

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



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

**Week 3 Term 1 - Friday 18 February 2011**



**This Morning's  
Assembly**



## **Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te Whetukairangi**

Kia ora koutou

**"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." Aristotle**

Our approach to embedding the key competencies within learning has moved up a gear this year. Our children and many of you have become quite adept at reciting the competencies, I know - I've heard you! However, they are very 'big' and don't necessarily translate easily into what children do, see and hear everyday.

That's why we are keen to take a fresh look at what learning behaviours we are focusing on developing and involve the children a great deal more in getting the language right. So the focus for this week "being brave and sharing ideas" makes sense for them, as it does for most of us adults too. Sure it fits under 'relating to others' and 'participating and contributing', also gives a nod to 'managing self', 'using language, symbols and texts' and 'thinking' - but let's face it - it's far more child (and adult) friendly!

We are exploring Art Costa's 'Habits of Mind' as our way of breaking down the key competencies and developing a bank of learning behaviours which we feel are the most important for our WBS children. This involves considering what we already know they have strengths in, and areas for development. Your insights into this as we developed our new school vision in 2010 have been very useful in this exercise - such as the need to communicate well, be creative, be thinkers, show persistence, have great co-operative skills and handle competition.

Some learning behaviours/competencies are important from birth until old age, others have more prominence at different ages and stages, but they never stand in isolation. Our weekly focus and awards will reflect this and sometimes be the same across the school and at other times different between the teaching spaces.

We never stop learning, that's the exciting part!

If you want to find out more or simply refresh, please check out:

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-documents/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum/Key-competencies>

<http://www.artcostacentre.com/html/habits.htm>

Hope to see you all at the Open Afternoon Thursday, come and find out some more about what we are up to.

*Jude*

## **ACTION AT A GLANCE**

- Please fill in and return your **Emergency Plan contribution of \$10 and can of food per child** by Friday 25th February, and your **Voluntary Contribution** as soon as possible.
- If applicable, please return your **PALS form** by Tuesday 22nd February.
- **Open Afternoon/Evening and Home & School AGM:** Thursday 24th February - see pages 2 & 4
- **Summerfest:** Sunday 27th February - see page 3
- **Camp Dates - Note change**  
(Years 5 & 6 - Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th March  
Year 4 Day Trip - Thursday 17th March)

### From the Worser Bay School Board

A warm welcome and welcome back to one and all for 2011! We're sure you will have all noticed the high levels of energy and enthusiasm across the school that has marked the start of the year.

That continues with the Board's first meeting of the year this week. In accordance with requirements, Andrew Wilson was elected as Chair for this calendar year. We are also delighted that Sarah Gunn has agreed to be co-opted onto the Board to fill the vacancy that arose when our previous Chair, Katherine Hill, resigned towards the end of last year. While we have a range of skills amongst our Board members there are a wide variety of issues that the Board gets involved in and we're always on the look out for support and assistance.

We were delighted that our newest teacher, John McDougall, gave us a whistle stop tour of Inquiry Learning – which we will all get the chance to hear more about at the upcoming Open Afternoon on 24 February. The approach is providing a new and exciting perspective on learning for both teachers and children (it's been hard to miss the recent buzz around science experiments!) and the Board is very supportive of this approach.

We agreed on the focus for our meetings for the year ahead - which is very much aligned with the Annual Plan - and spent quite some time considering smart initiatives to continue to attract new students to our school. We also discussed and set fundraising targets for the year ahead that are designed to ensure we can continue to improve what is already a terrific learning environment for our children. We all know that money doesn't grow on trees (if only...) and we look forward to a good turnout at the Home and School AGM at the conclusion of the Open Afternoon on 24 February to discuss the target and thoughts on how we achieve it.

The best place to start for the year is, of course, the upcoming Summerfest (3-6pm on Sunday 27 February 2011), our big fundraising event for Term 1. Thanks to the work of a dedicated and motivated band of parents, posters have appeared this week in many local shops, and flyers have done likewise in local letterboxes. There's already been great coverage in the Escape section of the Sunday Star-Times and more to come in the days leading up to the Summerfest on Radio Active and Newstalk ZB. Planning for the day itself is full steam ahead. If you haven't had a chance to do so yet, check out the school's website, buy your tickets, and watch out for the addition of a great range of lots when the Summerfest Silent Auction goes live online from Friday of this week.

### From the HOME AND SCHOOL *Remember AGM this Thursday 24th at 6.15ish after the Open Afternoon/Evening*

**What is the Home and School?** The Home and School is a group of parents who co-ordinate the social activities, fundraising and offer general support to the school and its community. We have been extremely lucky in the years to date with the amount of support we have received from the greater Worser Bay Community and last year we were able to contribute \$36,000 towards the cost of running the school.

**The school needs your support!** Every year we need to elect office holders for the Home and School. This includes:

**Chair:** someone who is happy to communicate, coordinate and organise the parent volunteers.

**Treasurer:** someone who is happy to look after the bank account, balance the payments from the fundraising activities and maintain basic spreadsheets for the monthly accounts.

### PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Our Principal's Awards for this week are for:

\* Being brave and sharing ideas.

**Tautoru** - Betty Jo and Felix

**Autahi** - Hunter and William H.

**Māhutonga** - Anneke and Johannes

The focus for next week will be:

\* Asking for help, being proactive and showing initiative.

### SPORTS AWARDS

Oliver - Great attacking play, and goal scoring.

Ella - Showing great stamina and persistence.

### Open Afternoon/Evening

Come along Thursday 24 February, between 3.15 and 6.30 pm. Pop in, chat to the teachers about what's happening in the programme and your children will take you through some of their recent learning.

We also have 4 'workshop' sessions during this time:

**3.30 - 3.45 pm**

**If you are keen to coach/manage a sports' team, or if you are already.**

**3.45 - 4.15pm**

**Come and find out more about the Inquiry Process and supporting children to ask good questions.**

These will be repeated at **5.30 for coaches/managers and 5.45 for the Inquiry Process**. Straight after this last workshop, we will move into the Home & School AGM. Please stay on!

**Our PALs** (Pupil Activity Leaders) will be leading games sessions with the children in a different space during the workshops to help you to be able to focus on the information! See slip page 4.

Secretary: minutes the meetings and handles minimal correspondence.

If you would like to know more about these positions, please feel free to contact me by email below, call me on- 380 9339, or catch me before or after school outside Autahi, ask around for me! (Emily and Juliette's Mum)

**“So, come on WBS Parents - make it this year that you dedicate a little time to help support our small school with big ideals! Come along to the AGM and find out who's who and what's what and have an input into our calendar of events for 2011/12”**

After the AGM we will be confirming events and sending out volunteer forms so you will have plenty of opportunity to contribute. We can do it!

Looking forward to a great year of supporting WBS!  
Current Chair of the Home and School  
Nicola Lancaster  
[nic.lancaster@clear.net.nz](mailto:nic.lancaster@clear.net.nz)



**Summerfest!**  
One week to go!

We still need your **chilly bins and outdoor furniture** on loan for Summerfest. We've had the offer of one chilly bin only, there must be some more out there! Also do you happen to have access to **20 matching caterers' aprons** we could borrow for the day? We desperately need a barbeque or two, as well. Please contact Chris Dennehy [chrisjohn@paradise.net.nz](mailto:chrisjohn@paradise.net.nz) or phone 9761813 if you are able to help.

The Silent Auction to be held in conjunction with Summerfest goes live today, check out what's on offer and make an early bid by going to: <http://www.worsleybay.school.nz/silent-auction>

There will be door sales and a mystery prize for the first 25 children through the door!

**from TAUTORU**

To kick start our curiosity and to get us into the groove of wondering and asking questions we have had a wonderful two weeks of experimentation across the Autahi and Taururu areas. We have been exploring the concept of change through the arts (visual art and music) and science (bottle rockets and cooking).

Have a fantastic weekend! The Taururu Team

"The coke exploded out of the bottle. We put two sets of mentos quickly in the bottle and shook it and then it exploded." *Tom CC*



"We made jelly. The hot water melted the crystals." *Lucy*



"We needed to keep the needles in the same spot on the record and we heard music." *Charlie P*  
"You have to keep the needles in the groove to hear the music." *Emma C*

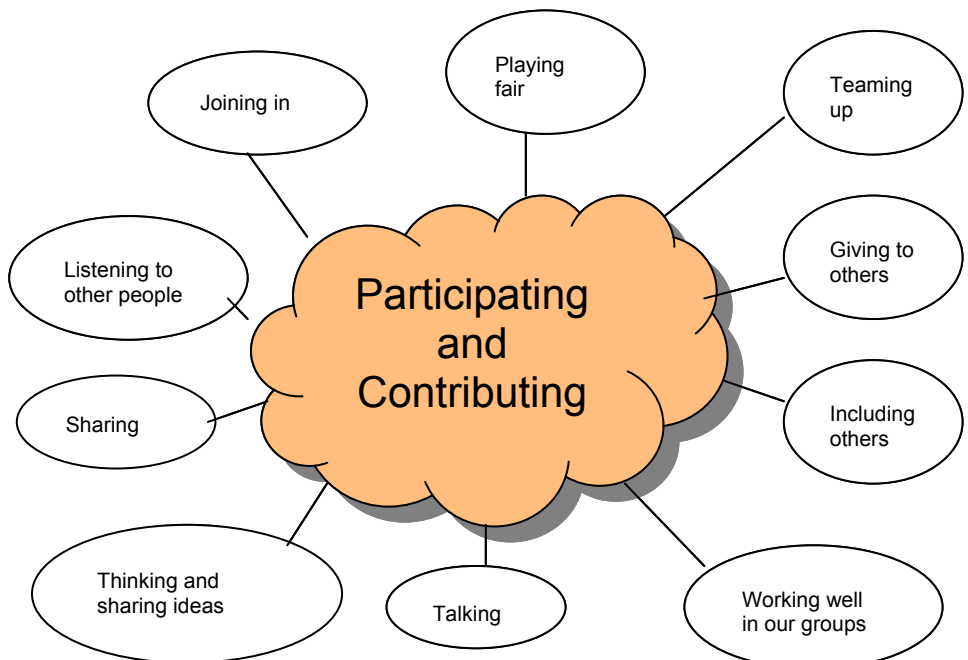


**from AUTAHI**

The momentum has continued to build in Autahi this week. We are getting more familiar with our routines and expectations and are looking at how we can manage ourselves in daily activities, as well as within the different learning areas and learning behaviours.

