

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

Term 4, Week 3, Friday 11 November 2011



Everyone had a wonderful time at our Fair last Sunday!



Our colleagues from Singapore enjoyed their visit.

ACTION AT A GLANCE

- Please get to school on time - **school starts at 8.55am!**
- Remember your **sunhats and sunscreen** .
(No sunhats, no play!)
- **Rising Fives, Term 4**
Rising Fives will be running on a Friday afternoon from 2.-2.45 pm until Friday 9 December.
- Please check out the **Class Learning Link** on the website.
- Year 5 Sailing - Monday 5 December - Afternoon
Year 6 Sailing - Friday 9 December - Morning
- **Sports Prize Giving - 3.15 pm, Thursday 24 November** at school. (All Flippaball, Miniball and Netball teams - students, coaches, managers and parents.)
- Please diary **Wed 14 December 5.30pm - Christmas Wrap** (Whole School) and **Thurs 15 December - Year 6 Leavers' Dinner and Parent Drinkies!**
- If your child/children are leaving school in 2012, please let us know.

Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te Whetukairangi

Kia ora koutou

"This isn't a school... .. it's more like a resort. How can you teach here? It's too gorgeous!"

Our colleagues from Singapore were completely overwhelmed by our site and captivated by all the learning around them. As you can see by their comment, they were also amazed by the beauty of our natural environment. A Delegation of Ministry of Singapore educationalists, principals and teachers spent time observing in our rooms and talking with teachers on Wednesday. Singapore does extremely well on international assessments, as does New Zealand, but they are turning to countries like us to get inside how we teach children to think, create and develop those vital dispositions or key competencies as we know them. We had plenty to chat about and it's always exciting being able to share our school in this way.

Next week we have even more sharing to do as we welcome ERO back into the school. This time it's for a different purpose. We have been selected as one of eight case study schools in the country. They are observing, talking with us, parents and students about our practices around assessing and reporting as a way of providing support to other schools. So, not only is it affirming, it's also contributing to the bigger picture in NZ Education. We do not exist in a bubble!

Talk about buzzy! Having the opportunity to flit in and out of SLCs and experience the students' enthusiasm - it almost brings a tear to the eye. Thanks so much for taking the time to give us feedback - our team of teachers are pretty good at what they do, but to take the time to remind them of that goes so far and I certainly appreciate that.

On top of all this, we have also had the phone running hot with people who came to our fabulous Fair last weekend, saw our school, loved it and wanted to know more. A fantastic day made possible by months of planning, preparation and then the implementing!

Which reminds me.....our roll closed for 2012 some months back. We have a wait list for out of zone places, and to help support those families to make plans, if you know now that contracts may be coming to an end, you are leaving the neighbourhood and the like, during 2012, can you please let the Carolyns know now.

Please check out the Communication Guidelines on the following page. As part of our ongoing review we have honed in on our value of respect and thought about what this means when it comes to the way we interact at WBS. Expectations for all of us, if you like. This time next year we will have another look and see how we have gone, how effective we have been and either tweak or set in as much concrete as is possible in a dynamic environment like a school! Or is that a resort?

No ora mai ra!

Communication at Worser Bay School

Our school culture supports quality communication and the ways we all communicate support a great school culture.

- Our school value is respect: respect for ourselves, each other and our environment.

Why do we value respect for all in our community - students, staff, parents, coaches, visitors, wider whanau and community members?

- Respect is a given, all people are deserving of it.
- Respect helps us maintain a positive working/learning environment.
- Respect, at the core, means that when we have differences we know how to manage them, who to talk to, how to talk with them and plan together because we all want the same thing.
- Respect encourages **all** learners in the community to take risks, extend themselves, explore, venture outward knowing that they are safe when they do so.
- We need to feel safe, trusted and significant.
- We need to maintain our positive vibe.

When we see and hear quality communication between students and all adults in the school we have:

- A real sense of being on the same page.
- Everyone contributing to the culture of learning.
- Positive interactions between people.
- Shared understandings.
- Pride in who we are and what we are doing.

To build and keep trust we all need to know the expectations for communication at WBS for students, staff, parents and adults involved in the school.

The following indicators support effective communication between parents and staff:

- We are open and strongly encourage face to face conversations.
- When we have concerns or worries we need to make sure we are talking to the right people.
- Informal, regular catch ups about day to day issues are encouraged. Spontaneous daily interactions are welcomed.
- Deeper, ongoing concerns require an appointment to be made to allow for thinking and planning time for both staff and parents. There are no surprises for anyone concerned.
- If this is the case, a meeting will be arranged, issues will be discussed respectfully and clear outcomes and actions agreed upon.
- We make the time commitment and expect we can have constructive engagement and a positive outcome for all.

The following indicators support effective communication between students:

- We are inclusive, there aren't any age barriers.
- Nobody is the boss, we are thoughtful and supportive and encouraging of others.
- We are aware of others around us and increase their opportunities to learn.
- It's very important to be positive - if you make others feel good about themselves it makes you feel good about yourself.

