies.

The Bledisloe Cup, Tri-Nations Trophy, Under 20 Junior World Championship Trophy, IRB Women's World Cup.

Also Mooloo and The Ruggerbee's will be there.

So bring the kids and have ago! It's Free

Junior Squash at Lugton Park Squash Club

Come and Play Squash – Have fun and learn new skills at Lugton Park Squash Club with a qualified and experienced coach. Friday evenings 5.30 – 6.30 Beginners. 6.30 – 7.30 Intermediate. Opportunities for Tournaments later in the Year. Please contact Anne Robertson for more details.

robeanne@gmail.com or just come along on Friday evenings.