

# MANUREWA CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

[www.mancent.school.nz](http://www.mancent.school.nz)

29 June 2012 Name.....

Kia ora, Malo e le lei, Talofa, Ni hao, Namaste, Bula, Kia orana, Mauri, Greetings.

Thank you to the many parents who attended parent teacher interviews this week. Around 350 meetings were arranged and teachers will follow up matters discussed as necessary.

Please remember that our teachers are available to discuss children's progress at all times of the year. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance. This can be followed up with a meeting with the team leader or the principal if necessary. Questions can usually be answered quickly or an appointment can be arranged if necessary.

## **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE-A-THON FUND RAISER**

Our one big fundraising activity for the year begins on the first day of next term. Information will come home on Monday, 16 July.

We ask that you assist your child with sponsorship and learning the answers to a wide range of interesting and challenging questions.

The big testing day is Wednesday, 25 July. I will keep you informed as to progress once our sponsorship money comes in after that date. It would be wonderful if we could get close to our amazing 2011 total of \$12,570.

## **READING TOGETHER**

We will be running another series of workshops on home reading next term. These are extremely worthwhile and have proven very popular. If you are a parent of a 5 or 6 year old and would like to attend, please phone Sandy Griffin on 269 0250.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Well done to the following students who have been selected as whanau leaders for 2012.

Jaydah Croft, Summer Urquhart, Sophie Fraser and Julia Lemoa.

I know all four will be excellent leaders and set a fine example to all members of Whanau Kotahi.

Well done and congratulations also to Kevin Lew (Room 21) whose excellent piece of written language won the fishing rod and reel donated by "Hiwi the Kiwi," our recent visitor to the school. We also congratulate Aviu Aviu (Room 21) and Summer Tamihere (Room 16) whose work was judged second and third respectively.

Thank you to everyone who contributed old mobile phones to our school on behalf of the Starship Air Ambulance Foundation. Our school collected 220 cell phones that we have been able to exchange for four new digital cameras. Thank you all for your contributions.

The collection box remains in our office foyer where old phones can still be placed. Any phones received will be handed on to the Starship Foundation.

## **NZ EDUCATION IS HIGH PERFORMING**

You will have read a great deal in the newspapers, and heard from numerous politicians that, in their opinion our education system is in need of improvement.

What does not get as much publicity is the fact that New Zealand teachers are among the best in the world, and that our student achievement levels are constantly in the top half dozen countries measured by international tests.

In order to counter unfair political negativity the New Zealand Teachers' Council recently put out a statement on our education system. It is interesting reading and I have reproduced it in full on the back page of this newsletter.

**Thank you  
L Thew Principal**

# IMPORTANT DATES

## JULY

- 16 School opens for term 3
- 16 General Knowledge-a-thon begins
- 23 Maori language week
- 27 School newsletter home

## AUGUST

- 10 Files of Work home (Years 3-6)
- 13 Board of Trustees' meeting
- Term 3 closes on Friday 28 September.

# Welcome

*To pupils who have joined us recently*

Sahil Sandhu, Kiefer Wallen, Vanshika Mani, Mohammad Al-Kashoosh, Sasha Kudriavtcev, Wiremu Connelly.

# Happy Birthday

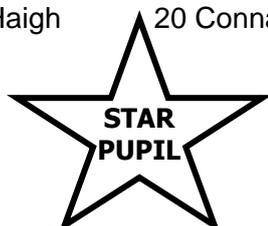
To people who have a special day about now.

## JUNE

- 29 Ryan Garrick
- 29 Jonti-Armani Graham
- 30 Rico Lunjevich

## JULY

- 2 Seanna Lesimaikimatuku
- 3 Jeremie Bayaban
- 4 Jess Deng
- 4 Ariana Tewhiu
- 4 Chloe Wijohn
- 7 Apoiniva Asiata
- 7 Matthew Dennis
- 7 Leilani Loloa
- 7 Tara Wanoa
- 8 Chetna Singh
- 11 Neeneb Youkhana
- 13 Denise Falelogi
- 14 Andrew Tali
- 14 Kevin Tran
- 15 Jacinda Barnes
- 15 Ormy Kolazar
- 17 Ella Lupan
- 17 Rishi Sharma
- 19 Arnov Verma
- 20 Rose Gredig
- 20 Bailei-Rose Haigh
- 20 Connah Pihama



*The following students have been recognised by their class teachers for showing diligence and achievement in all aspects of their school and classwork.*

