



VICTORIA AVENUE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 No 1
23 July 2009

Our Best - Always

ADDRESS: 282 Victoria Ave, Remuera, Auckland.
PHONE: 09 520 0602
FAX: 09 520 1943
EMAIL: v.a.s@victoria-avenue.school.nz
WEB SITE: <http://www.victoria-avenue.school.nz>
DENTAL CLINIC 5200104

IMPORTANT DATES
and
TIMES

School Times

School Starts: 8.50am
Lunch: 12.30-1.30pm
School Finishes: 3.00pm

Stationery Shop

Tues 8.30 - 8.50am
Thurs 8.30 - 8.50am

Uniform Shop

Thurs 2.30-3.10pm
Fri 8.30-9.00am

Lunch Orders

Subway: Wed and Fri

Sushi: Thurs only: \$6 - 8pce, \$5 - 6pce and \$3.50 - 4pce

Order forms/instructions are on our web site under "Our School".



Term Dates 2009

Term 3 Mon 20 July to Fri 25 Sept 2009
Term 4 Mon 12 Oct to Wed 16 Dec 2009

Term Dates 2010

Term 1 Thur 4 Feb to Thur 1 April 2010
Term 2 Mon 19 April to Fri 2 July 2010
Term 3 Mon 19 July to Fri 24 Sept 2010
Term 4 Mon 11 Oct to Fri 17 Dec 2010

Dear Parents

*"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain
an artist once he grows up."
Pablo Picasso*

Welcome to what promises to be an exciting term three! There is much to look forward to, as you will see on the accompanying calendar, but the most eagerly awaited event is our first ever Wearable Arts Show. The planning has been going on for some weeks now and we are delighted to welcome back to the school Fiona Flynn and Megan Jennings, who will be helping staff and children prepare the choreography and performances.

It is also our pleasure to have Nikki Loy (Room 21), Frances Coleman (Room 7) and Stuart Eeles (Room 3) finally with us here full time. I am sure that you will all help them to feel part of our wonderful school community.

The Key Competency, which is our school focus this term, is that of *Participating and Contributing*. Alongside this we are highlighting with our children the values of *Tolerance* and *Cooperation*, both of which are an essential part of the team work necessary to reach our goal of producing a fabulous Wearable Arts production in September.

The children will draw upon many of their Habits of Mind as they strive to design their part in the performance, perhaps none more so than *Creating, Imagining and Innovating*.

Last term I shared with the staff, a wonderful lecture given by Dr. Ken Robinson on Schools and Creativity. He makes an entertaining and profoundly moving case for creating an education system that nurtures (rather than undermines) creativity. The talk is online at www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html If you have a spare twenty minutes I think you may find this interesting. I look forward to a very creative term here at VAS.

Meet our New Staff Afternoon Tea – A reminder that tomorrow at 2.15pm (Friday 24th July) we are hosting an afternoon tea in the library for Room 3 and Room 7 parents. It will be an opportunity for you to meet the children's new class teachers, Mr Eeles and Mrs Coleman, I hope that as many of the parents as possible will be able to attend on this afternoon.

Famous Children – I was probably not the only one who was surprised when one of our children appeared on TV One, twice, over the holiday! It was Thomas Fink-Jensen from Room 5 who was showing the country just how talented VAS students are. If you missed it and want to know just what Thomas had to share then turn to page 2 of the newsletter and follow the links...awesome Thomas!

I have also had news from Miss Edgar this week that Room 10 will soon be published authors. The class combined to write a poem

which was entered into the New Zealand Poetry Society's 2009 International Poetry Competition, they had a letter this week informing them that their poem has been selected to be printed as part of a children's anthology of poems later in the year; Congratulations Room 10!

Term Three Calendar – You should all today have received a Term 3 calendar. Obviously there may be dates, which are added, or for reasons beyond our control have to change, but we hope that this new method of communication will prove useful to families.

Thank you Mr Davy – The middle syndicate have got a bright, colourful cloakroom (between Rooms 18 and 19) and a newly created book room. Our thanks to Mr Davy who spent his holiday working on this to get it finished...it looks great!!

Netsafe Meetings – At the start of Week 3 we have arranged for Martin Cocker from NetSafe to come into school and talk to our senior students, our staff, and on the evening of Tuesday 4th August, our parents. Martin is also a parent at VAS and we believe that his expertise in the area of cybersafety will be of benefit to the whole school community.

Our children are growing up in a digital environment, which is changing rapidly and we wish to ensure the responsible use of technology. NetSafe's aim is to educate all New Zealanders about safe, secure and responsible use of information and communication technology. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity of coming to our meeting, 7.00pm Tuesday 4th August, to listen to, and ask questions of, Martin.

Netsafe are an independent non-profit organisation whose work is made possible by the generosity of sponsors, including the Ministry of Education and InternetNZ. If you would like to find out more about Netsafe and their work please refer to their website www.netsafe.org.nz/

Vege Schools – Attached to this newsletter you will find details of the Vege Schools scheme. We believe that many of our families may wish to take advantage of this opportunity, and as a bonus each month 10% of all sales revenue from the project will be donated to our school.