The following indicators support effective communication between students and all adults in the school community:

- We are respectful, thoughtful and inclusive.
- We listen to different perspectives.
- We are open and friendly and if there is a problem we need to remember that it's important to move on positively.

With thanks to the students, staff and parents who provided all of the words and examples to support this documentation.



Helpers, staff and students enjoying the fair!

"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." ~ Clay P. Bedford

TAUTORU-ITI, TAUTORU & AUTAHI News

We have had a fantastic two weeks of Student Led Conferences. It has been really great to see the progress the children have made this year and the confidence they have displayed in sharing their success with family.

Louie – "I was proud of my writing because I put a lot of effort into my descriptions."

It has been brilliant to see so many of the children able to make links between their different learning areas and begin to identify their strengths and next learning steps. This really enables the children to take more ownership of their work and learning.

Liv – "I couldn't stop talking about my stuff. I wanted to talk about it more!"

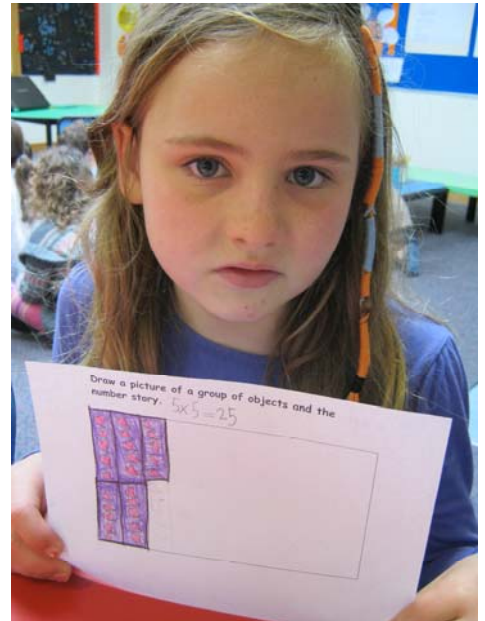
Lucy – "I enjoyed showing my Mum my maths picture."

As the term progresses please keep discussing the goals your child talked about at their SLC and how they could work towards them at home. This link between school and home is vital as it opens opportunities for children to explore ideas further, clarify concepts learnt and to continue the celebration of their success.

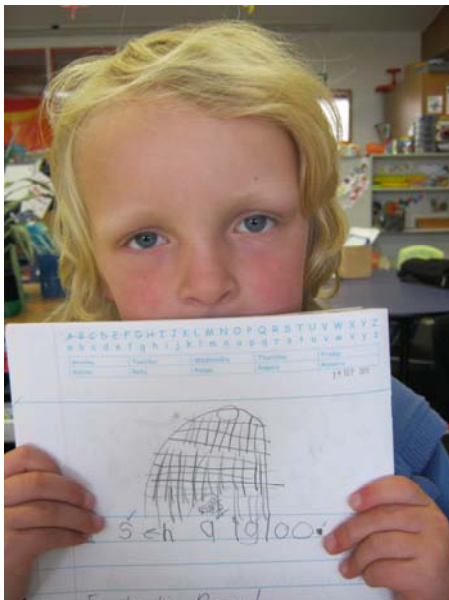
A note from Tautoru-iti:
Please could parents let us know if they are willing to take 20 bottles to add to their recycling for when the day comes that we say goodbye to our igloo!



I am proud of my art because I like the texture and colour.



This shows that I can make groups of five when trying to answer 5x5.



I showed my writing and how I am learning to sound out my words.



This shows I am learning to use a PMI chart to organise my ideas after reading.

Welcome to William, whose family is new to the school, who started with us today.

We look forward to guiding your development and learning.

A note from MĀHUTONGA and MATARIKI

It was great to see you all at our Student Led Conferences throughout the week. Our children's confidence has really grown around sharing their learning and taking the initiative as to what their next steps are.

The Mission started last Thursday with a Skype call from Imon Starr, a former member of the group Rhombus and now with his own group Olmecha Supreme. He told us to create music that contained emotional and logical information, and to take it out to the world. We made a connection because he also talked about being inspired by the past, present and future.

The Mission

Make music

It needs to contain: logical information

emotional information

You need to *feel* it

Inspired

- Events of the day, the past and the future
- Listen carefully to what's going on around him
- Books, movies, hanging with family and friends

WE ARE TAKING OUR MUSIC TO THE WORLD!

- In groups, of your own choice (2-5ppl max) produce music
 - It's a company – What is your name?
 - Where will you play your music
 - What will it look like?

We have started this by forming a music company/band and have delegated roles to each person in a group. Some of these roles are: Song Writer, Designer, Manager, Composer, etc. Have a discussion with your child about their role and what they do for their company/band.



Song writing has taken off with a Big Bang! (actually the name of one of the songs by Ben and Aidan) Our children have been hard at work with members from their company, as well as other peers, creating songs with the help of a song writing criteria:

<http://prezi.com/fxed-mdhrokc/a-song-is-born-my-songwriting-process/>

This was our model.

