

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK**

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Te Kura Tuatahi O Whangatoa

KA PAI to the following students who have shared their fantastic learning with me this week – Regan, Rm 12, Cameron, Rm 15 and Jonty Rm 2. **KA PAI** also to Katie T, Joshua T, Rm2, Declan R, Christopher M, Rm3, Rosie K, Brooke B, Rm5, Jessica, Yazmin, Rm6, Matthew B, Flynn H, Maya S, Ella Y, Rm 13, Joshua S, Joel H, Rm20 who receive certificates from their teachers for excellent learning this week.

Congratulations also to our **Players of the Week**: **Fipperball**: Josh, Dushica **Miniball**: Jack, Dejay, Alex, Rebecca A, Harry. **Good luck to all our teams representing Torbay School this year!**

POSTPONED STOP WORK MEETING

The planned NZEI Stopwork meeting has been postponed until early next term. Friday 26th March will be a full school day. Sorry for any inconvenience.

PLAYGROUND

Thank you to our community for all of your messages of support for the school. We are still waiting for a decision from our insurance brokers – Crombie Lockwood. A huge thank you to Sarah Bridge from Janbells, our uniform supplier in Mairangi Bay, who read about the arson and donated \$500 towards rebuilding the playground.

SHORE TO SHORE

Sunday 28th March. This year is the 25th anniversary – it would be great to have a huge turn out this year. The class with the most students participating will win a reward for each student.

REQUEST LEARNING DISCUSSIONS

During term one each year we have a number of opportunities for teachers and parents to meet. Meet the Teacher was in February, case conferences are later this month and the school picnic is tomorrow. Some of the teachers and parents have already met to discuss goal setting and student learning. If your child's teacher would like to meet with you to discuss learning goals they will invite you to a 'Request Learning Discussion' in week eight, 22nd – 26th March. This is also an opportunity for parents to request a meeting with the teacher if they have a particular concern. **Learning Conversations** for all students are planned for Week eight of term two, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th June. All students are encouraged to attend these with their parents.

**Team Torbay
Values**

Commitment
Aroha
Respect
Responsibility
Excellence

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

NATIONAL STANDARDS

You will have been hearing and reading a lot in the media about the new national standards that are being introduced into schools this year. We shared some information at Meet the Teacher and plan to continue to inform you through the newsletter and information sessions. We will also have an information board in the foyer from next week.

Why are schools concerned about National Standards?

- **National Standards have not been trialled.**
- **An increased focus on testing of students.**
- **More classroom time will be spent on testing rather than learning.**
- **No training of the teachers has been allocated.**
- **They are focused on Reading, Writing and Mathematics and no other subjects.**
- **Available funding has been re-directed to achieving National Standards.**

So what are we doing at Torbay School if the implementation continues?

We have had many discussions already and are developing an implementation plan. The standards are a set of benchmarks in reading, writing and mathematics, against which, expectations are set for each year level. Twice a year you will receive information on whether or not your child is achieving the expected standard along with the learning goals that we will focus on at school and that you can support students with at home.

Currently at Torbay School we use a range of up-to-date and valid assessment tools to report to parents against our school-wide expectations (taken from the NZ curriculum), and this will continue. What will take time will be aligning our Torbay expectations to the national standards, providing time for professional development for our teachers to ensure there is a clear and consistent understanding across the school, reformatting reports and running information sessions for parents.

As Ministry provided training for our teachers in literacy (reading and writing) and mathematics does not start until later in the year, we have already begun our own internal professional development focussing on reading. There will be a parent information session next term.

In the meantime feel free to check out the Ministry of Education's website www.minedu.govt.nz which has information available for parents. We will continue to keep you updated throughout the year, but please feel free to call me if you wish to discuss this further.

**Wendy Sandifer,
PRINCIPAL**



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

<http://www.ecoevents.org.nz/calendar/event?nid=930>
Calendar of Sea Week events in the Auckland region

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Accompanying the newsletter this week is a short survey on Christian Religious Education at Torbay School.

Please take the time to complete the survey and send it back to the school office by Friday, 12th March.

To make an informed decision about the continuation of CRE the BOT need as many forms back as possible so please take some time to give us your feedback. Thank you.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Over the next couple of months we will be holding elections for three parent representative vacancies on the Board of Trustees. All parents and immediate caregivers are eligible to participate, so **please ensure the school has your current address on file.**

Nomination Forms

Next week nomination forms for Parent Representatives will be posted to each person on the school electoral roll. You are welcome to check whether you are on the roll by phoning the school office or calling during office hours from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Candidates do not need to be a parent of a student person to be eligible.

Additional nomination forms can also be obtained from the school office. **Note: Nominations close at noon on 23 April 2010**

Situation Vacant!

We are STILL looking for a new Walking School Bus Co-Ordinator

See **Fiona Williams** in Room 14 or the **school office** if you can help! Find out more at the **Family Picnic tomorrow**- Fiona Williams and our WSB drivers will be on hand for you to chat to and find out more about our wonderful WSB!

FREE FRUIT @ SCHOOL

Free fruit has been donated by a couple of our families – thanks, the students are enjoying fruit during lunch time.

A reminder that the Lunchroom is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

THERE ARE NO LUNCH ORDERS ON MONDAYS OR FRIDAYS.

FAMILY PICNIC TOMORROW 6.00pm

Bacon sandwiches, sausages, lolly bags, ice blocks and drinks. The pool will be open there will be chalk for drawing on the concrete, AND a special balloon lady coming! So pack up your picnic and come along, everyone is welcome!

Bring and Buy Second Hand Uniform Sale, 6 to 6.30pm
Bring your old uniforms to on-sell!

CALENDAR

March

5	School Picnic, 6pm
8	New Parent Morning Tea, 9.30am
11	Assembly, 2.15pm
8-12	Sea Week
17-19	Senior Camp, Carey Park
22	Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm
25	Ambi Ambulance Visit Juniors
26	Stopwork Meeting,
	POSTPONED
28	Shore to Shore Fun Run

HOUSE POINTS

Place	4 March 2010
1	Rimu
2	Matai
3	Totara
4	Kauri

COMMUNITY NEWS:

RABBIT FOUND: See photo in school office. Ph 473 7355.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT REQ: Young, easy going disabled female needs help in the evening for 1 hour. Full training. Drivers Licence a bonus. Extra hours avail. Ph Natalie 473 8965.

BROWNS BAY RACQUETS CLUB HOLIDAY PROGRAMME: Ph 479 7910

BLACK CAPS AUTOGRAPH SIGNING: Thursday, 4 March at Rebel Sports, 6.30 to 7.30pm.

GUITAR LESSONS: 4Front School of Guitar will be continuing guitar lessons this year at Torbay School. The lessons include a free CD and a Free Parents Lesson in the 2nd term. Please contact Ben Lee on 021-529531or email benlee@schoolofguitar.co

Don't forget to register for the Shore to Shore Fun Run – entries close Wednesday next week!