Kirsty Cardy (mother of Kylan in Room 8) will be giving parents an opportunity to try some free Vege-School samples at school tomorrow afternoon. She will set up tables outside of the hall from 2.45pm onwards, where you can also ask her any questions you may have about the scheme. First orders and deliveries will take place next week.

Kind regards

Allan Short

Chaos at the School Gate

Victoria Avenue School is participating in the Auckland City Council's Chaos at the School Gate programme. It involves placing parking officers on patrol outside schools to observe non-compliant behaviours and issue tickets to those illegally parked. The Chaos at the School Gate programme has been very successful and is helping to reduce the danger to children as well as improve traffic flow around schools.



ROAD SAFETY TIP

WET DAYS MEAN MORE TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD. YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED TO LEAVE EARLIER IN THE MORNING TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL ON TIME.

COMING EVENTS

Term 3 Week 2

- Mon 27 **Maori Language Week**
Room 16 Recycling Centre Trip, 10.00am
Board of Trustees Meeting, 7.30pm
- Tues 28th Korean Parents Meeting, 1.30pm
- Wed 29th Rooms 19 and 20 Recycling Centre Trip, 10.00 and 11.00am
Chinese Parents Meeting, 1.30pm
- Thurs 30th Rooms 17 and 18 Recycling Centre Trip, 10.00 and 11.00am

ASB Remuera is offering us a fundraising opportunity - if you are considering a mortgage or term deposit please download this voucher from our website. ASB will give the school a cash donation - please refer to voucher for more info.
<http://www.victoria-avenue.school.nz/images/181/Newsletters/asbvoucher.pdf>
Thanks to those parents who have taken advantage of this offer - we have received \$500 in donations so far.

PTS NEWS

- **Wanted: Secretary to the PTS** - a person is required to take on the role of secretary for our PTS, a fun and dedicated team! Please contact Kim Hamilton: kimrob@extra.co.nz
- Working Bee on 16 August. Attached to this newsletter is information about the Working Bee and a request for your involvement.

We are starting to tally the Yummy stickers - so please pop your sheets into the box in the foyer with your name and room number attached.

So far we have collected:

- Room 9 - 400
- Room 16 - 400
- Room 8 - 219
- Room 10 - 105
- Room 5 - 100



Ask your friends, neighbours and relatives to collect too - the collection sheets are available on this website

<http://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/>

MY FABULOUS HOLIDAYS ~ ROOM 9 ~ YEAR 2

MY FABULOUS HOLIDAY

By Zoe

On the last day of the holidays we went to Motat. I looked into a very funny mirror, I looked small and funny. Then we went on a bumpy ride and in the middle of it we got dumped with water. After that we went to see some old cars, trucks and machines. They were very old. On the way to the Mirror Maze we stopped and saw some Whisper Dishes, I heard my sister through them! Then we went to the mirror maze and we didn't get lost a bit! After that we got to go to the cool, shiny kanetics. At last we went on the bumpy tram, it made me feel funny because it was so bumpy. After we got out of the tram it was so fun because we got to go inside a very old plane that could float in water and eventually we had to go home for lunch.

MY FABULOUS HOLIDAYS

By Samantha

On the 11th I went to Lake Tekapo because I was going skiing. I stayed a Peppers Resort, my unit was 727, I was right next door to my friends Emily and Sophie. When I was skiing I went up the T. bar. The T. bar takes you to the top of the mountain. On my first run I was scared, next time I felt excellent! When up the mountain we were above the fog, it was exciting. Then it was time to go back to the resort because I was feeling tired. Then it was dinner, I had fish and chips then we all watched a bit of Mamma Mia.

The Fabulous Holidays

By Hannah

In the holidays we went to Motat and we saw a bumpy rocket and when we went in it, it was bumpy! We got watered on. Then we saw a room, we went in and we saw a mirror, it made us small, I felt funny! Then we saw a maze. It had mirrors, I got stuck but then I got out. Then we went outside and we saw funny whisper dishes, when you whisper in them the other person can hear you! I felt scared. Then we had to go home so we walked back to the car and went home. I didn't want to go! We had lunch.

INDOOR BASKETBALL

Indoor basketball practice starts on 29 July at 7.50am in the school hall.

All inquiries to Donna (Emma Collard's mum) at 5205651 / 0210593033 or email: donna-bruce@paradise.net.nz

Rubik Cube Whiz!

Thomas went to Wellington in the holidays for the New Zealand Speedcubing Competition, held on Saturday 18 July. He was the youngest contestant and although he didn't make the final, he gained much experience that will stand him in good stead for the future!

He featured on television twice - he demonstrated his cubing on Breakfast TV on Friday and was interviewed as part of the coverage of the event itself during One News.

