

# NEWSLETTER NO. 3 - TERM 4

## 11 NOVEMBER 2009

### Dear Parents/Caregivers

Thank you for a wonderful turn out last Thursday to our Pet Show. We were very lucky with the weather and managed to get all our pets home safely before the weather changed.

The past fortnight has seen a focus on 'National Standards' which are being forced quickly upon our Schools. Many educators share very great concerns about the concept and implementation of these into our schools as they presently stand. We already have 'standards' or 'benchmarks' in schools which measure children nationally against their peers. As a parent, you have the right to know where your child is in whatever subject or field in relation to these benchmarks. The concern of the sector is that we are going to be given tests that teachers will end up teaching. This is a completely contrasting philosophy to the wonderful new curriculum that we have been implementing over the past two years. This curriculum aims to lift student achievement and engagement by providing a wide range of experiences, not just a narrow focus on Writing, Reading and Maths. These subjects will always be at the forefront of teaching in all schools with our strong desire and goals to always have children competent in these subject areas. We live in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and it is paramount that we must teach children a variety of methods to help them achieve knowledge and skills in our ever changing environment to succeed in being well rounded citizens.

Wendy Ryan  
Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES

**13 Nov:** Teachers' Only Day  
**16 Nov:** Last Day for School Photo Orders  
**20 Nov:** Calendar Orders due at School Office  
**23-27 Nov:** Y8 Deep Cove Camp  
**24 Nov:** Raffle Tickets back to School Office  
**1 Dec:** Support Group Christmas Raffle Drawn  
**9-10 Dec:** School Production  
**15 Dec:** Term 4 Ends  
**2 Feb:** Term 1 starts for 2010

### PET SHOW

Last Thursday, 5 November, our Annual Pet Show was held. It was a very successful day and it was great to see so many children bring their pets along.

Many thanks to the parents who came to support their children and also to Mrs Doherty and the Judges.



### TEACHER ONLY DAY

School will be closed for instruction this Friday 13 November. This day has been given to Staff by the Government, to undertake professional development to help them implement the new changes to the Curriculum for 2010.

Thank you for providing alternative arrangements for your children on this day. We appreciate this as we know it is a very busy time of the year.

### BLACK STICKS

Today Ascot School pupils were lucky enough to have 4 members of the New Zealand Mens' Hockey Team visit our School. They are in town playing for the chance to win this Tournament and therefore qualify for the World Cup. Ascot Hockey players were lucky enough to experience a skills training session. The Black Sticks next big game is at 6.00pm tomorrow night against China at Turnbull Thompson Park.

**'Go the Black Sticks'**

# SCHOOL NOTICES

## SERVICE AWARDS

To acknowledge all those students who go the extra mile and show great responsibility around the school:

**Amber Hewlett - For being a great role model in the classroom and playground and having a great attitude.**  
**Joshua Ngahiwi - For being a great Room 7 class member.**

We want to celebrate your fantastic children. Thanks.

Rae Maher

## STUDENTS SECTION

### Room 4's Soft Chicken

Two weeks ago some beautiful chickens came into our classroom for an adventure – they loved it! They were only one day old. and they ate mash. We were reading a story in the class about chicks hatching from eggs. We named them Lucky and Lonely and they were the softest things, ever.

They couldn't walk properly yet. The next day they went to Otatara School but the next day they came back.

Room 7 came to see them and go

We had fun playing with the chicks and caring for them.

By Tamati Taylor-Taia

## HALLOWEEN

Witches, Ghosts, Devils and other scary things haunted Ascot School's Hall for the party of their life.

On 30 October Ascot School held a spooky Halloween Disco where everyone got to dress up and dance. Everyone looked amazingly spooky, soo... spooky that you couldn't tell who was who. Well done to the best-dressed boy and girl - Oteana and Ben.

The music was great and funky. Everyone danced for ages and not many wanted to leave. We all had fun. Thanks for everyone who came and helped support the Ascot School Disco.

By Danielle Tait & Morgan Peretini

## SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

As the year is nearly ended, we need to follow up on all unpaid accounts. We would ask that all accounts are paid by **Tuesday 1 December**.

Thank you to all those people who have paid their accounts already. We really appreciate the large number of people who have paid the Voluntary Donation as this makes a difference to the range of activities and resources we can offer to our students.

Outstanding Accounts will be forwarded to Southern Debt for collection.

## NOTICE FROM PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP CALENDARS

Children have designed their masterpieces now so think about purchasing some for Christmas presents for yourself, Grandparents or Aunts and Uncles. A copy has already been sent home this week with an Order Form. If you wish to purchase a calendar/s please return your order to the School Office with your money (\$10 per Calendar) by Friday 20 November.

## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We are having a Christmas Raffle again this year. Can we please have a donation of a non-perishable item brought into the School Office as soon as possible. All tickets and money for the Christmas Raffle have to be returned to the School Office by Tuesday 24 November so that the Raffle can be drawn on Tuesday 1 December.

## THANK YOU

We have raised a total of \$10,252.00 towards helping the school purchase technology equipment. Many thanks for your support with our fundraising.