



Worser Bay School

NEWS

Friday 7 August 2009

Greetings Kia ora nāmas'te Sawadee Zdravstvuyte Chao
Kia orana Talofa Zdravo Willkommen Hej Ni Hao Fáilte

SNAPSHOT!



We are pressing our brain buttons in Tauturu.



It's all about sequencing in Autahi.



Māhutonga are focused on providing effective feedback.

ACTION AT A GLANCE

- **Michael Fowler Centre - Artsplash!**
Pop into the Michael Fowler Centre from 10 to 14 August and see a sample of our artwork from the Art Expo.
- **Diary Student-Led Conferences**
Week of 17th August - see 'Online Booking' on page 2 for instructions. Bookings close on Friday 14th August.
- Visit our **New Worser Bay School Website**
Our new website is live! Go to www.worserbay.school.nz and check it out on a regular basis.
- Access our **Library Catalogue** - see page 2.

Tēnā koutou e te whanau o Whetukairangi

The core business of schools is to increase student achievement. Achievement is a synonym for success.

Two books I have been reading recently discuss achievement/success with humour and real life examples and interviews. Did you know that when your child is born in a calendar year could have quite a significant impact on their achievement? In "The Outliers: The Story of Success", Malcolm Gladwell shares a range of examples of what makes people extraordinary, what makes them stand out and differ from most others... is it a case of right time, right place?

When you are described as being "In your element" you are doing something you love and also something you are good at. Ken Robinson, in his book "The Element", once again shares stories of people who are in their element, their passion has met their natural facility. This is what makes high achievers different. The unfortunate thing is most people don't find this spot and Ken Robinson believes it's often because of education - not individual teachers or individual schools, more the problem with "the system".

"The Element" certainly encourages you to look at your life and ask yourself whether you are doing what matters to you. Ken Robinson also has an interesting take on a university degree these days when he describes it as not being a passport to a good job or salary but being more like a visa that needs constantly renewing. What do you think?

These are both well worth a read. If you prefer the audio/visual, Ken Robinson is discussing "The Element" at: <http://www.psfk.com/2009/03/video-sir-ken-robinson-the-element.html>.

If you are worried, it's actually quite funny and not dull at all!

You might want to listen to it when you are slaving over a hot oven this weekend - as we learn from "Outliers", it takes 10 years of practising something you are passionate about to achieve success!

Noho mai rā.

Jude

WORD FROM THE BOARD

With the primary goal of the Board being to constantly improve student learning and achievement, I took great delight in booking in a time for our Student Lead Conference (SLC) in the period 17-20 August. In addition to enjoying the ease of the online booking system, I am really looking forward to the precious opportunity of our daughter taking us through what she has achieved since her last SLC and sharing what she is looking to achieve in the coming months. I am also confident that, with the assistance of her teachers, she will be prepared to take responsibility both for the leading our conversation with pride and for achieving the learning objectives she identifies for herself.

I would encourage those of you that may be experiencing SLCs for the first time to do so eagerly, as you will be better placed to both know how your child or children are performing, and to help them to continue to achieve. As Jude mentioned in last week's newsletter, our students spend 30% of their 'awake' time at school and 60% of their 'awake' time at home. Our ability as parents to make the most of our children's 'awake' time and support them in their learning depends on us knowing what it is they are trying to achieve.

As a Human Resources professional, I continue to be struck by the strong parallels between the SLCs and what effective performance management processes should be. I am certain the SLC process and experience is providing our children with the opportunity to learn valuable skills that they will use throughout their lives.

A big thanks in advance for all the work our teachers are putting in to the SLCs, and to you as parents for respecting the arrangements that have been made so that all families can make full use of their allocated time.

Andrew Wilson
Board Member

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES 17-20 AUGUST

From the 17- 20 August, you are invited to attend your child's Student Led Conference. At this time your child will share their learning and progress with you, prompted by their teacher. The more confident the child becomes with this process, the less the teacher will need to prompt, and in time the conference becomes totally student-led.

The focus is on learning progress and achievement. At the first conference of the year, your child and their teacher shared some 'hard data' with you. There will be further hard/quantitative data in the end of the year summary. This time, the focus is on the qualitative data, the on-going evidence of progress in student books and portfolios.

As this is a time for your child to share their learning, we need to keep it separate from any behavioural or social concerns you may have. Please make an alternative time before the SLC with the teacher to share any worries.

So what do you need to do?

- Beforehand: Book a time online.
- During: Prompt your child with open questions such as:
"What are you learning?"
"Can you tell me more about that?"
"That's interesting, why did you choose to talk about that?"
"How will you know you have improved?"
- Provide encouragement, enjoy the experience, stick to your timeframe and please remember to tell your child how proud you are of them.

