

Worser Bay School Children love learning. At our school, the entire school community can:

\* See achievement celebrated and children valued as individuals; \* Feel motivated and inspired to participate; \* Experience success.

# WORSER BAY SCHOOL NEWS

Week 9 Term 1 - Friday 1 April 2011

## Kau mau te wehi! (Grasp the Magic!)



*Today, our volunteer gardeners have been busy beautifying our school grounds. You will notice a big difference. Thank you!*

*The Māhutonga and Matariki students had amazing weather for their walk yesterday - a typical autumn day in Wellington.*



## ACTION AT A GLANCE

- **ICAS entries due by Friday 8th April.**
- **Next assembly not next week but last Friday of Term 1 - 9.15 am Friday 15 April**
- **Diary** the following:  
Family Fish & Chips Evening -  
Thursday 14th April 5.30 - 7.00 pm  
Student Led Conferences  
Weeks 3 & 4, Term 2, 16th - 27th May (See Page 3)
- **Miniball fees due: \$25 & Netball fees due: \$30**
- Please fill in and return the **yellow form from the Home and School** if you feel you can help in any way at all. Forms available from the school office.
- **Voluntary Contributions - Remember the discount period finishes on 15th April!**

## Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te Whetukairangi

Kia ora koutou

You may be tired of that word 'engagement', but I promise I'll take a different tack next week!

I have chatted to some of you for some time now about how we can reinforce what's happening in the children's world outside school, within school. We tend to focus on how home supports school, which is rather one way traffic.

It's not easy - or we wouldn't still be talking about it. There have been many good ideas but not a lot that's achievable, equitable or sustainable.

Continuing with this mission (possible!), we have focussed a lot this year on trying to go deeper, to find out more about children's passions and what they are interested in outside of school. Great examples are the personalised letter that was exchanged between Māhutonga and Matariki teachers and their students as was the recent piece of work that involved students and teachers sharing and discussing their collections. As it's 70% of their time at home and 30% of their time at school, we need to keep finding out more! We also know how vital that learning focussed relationship is between students and their teachers.

OK - so the next step is for us to develop a questionnaire about what you consider are your child's strengths, interests and passions - we will talk you through this at the Fish and Chip Evening. We need them back by the Wednesday of the first week of Term 2, please.

In weeks 3 and 4 next term (16 - 20 and 23 - 27 May), we have SLCs (Student Led Conferences). Your completed questionnaires will also feed into the goal setting process.

Please get organised early for your SLC and book online. See page 3 for details as to when bookings open and how to book. For those of you new to SLCs, don't worry - we will guide you through!

No ora mai ra!

*Jude*

Jude



**"You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach them to learn by creating curiosity, they will continue the learning process as long as they live".**

## from TAUTORU and AUTAHI

### Visual Art

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

On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons we split up into 4 groups and explore Music and Dance with Nicole, PE with Hamish, Art with Rachel or ICT with Scott. There has been some fantastic new learning!

Over the term we have been developing our practical skills in working with clay. We have learnt how to make pinch pots and then use our pinch pots to make a teapot. The Mad Hatter wrote us a letter telling us about how he had broken one of his pots. He asked us to design a new one for him. It has been great fun designing our teapots and then using the clay to make them. Once they dried we painted them bright colours – just as the Mad Hatter would do!

We have learnt a lot about working with clay as well as learning to talk about our own and other's artworks. We are trying to reflect on what we do so that can we improve on our skills each time.

We are learning to be observers and look carefully at the world around us. We are venturing into an exploration of our school, the area around it and how it has changed. Part of this is observing and drawing what we can see from Worser Bay in different directions. We will be using our drawings as the basis for larger artworks. It has been fantastic being outside in the sunshine looking carefully and taking in our fabulous views. Aren't we lucky!