These are the links:

<http://tvnz.co.nz/breakfast-news/tamati-mets-young-rubik-s-cube-master-5-46-2851040>

<http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/rubik-s-cube-craze-sweeps-nz-1-40-2852010>





SCHOOL WORKING BEE



Date: Sunday 16th August 2009

Time: 10:00am onwards

If you would like to be involved in our School Working Bee;
Please fill out your details below and return it back to the office, thank you.

Adults Name: _____

Childs Name: _____

Room: _____

Yes, I can help on the day: (please circle) **All day** **Morning** **Afternoon**

Yes, I can provide: (please circle) **Food / Refreshments** **Help for BBQ**

Sorry, I can't come but can provide refreshments: _____

I can bring: (please circle) **Trailer, Wheelbarrow, Chainsaw, Saw, Mulcher, Leaf-blower, Spade, Secateurs, and Weeding Tools.**

I have these plants available if the school needs cuttings:

I have access to gardening resources, equipment, and waste disposal:

All offers of help appreciated, thank you.

Working Bee Committee: Kim Hamilton: 520 3234 Louisa Ursem: 524 7606
 Kate Simpson: 529 0848 Debra Julius: 634 1478



Victoria Avenue School

Senior School Cross Country Tuesday 11th

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

This term the School Cross Country event will be during week 4 at Shore Road Reserve. It will be a whole school event starting with the Middles and Juniors in the morning followed by the Seniors in the afternoon.

If your child wishes to be considered for the Schools' Zones competition they **must** enter into the 2km Competitive race. Closing date for all entries is Friday 31st July.

Please take note of the following information and approximate times regarding the event for the

Seniors:

Date: Tuesday 11th August, Save Day: Wednesday 12th August

Time: Whole School Picnic in the park 12.15pm - 1.00pm

- Year 5 Girls 2km Competitive run 1.00pm
- Year 5 Boys 2km Competitive run 1.15pm
- Year 5 Boys & Girls 1km Fun run 1.30pm
- Year 6 Girls 2km Competitive run 1.40pm**
- Year 6 Boys & Girls 1km Fun run 1.55pm**
- Year 6 Boys 2km Competitive run 2.05pm**

Venue: Shore Rd Fields (Next to Bloodworth Park)

Bring: Appropriate running gear (trainers, shorts, house coloured or PE t-shirt), a change of clothes, a warm jumper, a non-fizzy drink and a packed lunch (no wrappers).

Help: Should you have any questions regarding the event or are able to assist on the day with marshalling, setting up/packing down, refreshments please contact me by:

Email: c.whittington@victoria-avenue.school.nz

Yours sincerely,
Clare Whittington, Sports and Health Co-ordinator

NOTE: If you **do not** wish your child to walk down to the venue and participate in the School Cross Country race at Shore Road Reserve, please contact the school by phone 5200602 or email v.a.s@victoria-avenue.school.nz.

Senior School Cross Country 2009

2km Competitive run **Yes/No** _____ (child's name) would like to participate in:

1km Fun run **Yes/No** _____

Signature..... parent/guardian

Please make sure the request slip is given to your child's teacher by Friday 31st July, thank you.



Victoria Avenue School

Year 1 - 4 School Cross Country Competition

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

This term the School Cross Country event will be during Tuesday of Week 4 at Shore Road Reserve. It will be a whole school event starting with the Middles and Juniors in the morning followed by the Seniors in the afternoon.

Please take note of the following information and approximate times regarding the event for the **Middles and Juniors**. We will do our best to keep to the times, however we do recommend you come 15 minutes prior to your child's race to ensure you see them.

Date: Tuesday 11th August, Save Day: Wednesday 12th August

Time: Whole School Picnic in the Reserve 12.15pm - 1.00pm

- Year 1 Girls 11.00am
- Year 1 Boys 11.05am
- Year 2 Girls 11.10am
- Year 2 Boys 11.15am
- Year 3 Girls 11.25am**
- Year 3 Boys 11.30am**
- Year 4 Girls 11.35am**
- Year 4 Boys 11.45am**

Venue: Shore Road Fields (Next to Bloodworth Park)

Bring: Appropriate running gear (trainers, shorts, house coloured t-shirt), a change of clothes, a warm jumper, a non-fizzy drink and a packed lunch (no wrappers).

Should you have any questions regarding the event please contact me by:

Email: c.whittington@victoria-avenue.school.nz

Yours sincerely,

Clare Whittington, Sports and Health Co-ordinator

NOTE: If you **do not** wish your child to walk down to the venue and participate in the School Cross Country race at Shore Road Reserve please contact the school by phone 5200602 or email v.a.s@victoria-avenue.school.nz.

Junior School Cross Country 2009

I am able to assist _____ **'s (your child's name) class on their**
walk to and from Shore Road. (Circle one) YES/NO

Signature..... parent/guardian

Please return the offer of help slip to your child's the office by Friday 31st July, thank you.