

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!)

Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te Whetukairangi

Kia ora koutou

2011's mantra includes such words as challenge, stretch, and thinking, reflection, critique and a couple of catch phrases like 'a rising tide lifts all ships' and 'lifting the learning ceiling'. If you are wandering past the staffroom you will see these plastered over the walls!

The business of education, like many others has a particular language and often that language can be just that, language, and everything stays the same with that 'this too shall pass' attitude.

WBS doesn't jump on the latest bandwagon. We are clear what we want for our children and what we need to keep, what we need to improve and what we need to throw far, far away!

So, for those of you who were at the Open Afternoon yesterday, you would have had an opportunity to have a quick once over lightly of the Inquiry Process. Developing our own model of Inquiry, a model that suits our children and teachers, is something we are working on over the year. Sometimes a particular inquiry may be small, as in a word study, or it may be rather huge - encompassing many learning areas over a long time frame. As well as the knowledge aspect, there is a very important skills building element which may range from the more technical to the social.

Providing opportunities for our children to go deeper, to be active learners, to ask the 'million dollar questions', doesn't happen overnight - but it is our quest! It's actually about the way in which we approach teaching and learning. Of course, we look to you to work with us on this. If you missed the Open Afternoon workshops, and are keen to know more, then chat with your children, pop in and talk further with the teachers, check out the newsletters as it will be a feature.

There are many different inquiry models out there which have very similar elements, such as Kath Murdoch's work- you may like to check it out :

<http://www.inquiryschools.net/page10/files/Kath%20Inquiry.pdf>

No ora mai ra!

Jude



"Thanks to our PALS (Pupil Activity Leaders) for organising games - you rock!"

Week 4 Term 1 - Friday 25 February 2011

"Great to chat with you, last night, about what's happening in the classroom, and what's up with sport teams."



Summerfest is here at last!!
This Sunday, 27th February,
at Worser Bay Boating Club

Come along any time from 3 - 6pm for an afternoon of great beer, other quality beverages, fine local food and live music.



Check out the silent auction on line

<http://www.worserbay.school.nz/silent-auction>

Door sales available. Mystery prize for the first 25 kids through the door. See you there!!

Our thoughts are with those in Christchurch, and, if you wish, you will have the opportunity to make a donation to the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal on the day.

ACTION AT A GLANCE

- **Summerfest:** This Sunday 27th February
- Please fill in and return your **Emergency Contact form** if you haven't nominated someone close by as a contact already. (See pages 2 & 4).
- Please fill in and return your **Emergency Plan contribution of \$10 and can of food per child** if you haven't yet done so, and your **Voluntary Contribution** as soon as possible.
- **Diary:**
Next Assembly 9.15 am Friday 4 March

Emergencies and pick up procedures

In the light of the tragedy in Christchurch this week we need to be very, very clear about what to do regarding pick up of children from school in an emergency.

The school will keep the children here for a period of 24 hours. In this time we would anticipate that either parents/caregivers or nominated contact people will be able to collect the children. Through the newsletter we have asked you to ensure you have updated your emergency contacts. If your emergency contacts do not live close by, it's good idea to nominate a contact person who does.

After a period of 24 hours the school will send child/ren home with a community member. All children will be carefully re-recorded by the teacher/ person supervising on pick up.

Of course, in a case of an emergency, we need to be prepared to be flexible on these arrangements as there is the unknown factor and we may be instructed to do something differently. But, as much as we can be prepared for - this is the procedure.

Please if you haven't updated your contacts and would like to add to it, make it a priority in the next week. Please complete the form on page 4 or email Carolyn at sitemail@worserbay.school.nz. We will also pop it in the daily diary on the front page of the website to remind you.

This year we have also been looking into the possibility of a texting function via email. This would be a very simple way of assuring you straight away that everything was OK. I know that schools who had this capacity in Christchurch, were able to keep parents informed that their children were safe.

Thank you so much for your quick response to the request for the \$10 one-off payment and cans of food. We still require woollen blankets, if you have a cupboard or two to clean out.

So please - update those emergency contacts and nominate others in the local community this week. (Form adjacent.)

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Our Principal's Awards for this week are for:

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

Tautoru - Jack and Milly

Autahi - Louise and Eloise

Māhutonga - Wil G and Leony

The focus for next week will be:

- * Taking initiative with asking questions.

SPORTS AWARDS

John for showing great persistence and determination.

From the HOME AND SCHOOL

Congratulations to Eleni Moore who was voted (with much support) into the position of Chair at yesterday's Home and School AGM.

Come along for coffee and find out more about the Home and School at 9.00 am on Friday 11th March, in the staff room. Everyone most welcome!

Change or addition to Emergency Contacts

Please ensure you have an Emergency Contact for your child/children who lives locally.

Name/s of child/children:

.....

Name of contact

Address of contact

.....

