

Dear Parents

Happy New Year!

I hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer with your families and that the children are ready for the start of school next week. The staff have been hard at work preparing for the term and are looking forward to welcoming everyone back next Thursday, 4 February at 8.50am.

As you will read below the PTS have arranged for *The Coffee Man* to be at school next Thursday so hopefully that will give people an extra incentive to stay on site and catch up after the break. In particular it is always important to make our new families feel part of the family at the start of the school year so if you spot an unfamiliar face at the classroom door please introduce them to others in our school community.

Kind regards

Allan Short
Principal

Staffing

We are saying 'hello' to several new members of staff this term. Miss McEwan (Room 1), Mrs Young (Room 7), Miss Pennell (Room 10), Miss Manukulasuriya (Room 18) and Mr Rattenbury (Room 19), I am sure that you will all join me in welcoming them to our school family this term.

Mrs Sue Slater has resigned her position as Special Needs Coordinator. Following her mild stroke prior to Christmas she wishes to devote her time and energies to making a full recovery. In due course we will of course arrange for a farewell worthy of Sue's huge contribution to Victoria Avenue and in the meantime we send her our love and best wishes. Arrangements had already been put in place for Mrs Cameron and Mrs McCabe to temporarily cover the Special Needs commitments at the start of this term and I shall be advertising the vacancy in the near future.

Building Work

There have been some delays with our proposed building works and the new Junior School development will now not commence until Easter. As a result the old block will be used in some capacities, including Mrs Reynolds's class relocating to Room 11 this term. This means that the library will be fully available in Term 1.

PTS

On the first day of school we will have *The Coffee Man* on site so we can have a catch up after dropping children. Please join us for a chat!

Over the next few weeks we will working flat out on the arrangements for our Promises Auction, the major community fundraiser for 2010. Please make sure that the evening of Friday 19th March is booked into your diaries now! This should be a fabulous event but we need your support. Details can be found on our school website <http://victoriaave.com/files/lgarrett/Newsletters/Promise%20auction%20web.pdf>

We would also like to encourage any parents to come and join the PTS. There is much to be done this year and the more helpers we have the less work we all have to do. All are welcome old families and new. It is not all hard work...we have fun too! If you are interested either let the school office know or phone Kim Hamilton on 021 727 058.

Calendar

A hard copy of the Term 1 calendar will be sent home to all families with your child next week.

Future Newsletters

In future the newsletter will not be sent home in hard copy. We will email the link for the newsletter home and it will be available each Thursday on the school website (starting Thursday 11th February). Not only will this save on administration time but the cost of printing each week is not insignificant, both financially and environmentally. If any families find it difficult to access the newsletter electronically copies of the newsletter will be available for you to collect from the display rack in the school office.

Staff Vacancy for Teacher Aide

We are looking to employ someone to assist a Year 3 student for 8 hours a week. Preferably for 2 hours per day four days a week. If you are interested in this position please email Jane Cameron j.cameron@victoria-avenue.school.nz
Thank you.