*"I found I could say things with colour and shapes that I couldn't say in any other way - things I had no words for."*  
- Georgia O'Keeffe

*'Through engaging in the visual arts, students learn how to discern, participate in, and celebrate their own and others' visual worlds. Visual arts learning begins with children's curiosity and delight in their senses and stories and extends to communication of complex ideas and concepts.'*  
New Zealand Curriculum



*This is my clay teapot. I am painting a little ball for the cup - it's going to be the tea. I learnt you have to make sure you scratch the clay and put clay glue on when you join the pieces.*



*I made stripes and dots on it. I chose blue and purple because they look good together. I learnt if clay gets cracks in it you can put water on it. I like my teapot and I think the Mad Hatter will too!*



*Making the most of the sunshine while we look out across Miramar.*



*Thinking about what we did and how we created our teapots.*

## A note from MĀHUTONGA and MATARIKI

We are writing this as we are about to head out on our walk through the past. The day is crisp, the sun is shining. Our area is rich in history and we are all geared up to hear those stories and look for the land marks which are the reference points of the stories. We will share some of our discoveries in next week's newsletter.

We have had some insect visitors in the classroom which caused quite a stir. Not everybody is that fond of wetas. The pieces which the students are writing focus as much on the reactions of kids (screaming, panicking) as that of the wetas. Some exciting work is underway.

This week we welcome Jane Bell to Māhutonga and Matariki. Jane is an experienced teacher who has spent the last few years teaching in Hong Kong. We are really pleased to have her with us.

Suzanne finished on Friday and had the baby on Sunday. The shared kai we held in her honour happened without her. We gave her a call at the hospital just as we were about to tuck in. At that point she was all hooked up to a drip! We are delighted and wish her and Ren and Baby Lucy joyous beginnings.

Spelling words will be coming home as part of homework on Tuesday, ready to be tested Friday. Keep an eye out for them.



### STUDENT LED CONFERENCES (SLCs)

It's that time again soon. The SLC provides the first formal opportunity of the year to celebrate learning and set goals together.

**Dates:** Monday 16 to Friday 27 May

**Bookings Open:** Monday 18 April (first week of school hols)

**Bookings Close:** Friday 6 May

The instructions re booking are as follows:

- Go to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/home](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/home)
- Enter the Worser Bay School Code XFRYT

### Congratulations and Welcome!

Congratulations to Suzanne and Ren, who are now the proud parents of a lovely little girl, Lucy! We look forward to having Lucy visit the school in the near future!

And, a warm welcome to Jane Bell, who has joined the staff this week, and will be filling in for Suzanne from now until the end of Term 3, and to Annette Barnes who will be teaching our Reading Recovery Programme. Annette has a long association with Worser Bay School, through both teaching here and as a former parent.

### PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Our Principal's Awards for this week are for:

\* Being curious and not giving up.

**Tautoru** - Jack M and Oto

**Autahi** - Jack K and Juliette

**Māhutonga** - Grace, Emily and Nico

The focus for next week will be:

\* Being curious and being persistent.

**BOARD SHORTS!**

At our second meeting of the year this week, the Board had another look at how we best engage with the wider school community – that's you! We need to continue to communicate in lots of different ways – through the website, with you directly, and through the newsletter. As a result you'll be hearing from the Board more regularly in the newsletter – and we promise to keep it short(s) and snappy!

It was great to attend the recent meeting of the Home and School which was enthusiastic, energetic and is taking a slightly different tack to co-ordinating our much needed fundraising efforts. Your support is vital and the Home and School will be calling on you to get involved in a way that works for you. The Board has set an ambitious fundraising target of \$45,000 (excluding voluntary donations) for this year. With the way funding works, this is what's needed to provide our children with a learning environment that will continue to lift their levels of achievement. Your voluntary donations are also a very important part of this, so don't forget to pay your contribution of \$235 per child by 15 April.

Finally, a very big thank you to the teachers (Hamish, John and Fleur for the full shift, parent-helper Steve, and Jude, who did a day's shift), and parents who made the recent school camp possible. The children had a terrific time and were a credit to the school. Camp Kaitoke staff (who see a lot of schools) were really impressed how they support each other regardless of their age or year, and negotiated with each other in a constructive way. They also couldn't help but notice that our teaching team truly operates as a team.