- R1 Maya Rameka
- R2 Rose Gredig
- R3 Tane Falesa-Talbot
- R4 Naphnn Deng
- R5 Isabella O'Flynn
- R6 Jemimah Miller
- R7 Anishna Chand
- R8 Bhawish Nand
- R9 Chance Tavita-Jackson
- R10 Leilani Faaiuso
- R11 Kendra Rangitutia
- R12 Gabrielle Salazar
- R13 Anjali Mistry
- R14 Charnny Bun
- R15 Lily Husband
- R16 Lepani Uludole
- R17 Nyla Verma
- R18 Kevin Zeng
- R19 Emma Polglase
- R20 Nha Nguyen
- R21 Skye Collins
- R23 Anika Todd
- R24 Anaru Thomson

# ROOM NEWS

## ROOM 1

I threw the leaves up in the sky. They went round and round. They tickled me like a snake.

*Brendon Soi*

I saw lots of leaves on the ground. They looked like a carpet. I picked them up and made them fly.

*Komal Bavaji*

I saw a carpet of leaves on the ground. I threw the leaves up in the sky and they rained down on me.

*Esheeta Kumar*

## ROOM 3

We have been learning lots of interesting facts about our planet Earth. The Earth spins around itself causing days and nights and goes around the sun causing seasons. When the children in New Zealand wake up and go to school the children in India are fast asleep.

*Komal Deo*

## ROOM 5

We are lost in space studies at the moment. We have been learning how night and day happens and how the moon causes the tides at our beaches to go in and out every day. Room 5 is also enjoying folk dancing too and have been learning new dances with Room 7. We are looking forward to participating in the folk dancing festival in August. We hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday break.

## ROOM 7

We have been busy learning about our new topic 'Planet Earth and Beyond.'

"When the Earth faces the sun it is day. When it faces away it is night."

*Mereani*

"The Earth spins the opposite way to a clock.

The sun does not spin."

*Fariha*

"At the poles in winter it is always night and in summer it is always day because of the way the Earth leans."

*Keira.*

## ROOM 9

There have been so many exciting experiences and learning opportunities this term that it is really hard to decide what has been the most fun. Everyone loved the junior cross country. The 'Best Book in the World' performance by the Duffy Theatre was fantastic. Our butter making and scone baking lessons were delicious. Wheels' Day was fun-filled. Folk dancing keeps us on our toes ... we need a holiday!

### **ROOM 11**

We have been learning about New Zealand adrift. One of the things we have been looking at is volcanoes and how they form. Did you know that most volcanoes are active? Earthquakes are also important in the way they affect New Zealand and we have been learning a lot about them.

We are also doing art on animals. We are using all sorts of mathematical shapes to make our animal. These are then shaded and we have learnt to blend colours in the background. We have had a lot of fun in term 2 and we also learnt a lot.

*Hosea*

### **ROOM 13**

Our recycling unit has finished and we are ready to look at our new unit study which is 'New Zealand Adrift.' When we finished our recycling we created some art work using newspapers. We made a stencil out of cardboard and drew cities using newspaper. We used dark colours to create the cities on the newspaper then we cut them out and glued them on cartridge paper. For the background we used cool colours for the sky and hills and warm colours for the sun. Once everything was glued down we put them up on the wall in the classroom.

*Llexis Trembath and Jarsharn Singh*

### **ROOM 15**

We have been learning about what the Earth looks like inside. There is a crust, mantle, outer core and inner core. The mantle is liquid rock. We did an experiment in class about convection currents using a tea bag, glass and some hot water. The way it moves is how the mantle moves too. When the cooler mantle is at the top it sinks down again towards the core which is very, very hot. It was fun learning about what is in the Earth.

*Chelsea Tan & Joana Malewa*

### **ROOM 17**

Room seventeen had a question. What would our planet be like if it was made out of goo? To find out we made our own planets out of goo. It was so much fun! We used 'The Thinking Hats' to think about what life would be like on the planets we had created. Each of us drew a picture of our planet – now we are doing some imaginative writing about life on Planet Goo. What a busy month it has been!

### **ROOM 19**

What a busy term we have had. We have worked hard but had some treats along the way. Mrs Sowden always says "Effort brings reward" and that is why almost every Thursday if we have completed all our tasks to our very best we are able to cook. Last week we made banana chocolate chip muffins, but we have also made pizza and scones and rice bubble crackles. When we cook we are also learning about measurement and time too.

