



10 June 2010

Dear Parents / Caregivers / Whanau



Here is an update and some reminders as we approach our half way point of the 2010 school year!

Stationery

Some children have lost or broken some of their stationery items. Could you please find out from your child if they need any stationery and send it to school with them clearly named.

9am Bell

Some children have been arriving to school on the 9am bell. We start our learning at 9am so it is really beneficial for children to get to school about 10 minutes before the bell to give themselves time to get organised for their day, catch up with friends and prepare for the first block's learning.

Positive Puberty

We will be starting our unit on Positive Puberty in Week 9. Your child may come home with some material to discuss with you or questions of their own to ask.

Home Learning

Every Friday the children prepare a list of 15 words and 10 basic facts to be learned the following week. The lists are set individually depending on your child's abilities and the words come from the Essential Word Lists, errors from children's own writing and often topic based words. Those are then tested the following Friday and a new list prepared. We'd like them to learn how to spell the words correctly and the meaning of words that are unfamiliar. For some extra ideas, try getting the children to make the words using scrabble letters or magnetic letters for the fridge. You can jumble up the words and get your child to reassemble them correctly or break them up into syllables to emphasize the sounds. Students are also expected to complete a minimum of 15 minutes reading each evening. In total this amounts to 20-30 minutes home learning per night.

I purchased a spelling notebook for each child at the start of the year and they should be bringing them home each day to learn their maths and spelling. If they could please keep their notebook in their school bags after home learning is completed to avoid them forgetting to bring them back to school on Fridays. If your child has lost their notebook a new one can be bought at the office for about \$1.

Food

I notice some of the first bus children eating their morning tea and lunch before school. I am happy for these children to bring their breakfast to school if they don't get time to eat it before they get the bus. They can rinse their bowls in the sink and I can bring in some tea towels.

Baby Formula Tins

If anyone has any empty and spare baby formula tins with lids (e.g. karicare etc) could you please send them to school as I could use about 5 in our classroom.

National Standards Reports

At the end of Week 10 we will be sending home our reports about your child's achievement against the new National Standards. The aim of the National Standards is to raise student achievement so many of the standards are higher than current national norms and achievement levels. To find out more about National Standards you could visit...

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents/YourChild/ProgressAndAchievement/NationalStandards.aspx>

Room 8 students have been fully involved and participating in many activities within the school and cluster. Our class team won the KRSA Young Einstein Competition, plus we received multiple places in the school and KRSA Cross Country. They enthusiastically joined in for Heart Jam and are generally keen and able learners. Room 8 children have amazing spirit and real 'give it a go' attitudes which is awesome to see and obviously a reflection on the supportive environments nurtured in your homes, so thank you from their grateful teacher!

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to pop in for a chat or email me on room8@pyespa.school.nz.

Many thanks for your continued support.
Andrea Peterson

"The best inheritance a parent can give to their children is a few minutes of their time each day."

O. A. Battista