It was also great to see the good turnouts at last week's literacy session and this week's maths session. Thanks to the teaching team for their efforts – they were much valued.

All in all it seems to me we have a lot to celebrate and engage about!

**Andrew Wilson**  
On behalf of the Board

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Lost** - Red MSP hoodie. Please ensure your child hasn't taken this home in error. If found, let the office know.

**Obscura Day, Saturday 9th April, 11am - noon at The Weta Cave - Free**

Obscura Day is an international celebration of unusual places, happening all over the world on April 9th, 2011. Visit [www.ObscuraDay.com](http://www.ObscuraDay.com) to see all of our 2011 events.

The Weta Cave, an emporium of all things weird and wonderful, is proud to host Weta Artist, Frank Victoria for a talk on the world of Weta publishing.

Weta Workshop is the extraordinary visual design company best known for their work on the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, King Kong, The Chronicles of Narnia, and Avatar. The Weta Cave is Weta's mini-museum, theaterette, and shop on a corner of the Workshop itself.

Artist Frank Victoria will give a special Obscura Day talk about working at Weta - from crafting the World of Narnia to Dr Grordbort's Victory, learn about fantasy art from the designer's perspective. In addition to his work at Weta, Frank will share insights from his background in children's comic books through to recent work illustrating the covers for the Chronicles of the Tree series by Mary Victoria.

There are no advance tickets for this event - first come, first served.

[www.wetanz.com](http://www.wetanz.com)

**Welcome** to Angelina, Faith and Rory who have recently joined us at Worser Bay School. Rory's family is already a Worser Bay family, but Angelina's and Faith's families are new to our school.

We look forward to guiding your development and learning.

**From the HOME AND SCHOOL**

Already there has been lots happening behind the scenes, co-ordinating or collecting information for fundraising events throughout the year. It's never too late to put in your yellow forms or to contact me directly via email - there will also be many opportunities coming up to help out later on.

**TREASURER and SECRETARY WANTED!**

Yes, with changes in membership or families moving on, we now have vacancies in the Home and School for the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. If you think you might be interested in these, then please see me for an informal chat. Both of these positions are supported by the Home and School, you will not be on your own!

**NEW FUNDRAISING VENTURE!**

We're very excited about our next potential fundraising venture – a Worser Bay School cookbook featuring all of your favourite recipes. We are at the initial planning stages but we envisage our cookbook will have, as well as the usual cookbook sections, specific sections such as vegan, gluten free, dairy free, and a kids' section. At this stage, we would like to gather original recipes (original meaning any of your favourite recipes that are not copied verbatim from a cookbook – perhaps recipes you have tinkered with after following a recipe) or recipes that have been passed to you by family or friends. If you have recipes you would like to contribute – anything welcome – or handy hints which we could include, please email them to Steph Calder ([stephanie.calder@ihug.co.nz](mailto:stephanie.calder@ihug.co.nz)) or leave them in the 'recipes' box in the school office. Thanks!

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS!**

The books will be arriving on Monday and will be going home with the eldest of each family unless you have requested otherwise. For those of you who have not yet decided, there are some interesting additions to this year's book. There is a buy one/free one box of organic fruits and veggies delivered to your door. There are also many great deals on activities for kids including rock climbing, kayak rentals and plaster painting sessions. For the foodies, there are amazing deals on fabulous restaurants, as well as coupons for Bordeaux Bakery and Bohemian Chocolates! I found that having the book last year allowed our family to have special treats and outings.

Please return your payment or unwanted book by Monday, April 11th.

On a personal note - thanks to the teachers who have taken the time the last couple of Tuesdays for informing us about our children's learning. It's been a great opportunity to clarify some of the language that is brought home.

Have a great weekend.

Eleni Moore

Chair of the Home and School.

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