

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

www.stanhope.school.nz

Thursday 30 March 2011

Dear Parents

There has been a bit of gap between school newsletters, for which I apologize. This has been an unusually busy time at Stanhope Rd School.... all term. Only two weeks left before the holidays. I'm hoping you have all received notices about Parent-teacher interviews on Thursday 14 April. If you want to make an appointment time that is convenient for your family, it is important to send the return slip back to the office as soon as possible. If you know nothing about this please contact the teacher or Mrs Burstall in the office. Please note also that school will close at 12.45pm that day.... it is very important that you make arrangements for your children to get home safely at that unusual time. Last year we had 90% of our parents attend these meetings, which are so important in helping your children to achieve well at school. I hope we can do even better this year.

ERO Visit to SRS during the week of 4 - 8 April, a team of four reviewers from the Education Review Office will be at our school. Every three years they visit schools and evaluate how well they are providing effective teaching and learning for their students. They will spend time observing lessons and talking to staff, students, BOT and other members of our school community. It is a good opportunity for our school to receive some expert feedback so that we can look at what is already going well and what further improvements we need to make. We will share their findings with the school community after they report back to us. The final review document will eventually be posted on their website.

Parents - a special reminder for the safety and security of all our students we have a very important policy / rule: When you (and other visitors) come in during the school day, you are not permitted to go straight to classrooms or cloakrooms. You need to come to the office first and we will help you with whatever you are trying to arrange or accomplish.

Recent Events at SRS:

Our Year 7 girls have been very fortunate in being able to participate in a series of Self Defence lessons, presented by an expert tutor. Some of our Teams are involved in presenting the "Keeping Ourselves Safe" programme this term and I'm sure you will have been receiving communication from classroom teachers about this.

The Life Education Caravan is here again. A big warm welcome to Lynn

Klapproth and her trusty helper Harold. This year, only Teams 1 & 5 are involved in the programme. Next year it will be for the whole school again. Parents who would like to visit the caravan and find out about what happens in there, are welcome to pop in on Friday 1 April (tomorrow) before school.

Christchurch Appeal: Earlier this month we ran an appeal to raise funds for Christchurch. I was very delighted that we collected \$1,224.40. Thank you for your generosity. The money was added to other funds collected by Auckland schools and is being given to the Canterbury Principals Association to share out to schools that have been badly affected by the earthquake. We know the money will be well used and very much appreciated.

The Variety Bash visited our school on Monday 7 April, with celebrities, amazing vehicles, lots of giveaways for the children and we all had fun. We also had a little collection that day and donated \$83.10 which goes into a fund to help children all over NZ.

The Arts: Mrs Allfrey recently surveyed parents about “The Arts”. She was very pleased with the number of replies. From the responses it is very clear that parents are very supportive of this part of the school curriculum and we appreciate your helpful comments. Thank you.

Starship Hospital Mobile Phone Collection: Thank you for all the old mobiles you have already sent in. At the end of next week I plan to send them off to the Starship, which helps them with fundraising for the Starship National Air Ambulance Service. If you still have any old mobile phones you don't use any more, please send them to the office before then. However, we will be collecting them throughout the year anyway so, whenever you buy a new phone, just send the old one to school.

Vandalism - how parents can help: We make our school grounds available to the community after school and weekends and are always happy to see people enjoying our beautiful grounds. Unfortunately we have lately had a spate of tagging and mindless damage, which creates extra work for our hard-working caretaker, Mrs Cater and is very upsetting to our staff and students. We would appreciate it, if parents who live nearby made a point of wandering through the school grounds in the late afternoon / early evenings and during weekends. It may help deter some of those vandals. If you ever see people causing damage and don't feel confident about intervening please don't hesitate to phone the police immediately. They like to help protect schools. Any help you give will be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations & Well Done Dept: Sunday 6 March - Top Schools. We had two teams involved and I hear that they had a wonderful day, with great support from

staff and parents. The Team 3 came 3rd, which is an excellent result!

Our Y7/8 boys and girls softball teams competed in Eastern Zone Field Days recently. They all played very well, showed great sportsmanship and we are very proud that our girls' team came 2nd. Congratulations!

PTA News:

The PTA is planning to hold an Easter Raffle before the end of term. Watch out for flyers. • We have planned a programme for the year, which includes Cookie Sales early next term, a spellathon, and a sausage sizzle. More details will follow soon. • A reminder that the PTA meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Interested parents are always welcome to join us.

BOT News:

We have appointed a new Board Member as a replacement for one of our Board members who resigned recently. We would like to welcome Dean Splinter to his new role and look forward to having his input into the work of the Board. • The Board has just approved the new updated School Charter, which includes the Strategic Plan for 2011 - 13 and the Annual Plan for 2011. I sent home copies to parents who are on my email list. If you didn't receive one and you have email please let me know: cnevezie@stanhope.school.nz If you would like a paper copy and you don't have email please let Mrs Sellers (Finance Office) know and we will send you a copy.

SRS Diary - Dates to note in your home diary or calendar:

- Friday 15 April School closes at 3.00pm for a two week holiday break.
- Monday 2 May School reopens for the second term.
- Monday 9 May Chopper Challenge Assembly 9.00am. Interested parents are welcome.
- Tuesday 17 May Rhythm Interactive Show for students
- Tuesday 31 May School photos
- Friday 15 July End of Term 2. School closes at 3.00pm.

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The Triple P Research Group at the University of Auckland is running a study evaluating the effectiveness of Teen Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Seminar Series and Group Teen Triple P. Teen Triple P is a new version of Triple P that has been designed specifically for parents of adolescents.

Who is eligible?

We are looking for parents to participate in the current project who...

- have a teenager who is between the age of 12-14
- are interested in attending 3 seminar series or the 8-week programme.

If you are interested in volunteering for the research project or would like further information, please contact Joanna Chu on 09 623 8899 ext 83042 or tprg@auckland.ac.nz

For more information on Triple P, please visit www.triplep.net

Yours sincerely
C Nevezie PRINCIPAL