Homework

Spelling Rockets and Basic Facts will come home on Monday, ready to test on Thursday. Only the Spelling Rockets need to come back to school.

EZ Athletics

Despite the weather on Wednesday Eastern Zone Athletics went ahead. Our children showed their great flexibility and resilience, as well as determination. They all tried their best and gave it their all. A huge THANK YOU to our parents that volunteered and came along to support us. We couldn't have done it without you!



Board Shorts

The Republic of Miramar certainly shone on Sunday - and what a great day it was! We can be very proud as a school and community of the immense effort put in by all involved. In addition to the money raised, it was a terrific advertisement for our school. Whether it was through organising; providing items for sale and/or cajoling goodies out of local and Wellington businesses; helping set up or pack up; working constructively with classroom disruption; being on a stall on the day; or coming along and spending up large, it was a tremendous effort from so many members of our wider school community.

A special mention to the Fair Committee for all the hard work in the months leading up to the Fair. Particular acknowledgment to Nicola Lancaster for her efforts in once again leading the Fair Committee and Eleni Moore's leadership of the wider Home and School. I'm sure all of our children are very grateful for the opportunities all of this effort will make possible.

This is, of course, a busy time for fundraising with Summerfest tickets now on sale; our annual and very popular Tuatara beer sale underway; and our very own Proud to Be Called a Miramarian t-shirts remaining on sale as an ongoing fundraising venture. See the school website for details on all of this. Also, keep an eye out over the next week for a much smaller online Silent Auction – a chance to put a bid on a few quality lots that didn't get the bids they were worth over the weekend.

All of this effort is required because of the way funding for the school works. The funding that schools such as Worser Bay receive barely cover the basic operating expenses and, in order to provide anything more than the basics, we need to fundraise somewhere in the vicinity of \$80,000 a year. This is about a third of the total money required to run the school. \$35,000 or so of this comes through the very good response we have to the payment of voluntary contributions, leaving us somewhere around \$45,000 more to raise each year to provide things such as new furniture, IT equipment, developing the school grounds and amenities, and

anything other than very basic professional development for our teaching team. The more that is raised, of course, the better we'll be able to provide our children with not just a very good – but a great – environment in which to learn and grow.

The Board is responsible for the school's financial sustainability and, while the Fair and other fundraising efforts are tremendous, there is work to be done to ensure our approach to fundraising is genuinely sustainable and continues to grow. The Home and School plays a very important role in leading the majority of our established fundraising efforts and we are all very grateful for their efforts throughout the year.

There are some key changes in the leadership of the Home and School happening at the end of the year including Eleni and her family heading away for an extended UK family adventure, and Nicola deservedly stepping back from leading efforts over many years. With planning underway for next year, all of these factors taken together have seen the Board identifying fundraising as a key priority for 2012.

To mark a year in which much has been achieved; get things locked in for the year ahead – especially from the financial sustainability perspective; and most importantly have a chance to catch up with others socially (without the kids – love them as we do!), we'll be holding a low key get together on Wednesday 23 November from 7.30 - 9pm (ish) at a local venue to be advised in next week's newsletter. Nibbles, soft drinks and fruit juice will be available and, as it wouldn't be right to spend all of the money that's just been earned for the school, you'll also be able to purchase alcohol if you'd like a tippie. While there may be some gentle arm twisting going on, a promise there'll be no ear bashing! All school supporters are invited to attend and we'd love to see you there so mark your diary!

The Board

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Our Principal's Awards for this week are for:

* Sharing and talking about your progress.

Tautoru-iti and Tautoru

Liam and Tom C.C.

Autahi

Liam, Maya, Pieta, Bella, Gretel and Eloise.

Māhutonga and Matariki

Matahi, Harriette, Matt, Harley, Anneke and James.

Our Principal's Awards for next week are again for:

* Responding to feedback in physical education.

BE IN QUICK THE TUATARA 6 PACK BEER FUNDRAISER IS BACK!

- Go to the Summerfest page on the school website www.worserbay.school.nz/summerfest2012 to check out the details and place your order.
- Orders close Friday 18 November

From the Home and School

A heart felt **'thank you'** to all the parents and staff who worked so hard to make Sunday's amazing Fair such a great success. The Home and School bank account is certainly looking very healthy (you will need to come along to the Wrap to see the final total), but also the Fair is a true community event which draws support from all levels of the Worser Bay 'Family' and an event that we can all be justifiably proud of - Kia Ora.

From Nicola and team (I couldn't say it any better).

Calendars - All those who have ordered calendars this year, they are now ready for pick up in the office.

T-Shirts - The Miramarian T-shirts have been a huge hit at the school fair. If you would like to add to the next order please email Sarah Wells (sarahwells@vodafone.co.nz) your details. The T-shirts are \$30 and are a great fundraiser for school, for more information including the size guide please check the school webpage <http://www.worserbay.school.nz/school-fair-2011.html> or contact sarah. Please select your size carefully as these T-shirts are printed to order.

Have a sun filled restful weekend!

Eleni Moore, Chair of Home and School
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