We are now learning some Russian words and phrases because we have a new boy in our class. Sasha comes from St Petersburg in Russia. Did you know that Russia has a different alphabet from the English one? Dosvedanya (Good bye).

### **ROOM 21**

We have been learning about how the moon doesn't actually change shape. We have been learning how the sun reflects off the moon and the light we see changes as the moon orbits the Earth. We have also learnt that the seven bright stars of Matariki are called; Matariki, Tupu-a-nuku, Tupuarangi, Waiti, Waita, Waipuna-a-rangi and Ururangi. Matariki is the Maori New Year and is a time for growth and change. So happy New Year to all and have a safe, fun-packed holiday. *Nathan and Melody*

### **ROOM 23**

We have had seven new children arrive in Room 23 and they are settling in well. The new topic is Our Place in Space and we have been learning all about the sun. We now know that the sun is a giant star of burning hot gas. The two types of gas are hydrogen and helium. After the holidays we will be learning about day and night. We are also enjoying learning a variety of folk dances such as "Yesh, Yesh, Yesh" and "Follow my Leader."



### **DUFFY NEWS**

This has been a busy term for Duffy Books. On 8 June, Anna, James and Lauie from The Duffy Theatre performed their 2012 show, 'Duffy and the Best Book in the World'. As always, the show was energetic, interactive

and entertaining while reinforcing the Duffy message – “It’s cool to read and it’s cool to achieve.” On 27 June classes buddied up to listen to guest readers share favourite books and to give out books sponsored by the Government to mark Government Book Week.

A special thanks go to the guest readers from our staff and from the Manurewa Parenting Hub for giving their time and energy to make this another successful Duffy experience for our students.

*Barbara Brodien, Duffy Co-ordinator*

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Have fun at Snowplanet this July school holidays! Snowplanet offers unique winter wonderland experience and only 20 minutes north of the bridge, making for a wonderful school holiday destination. The very popular kids’ school holiday programmes come with a 2 hour ski or snowboard group lesson (beginners to advanced) each day, rental equipment, a graduation meal on the last day, a Snowplanet certificate of achievement plus a huge amount of fun! For enquiries or bookings contact Snowplanet or 09 4270044 or email [rachel@snowplanet.co.nz](mailto:rachel@snowplanet.co.nz) Visit Snowplanet’s website [www.snowplanet.co.nz](http://www.snowplanet.co.nz)

### **PUBLIC CAN BE ASSURED NZ EDUCATION SYSTEM IS HIGH PERFORMING**

“NZ parents should be assured that our education system is high performing” according to Dr Peter Lind, the Director of the New Zealand Teachers’ Council. The latest OECD report (2012): OECD Reviews of Evaluation and Assessment in Education; New Zealand has confirmed this view.

Emeritus Professor Warwick Elley was reported recently as saying, “The reason it should provide us assurance is because the authors of this report are top experts from other OECD countries... Using a set of rich data, they are able to provide an independent, comparative perspective and are ideally placed to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the New Zealand education system.”

This view is confirmed by our rankings on The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). It is a worldwide study by the OCED of 15 year old school pupils’ scholastic performance on mathematics,

science, and reading. New Zealand consistently scores in the top half dozen OECD countries, even though, according to the evidence gathered by the OECD, we spend far less per student than nearly all of the other 34 OECD nations.

The great majority of our students are repeatedly up with the best in the world. In the survey, New Zealand students were ranked fourth in reading literacy, fourth in scientific literacy and seventh in mathematical literacy.

“It is not easy to maintain these rankings and New Zealand has consistently maintained its overall ranking on these measures since they were first introduced in 2000.” said Dr Lind.

Three examples illustrate the significance of New Zealand’s achievement. Australia has recorded a significant decline since 2000 on all the skills measured. England has slipped from seventh in 2000 to 25<sup>th</sup> in reading, eighth to 28<sup>th</sup> in maths and fourth to 16<sup>th</sup> in science. The United States only rates around the average of all OECD countries.

“This reflects very favourably on the quality of New Zealand teachers.”

However, it is true that the latest PISA survey still shows a wide dispersion of scores among New Zealand students.

“Lifting the performance of those New Zealand students that are underachieving must be a priority for our education system, but without allowing the slippage in our overall rankings as has recently occurred in Australia.”

“To achieve this requires a strong commitment from the teaching profession and the Government in partnership. There are no silver bullets and a focus on a single variable will not achieve the goal intended. It will require dialogue and detailed consideration of any initiatives proposed.” said Dr Lind.