

Term 1, Week 9

Week beginning 26 March 2018

Easter holiday break

A reminder that the school will be closed for Easter, from Friday 30 March – Tuesday 3 April. There is a school holiday on Easter Friday, Monday and Tuesday. The children return on Wednesday 4th April and break up for the Term 1 holidays at the usual time of 3 pm on Friday 13th April.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Have you booked a time for the parent teacher interviews being held Wednesday 4th April from 3.20 pm – 5.00 pm and Thursday 5th April from 1.20 pm – 7.00 pm? The interviews are 10 minutes long. You can book online at www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter our school code **p4dbb** or call at the school office.

Scooter Training

Constable Steve Harwood is providing scooter training this week for all students who have signed up.. If your child has signed up please ensure they bring a scooter, a helmet and a raincoat.

Cricket lessons

This Wednesday 28th March, and the following two Wednesdays all our students in Years 3 – 6 will be participating in cricket lessons at school.

Pasifika Parent evening

Thank you to the families who joined us on Sunday night for our Pasifika Family Evening. We will be meeting once a term to share our thoughts and ideas. Keep an eye on the newsletter for the date of our next gathering where we will share a meal together.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

- Art class one-day workshop in the holidays, 24th April from 10 am – 3 pm at Highbury House, Birkenhead, cost \$50. For children aged 7 – 12 years. After school art classes for 4 weeks starting on 1 May, cost \$75. Bookings to Eion Bryant, eion@eionbryant.com, phone 483 6703.
- YMCA gymnastics classes: Pre school artistic for 2-5 year olds, after school artistic and rhythmic for 5 – 12 year olds. Contact the YMCA, Akoranga Drive for further details.

Parent Cafe 2018 Report

Since 2017, Sunnybrae Normal has been running a Parent Cafe on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30-3:00pm. The cafe began in Room 1a and was initially set up for parents of year one students. It is now held in the library and all parents, caregivers and grandparents from our school community are encouraged to attend. Refreshments are provided. The setting up of the environment is the responsibility of our teacher aides Jocelyn Ley and Winnie Ngata.

The purpose is to bring our parent and whanau community together in a friendly, informal environment. It is a way that the community can connect with each other as well as strengthen their ties with our school by having a place to belong. The cafe is a place where parents have access to our parent library and a staff member is always present to respond to particular questions.

Since the inception of the cafe, the numbers have grown to an average of 12+ per visit. It is interesting that we are having different parents attending each week with a small group of parents who come each week. Some pleasing outcomes have included seeing more confident members of our community supporting those less confident to interact, and for our Chinese parents to practise their English.

Sunnybrae Normal School is one of 9 schools in the Pupuke Community of Learning. One of the broad achievement challenges for the community is to improve our community engagement, and as a result, improve student achievement. The Parent Cafe is an excellent way of building community engagement and we are keen to share this initiative with our members of the Community of Learning.

Some ways we would like to build on the Parent Cafe initiative is to continue to encourage more parents/caregivers and grandparents to attend each week. The cafe will be advertised in the newsletter, notices and on facebook. A chalkboard will also be used to advertise the cafe. Perhaps the PTA parents could be involved in promoting the cafe and encouraging others to attend. Some parents have said that the library is hot in the afternoon. We are trialling a shady outdoor option this week. We are collecting voice from our community about the cafe. We will continue to do this and act upon suggestions given.

Parent Cafe Feedback 2018

What do you enjoy about coming to the Parent Cafe?

Community. Nice to connect with other parents.

Having a forum to meet other parent outside of the drop off/pick up. Being encouraged to take a break and meet the staff.

Nice to connect with other parents.

It's nice to have somewhere to come before 3pm as I usually just sit outside the classroom.

Has the Parent Cafe helped you make new connections within our school community?

Absolutely. Provided a convenient venue to meet up with new friends!

Certainly, plus my confidence in meeting others, strengthening existing connections.

Absolutely.

Not yet as this is the only the second time I've been.

Do you have any suggestions as to how we could improve our Parent Cafe?

Please just keep it going. The treat are wonderful and it is easy to have it in the library.

Perhaps staff can start the first stage of introduction between parents. Some might be shy to get conversations going.

Please just keep it going. More often.

No, I think you are doing a great job.

Other comments?

THANK YOU!

General notices on classroom doors/windows to showcase the opportunity for parents. It's been wonderful!

A lot of thanks.