Contact telephone numbers:

Home

Cell

from AUTAHI

In Autahi we have been thinking about how we might change over the year and how we can carefully observe how these changes happen. This led to us thinking about the parts of our body that might grow bigger and how we can measure and record these changes.

We decided to look at our hands and feet. We drew around them and cut them out so that we could see whose hands are the same size, whose hands are smallest and whose hands are the biggest.

I wonder if our hands will grow any bigger?

We also drew around our whole bodies and are going to see if we grow any taller this year. We used non-standard units, like our hands and feet, to measure how tall we are. We measured how many hands there are in our bodies.

I wonder if we will grow any taller?

Maybe you would like to take some measurements in your family and ask some questions about how you might change over the year.



from TAUTORU

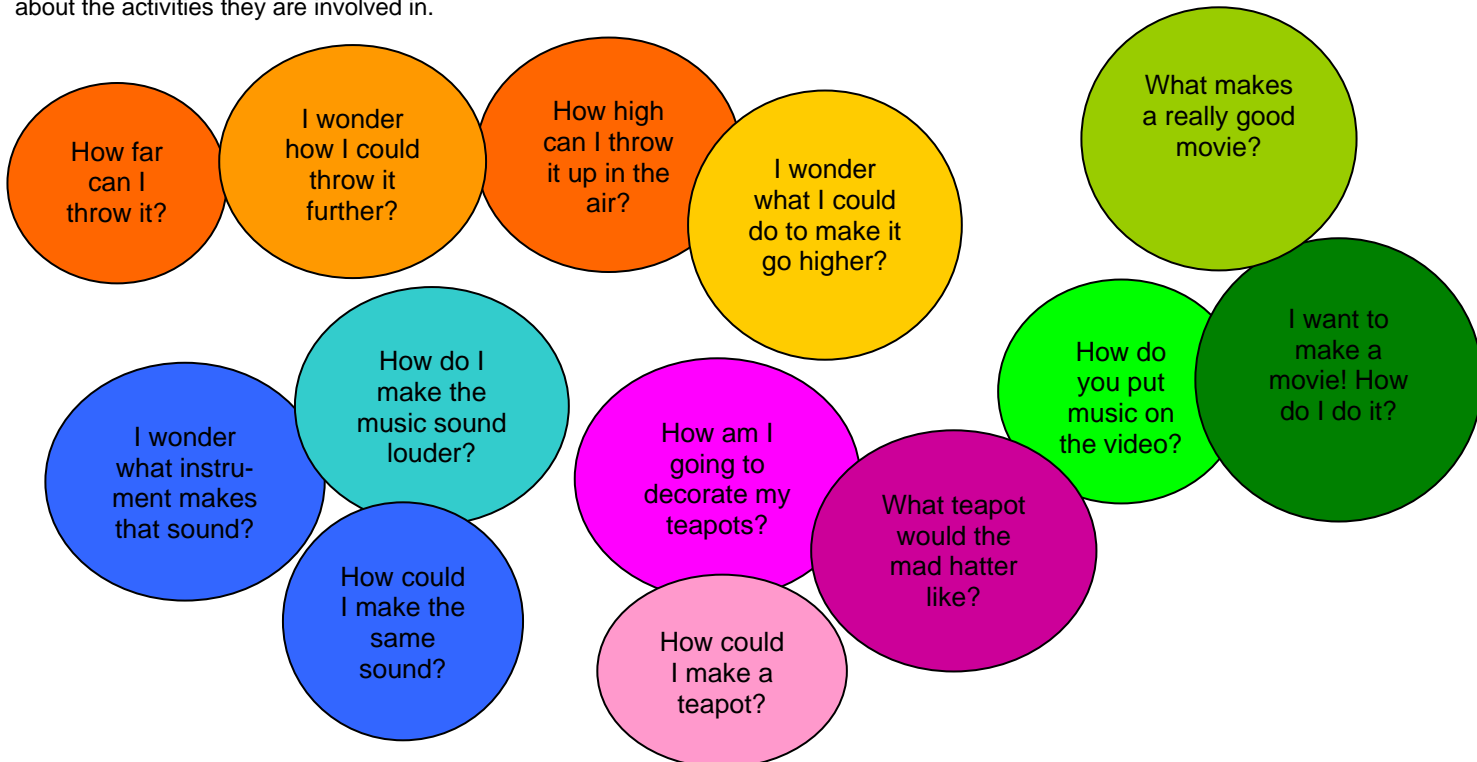
Across Tautoru and Autahi we have enjoyed another fantastic week of exploring new ideas and looking carefully at the world around us. In our discovery afternoon rotations we are working in one of four groups:

- developing our throwing and catching skills in PE,
- learning how to use the flip camera and record our world more carefully
- practising our observation skills in Visual Art, or
- learning about rhythm and beat in Music

In all of these activities our focus is on developing our ability to observe carefully and reflect on what we see. It has been exciting to see students start to wonder and ask questions about the activities they are involved in.