We are using a new online booking system – the instructions are as follows:

- Go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/home.
- Enter the Worsers Bay School code U4M35 and press "Go".

The Booking Line will be open until **Friday 14 August** - it is an extremely user-friendly system!

We are lucky to have almost 100% turn out to these conferences. Please support your child and book your time now!

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

The Principal's Awards this week focus on 'positively negotiating with and influencing others' and 'Excellence in PE and Health'.

Tautoru

Liam for excellence in PE and Health.
Nargis and Harriette for problem solving and negotiating with others.

Autahi

Thomas for positively negotiating with and influencing others.
Coco for showing resilience.

Māhutonga

Monique for excellence in PE and Health.
Sarah for positively negotiating with and influencing others.

The Principal's Awards for next week will be awarded for:

- (1) Excellence in all book presentation.
- (2) Encouraging others in a group.

MĀHUTONGA

It is really important for students to know what they are learning and why they are learning it, and be able to relate this to real life situations and experiences.

This term we are focusing on students being able to identify the learning intentions and make connections to their lives. It is useful to talk to students about what they are learning at school and help them to make these connections. Talk to them about situations when you have used certain skills in your life and why they are important.

This term, we have been reading, listening and writing a variety of different fairytales. This is to learn about the narrative structure and also to learn about stereotypes - what they are and where we find them. It is interesting to note how quickly students have picked up on the stereotype of the helpless maiden needing a hero to save her! What connections can you help them make?

Library Catalogue

You can access the **library catalogue** through the **library portal** at www.worsersbay.school.nz. From here you can find out what is in the school library, see books that have been recently added to the collection, check what books your child has on loan (and renew these books if you wish), reserve books for your child, and send messages to our library staff.

You will probably find the catalogue very intuitive and easy to use, but if you wish to see the Access-It User Guide, you can download this from the link on the front page of the catalogue. If you have any queries, please contact Christine Cross at: library@worsersbay.school.nz.

from AUTAHI

This week, we have been collecting writing samples to assess students' strengths and needs in writing. The importance of oral language and vocabulary have been one of the needs identified so far. We are moving on to procedural writing next week which is based around writing instructions and procedures.

Ways you can help your child at home:

- Include your child in activities around the house that they could write a procedure for, ie. making a sandwich, making their bed, getting ready for school, etc.
- Check out the following website for a range of simple activities you can do at home that will promote discussion and motivation:
<http://www.teamup.co.nz/Child/SupportingLearning/IdeasForActivities.aspx>.

"We have been learning to make a film in co-operative groups about Little Red Riding Hood. We have to use digital cameras. We have been learning to move the camera and to zoom in and out."

by *Corisande and Joshua*.

TAUTORU News

"In Maths we have been doing lots of learning. We have been learning our doubles, a daffodil counting poem that makes us skip count in 5s, and the symbols for halves and quarters. On Thursday we looked at a Maths website and had to solve 5 problems. We got them all right! We have also been learning more about making groups and sets of numbers as well as sharing numbers equally." by *Helen*

We have practising working quietly and problem solving so that everyone can concentrate on their learning, games, reading, or spelling testing. by *Thomas D*

"In Library skills we have been talking about different types of materials. We have been learning about silk and wool being used to make clothes. We've talked about how the silk from silk worms is turned into clothes. It was really interesting!" by *Reuben*

"In the afternoons we have been working on storyboards, learning the names of different camera shots, and practising our acting." by *Will A*

When the research spouts that children are only at school 30% of their waking time during their school years, it becomes essential to nurture the home-school partnership. Sharing the term's focus with parents gives teachers an opportunity to work together with you to improve learning and support your child to achieve their individual goals.

Currently, we are working towards developing oral and written language skills, expressing our ideas to influence others, designing storyboards, writing scripts and stories and making movies. To do this well, we have to exercise our memory span to recall ideas and experiences that may shape the decisions we make. So how can you help with this at home? Prepare your child for sharing news or prompt them with new and rich vocabulary they can use when they are writing about a weekend outing or daily routine. Help your child verbalise what they do during the 60% of their waking time when they are at home with you or involved in a community event. Often, the teachers hear "I don't know what to write about... I did nothing" and we know that's not true!

Ask Fleur and Rachel's class about the game they are playing as they learn to improve their auditory focus this week. The sentence starter is: "*I went shopping and I bought...*" What will your child be able to put in their basket? Other spin offs from this game include the practice of E4E attributes for relating to others, eg. turn taking or anticipating your turn and organising what you're going to say next.

Often, writing involves free choice topics – students are asked to draw on previous experiences that will take the reader on a journey. Deeper features of language such as voice, vocabulary, verbs and varied sentence structure contribute towards building up the "juicy detail" that teachers ask for.