With our focus at the moment being Participating and Contributing we have taken the time to pull apart what this looks like and feels like in "kid speak". Here is what we came up with using a mind map as our thinking tool.

Check out all the wonderful photos that show us participating and contributing with Taururu and Taururu-iti.



## A note from MĀHUTONGA and MATARIKI!

Well, another great week of learning in Māhutonga and Matariki is well under way. Suzanne has been exploring ideas of decomposition and growing. Her groups have all seen what happens to white flowers when left in coloured water: the petals turn blue! The food she has bagged up is also turning blue with rather juicy looking moulds! Fleur has been baking hokey-pokey and experimenting with yeast and a variety of bread doughs. There are benefits of this kind of work as kids get to eat it. John's groups have looked at changes in clay, how the fired clay has changed permanently and how the unfired, even when dry, can be turned back to its original form. They have also been experimenting with the colour spectrum. Also, ask your kids about what happens when Mentos and Coke are mixed. We will be asking our students to explore the connecting themes of all of these science-based activities. There is a really good level of engagement and excitement around this learning. So much fun and really interesting to explore the scientific concepts and understandings children have! Mostly, we want them to observe things closely, to really notice and examine what is going on: to notice the extraordinary even in the ordinary. It would be great if you could all do this at home, as well, when cooking or just going about the daily routine.

We have introduced our expectations regarding research and the way in which it is to be presented. We are making it clear that simply googling a research question and then pressing print does not cut it! We are encouraging them to approach research critically. This will involve asking questions, improving the question, seeking information from multiple sources (including using their esteemed parents as a primary resource) and then presenting their findings. For this, we are expecting them to use the SEE format (statement, explanation, example). We envisage having to visit and revisit this process many times during the course of the term to help embed it.

At this week's assembly we will be acknowledging those students who have been particularly outstanding in the manner in which they contribute in class. This might involve celebrating people who have made a particular improvement or made an

*"In Fleur's reading, in Māhutonga, we have been predicting and observing. We put flowers into water with red dye and blue dye. We drew what we predicted. Most of us predicted that the flowers were going to turn the colour of the dye or for the water to stay the same. So far the flowers have grown veins the colour of the dye. Here are some photos of what we have been doing and what we predicted." Millie*



It is a shame that we can't hand out 60 certificates because most students have been superb. We will be getting them to fill in a self-check assessment to help reflect on their efforts to contribute. Ideally, our kids should be benefiting from each other's talents and gifts, supporting each other and co-constructing learning with peers and teachers. We need to encourage our students to be active learners rather than passive. Ask your child to tell you the story of Tane and his quest for the Three Kete of Knowledge. He was anything but passive.

Thanks for the prompt return of camp notices and offers of support. We will be in touch shortly. Reminding you, too, that camp dates have been pushed back a week.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**Support a local gem** and enjoy a beautiful French pastry from Miramar's Marie et Nico every Friday at 1pm at Margaret Guldborg's house. She will provide home-roasted coffee and a selection of teas. The cost will be around \$5 depending upon the selection of the week. If you are interested, please e-mail [mtguldborg@gmail.com](mailto:mtguldborg@gmail.com).

**Grade Registrations 2011** - Enrolments are now open for 5 - 14 grade teams. Miramar Rangers welcomes registration of existing players from last season and any new players to our club.

If you wish to play JPL, Promo or Combined League, Girls Only Sunday League, Miramar Rangers has teams in these Capital Football leagues.

For details on how to register, please visit, [www.miramar-rangers.com](http://www.miramar-rangers.com) and click onto our 'Juniors' page. Registrations close on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. Any queries contact Janine Paul, Junior Club Captain, email: [mrfcjuniors@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mrfcjuniors@xtra.co.nz), or phone **388 4405**.

**House-sitting Available** (plus or minus dog!)  
4 -12th March inclusive  
Call Andrea, 977 5757.

### Physical Activity Leaders (PALs)

As part of our Open Afternoon on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February we are getting the PALs to organise and run some games.

As the Open Afternoon is from 3:15 - 6:15 pm, please fill in the form below to indicate their availability and return it to the office by Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Thanks, Fleur & Hamish

.....  
\_\_\_\_\_ is able to come from 3:15 – 4:15

\_\_\_\_\_ is able to come from 5:15 – 6:15

\_\_\_\_\_ is able to come for both time-slots

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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