Learning to ask interesting questions and inquire and find out about these questions are new skills we are practising everyday. It would be great if you could help by encouraging this at home - looking for the wonder in the everyday things. We would love to hear about any that you might discover!

Here are some of the wonderings we have had in our discovery afternoons. You might want to explore some of these more together at home. Do share anything you might find out with us!



A note from MĀHUTONGA and MATARIKI

We are writing this before the open evening but anticipate having many of you attending to see what is going on in our neck of the woods. You will have found out about the Inquiry Process which we are in the early stages of exploring. It is exciting to see students developing some ideas about the process and the fact that learning can be initiated from their own questions. Some of the initial questions students have asked in our mini-inquiry around games, rules and learning behaviours are impressive. These are open ended, provocative and invite students to think. We are developing a set of criteria for evaluating good questions so that students will be able to direct their own learning to a degree. This of course, is a long term goal; we don't become independent learners overnight.

One of the questions that emerged as we discussed games was an historical one: What were the Romans favourite games and why? We have set this as a homework task which has run for the last week and a bit, as it involves doing research. We are trying to get kids, as part of the research process, to seek the points of view, opinions and knowledge of people in the initial stages of research. We call this using 'primary resources' and you at home are probably their most important primary resource, if you don't mind being called that.

This is to counter the prolific use of the internet as the first and only port of call when students are seeking information. We also want to encourage discussion of ideas and their learning with you at home. The internet is a marvellous learning tool but we need to keep thinking about what else is available and not to forget the importance and value of people.

On the subject of internet use we find that restricting the size of the search is an important place to start. I have just used googlek12 which throws up a more limited search. I found a site called History for kids which has easily understood information specific to the question of Roman games. We will guide our students through this but it would be great if you could support your child's work at home by steering them toward appropriate sites.

We will be setting homework tasks related to the classroom programme. Often these will involve discussion with you and use of computers as there is limited access at school. We also expect that students will be reading each night for about twenty minutes or so. As we get the writing/literacy programme up and running there also be regular weekly spelling lists. We will alert you when this is happening so that you can help hear spelling words.

A note from MĀHUTONGA and MATARIKI continued...

Fridays will have an arts focus over the next few weeks as most students are involved in music lessons with Nicole already. We are exploring the work of Picasso from an art history point of view, as well as hands on drawing, painting and sculpture.

Come and have a look at some of the work if you get the opportunity.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Great Sunday Bakeoff to help Christchurch Earthquake Victims

(www.thegreatsundaybakeoff.org).

Bake your favourite treat on Sunday, and deliver it to Civic Square on Monday morning between 7am and 9am. Food collected will be flown to Christchurch and delivered to people in need.

If people want to drop their treats to Kerry-Lynn at 189 Seatoun Heights Rd (opposite the school) on Sunday evening after Summerfest, or before 8.30 on Monday morning, she will take a car load of food into Civic Square on Monday morning.

Wanted to Rent - Short Term

Accommodation needed to rent for a family coming from Christchurch. Ring the School Office, 939 7281.

The **Victoria University Coastal Ecology Lab** will be open for public on Saturday, March 5th, from 10am - 4pm. We'd like to invite everyone to join in and view our research facilities. We will have set up a number of fun interactive exhibits such as touch-tanks and collections of exciting marine organisms for kids to enjoy. Furthermore those who are interested will have the opportunity to chat with researchers and read about their work as they'll have poster boards set up.

It'll be a great way to bring the community together and for people to learn more about their local marine environment. The event can be viewed on the SeaWeek website (<http://www.seaweek.org.nz>) under events in Wellington. Specifically the address is http://www.seaweek.org.nz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=60&Itemid=67.

St Catherine's College Car Boot Sale Fundraiser

8.30 am - 12.30 pm, Sunday 13th March 2011, St Catherine's College Carpark, Upper Bourke Street, Kilbirnie. \$15 per car

If you have clothing, arts and crafts or any general household items you would like to get rid of, please call Emma 021 068 2032. **Book your space today!!** This is the same day as the Kilbirnie Festival

Can anyone spare an hour or two to help me collect for **Wellington Multiple Sclerosis** on Friday 18th March in Kilbirnie? The Annual 4 Leaf-Clover Appeal is our biggest fundraiser and any money raised goes towards employing our two fieldworkers who support people with MS and their families in the Wellington region. If you can help, please contact Carrie (Adam's mum Yr 3) or ring 3884727.

Any help appreciated.

Big Splash Day,

with Wellington High Performance Aquatics
Wgtn Regional Aquatic Centre
2.30 pm, Sunday, 20th March

Meet at 5 metre pool.

Session is free – pool entry charge only.

Must be able to swim in deep water.

Coaches:

Steven Zhu, - WHPA Head Coach, 2010 Commonwealth Games Diving Coach and Former Chinese Olympic Coach.

Li Feng Yang - WHPA Assistant Coach

Numbers will be limited so be quick to register your interest via email to whpa@clear.net.nz or call 021 443-984 www.whpa.co.nz

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