Maria, Rachel, Fleur

From the HOME AND SCHOOL

Please come and connect with your school community and welcome new parents at the:

Parents' Morning Tea - Wednesday 12 August at 9am in the staffroom

This is aimed at welcoming new families to the school but is also an ideal opportunity for existing parents to meet and catch up. Tots are welcome, so come along for a cuppa and some great baking!

School Disco!

6-8pm, Friday 21 August at the Salvation Army Hall. Look out for the yellow forms in your child's school bag.

"UP!" Movie Afternoon

Join us on Sunday 13 September at 2.30 pm at the Reading Cinema. All tickets \$15. Please read and return the flyer that was sent home with your child.

If you would like to pay for either the movie or the disco by internet banking, please make sure that there is a clear reference on the transfer who the money is from and what it is for. We also need you to return the order form with your child's details and the reference used for the transfer. The Home and School account details are:

Worser Bay Home and School Committee, National Bank Account 060513 0304691 00.

Thank you in advance to all of our volunteers who help with these events. If you have indicated on the yellow calendar that you are willing to help, you will be contacted soon.

Beth Simpson

bruce.simpson@xtra.co.nz

Nicola Lancaster

nic.lancaster@clear.net.nz

MISSING ITEMS

An All Black's sleeveless fleece and a pair of trousers in a clear plastic bag went missing from the Tautoru cloakroom on Thursday, 30th July. Please could you check whether your child has accidentally brought these items home. There is a \$15 reward to the person who finds these clothes. Thanks.

DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 Miniball Years 5 & 6	11	12 Parents' Morning Tea - 9am Staffroom Eastern Zones Soccer Miniball Years 3 & 4	13	14 SLCs - Online bookings close
Artsplash! - Michael Fowler Centre (all week)				
17 Miniball Years 5 & 6	18	19 Miniball Years 3 & 4	20	21 School Disco 6-8pm Salvation Army Hall
Student Led Conferences (Monday - Thursday)				
24 Miniball Years 5 & 6	25	26 Miniball Years 3 & 4 Eastern Zones Hockey (P/D 2 Sept)	27	28

* Just a reminder that school will be closed on Friday, 23 October - the Friday before Labour Weekend.

SPORT

Miniball

Spurs lost 24-12 to the Scots Incridibles
 Celtics lost 22-16 to the Kilbirnie Hawks
 Lakers won 30-0 against Kilbirnie Celtics
 Trailblazers lost 22-4 to the Seatoun Sonics

Player of the Day: William
 Player of the Day: Caitlin
 Player of the Day: Matt
 Player of the Day: Josh

Netball

Worser Bay won 7-1 against the Miramar North Golden Ferns.

Assembly Team

A group of students are working on developing our school assemblies so that they are inclusive, engaging, diverse and fun. They are wanting to come up with new ways of celebrating learning, while still giving students an opportunity to develop confidence and feel proud of their achievements.



COMMUNITY NOTICES



Craft Village

88 The Parade, Island Bay.
 Saturday 8th August 10am-4pm.
 The 2nd Saturday of each month.
 Creative. Unique. Colourful.
 NZ Craft Market.
 Contact: stichbury@live.com.

OPEN EVENING, HOLY CROSS SCHOOL Monday 10th August - 6.30 pm

For any Year 6 students and their parents/ caregivers, commencing with hot soup and bread rolls, and a welcome from the Principal, Celeste Hastings.

This will be followed by an outline of weekly timetable/programme in Senior School, Powerpoint presentation of several events so far this year, speeches from the School Councillor and House Captain and a tour of the school.

Holiday programme available

If you are looking for quality and affordable childcare for your child in the Miramar Peninsula and are able to get your child transported to Holy Cross School, we would welcome your enrolment.

Location: Holy Cross School, Miramar.
 Dates: 28th September - 9th October 2009
 Enrolments: 30 places available per day.
 Fees: \$20/day per child for an 'on-site' day and \$25/day per child for an 'outing' day.
 For enrolment forms and enquiries contact the Programme Supervisor: Sally Rollo - 021 037 6317 or email: holycrossoscar@gmail.com or visit the After School Care Programme.

Support Your Tall Blacks

Tall Blacks v Boomers
 Tuesday 25 August 2009, 7.30pm Tip Off.
 TSB Arena, Queens Wharf
 Adults from \$15, Children from \$10, Family \$40.
 Tickets available at www.ticketek.co.nz.

Baby Items

Do you have baby items you no longer want? Pregnancy Assistance would love anything you are able to donate so they can continue to provide pregnant women and new mothers with the clothing, bedding and cloth nappies they need for their babies. Label 'Pregnancy Assistance' and drop off at the St Vincent de Paul shop in Newtown or phone 389 7122 for more information.

WORSER BAY SCHOOL

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