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5 February 2015

Newsletter No 1

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year at Coatesville School! A very special welcome to all our new students, their families and new staff member Mr Caleb Rosamond in Rm 7. Great to have you all join us at our fabulous school.

I certainly hope the first few days have been an enjoyable and productive one for all students and their families. The atmosphere around school has been wonderful so it has been an excellent start. After many big steps forward and plenty of school successes in 2014, we start this year with a great deal of excitement. Thank you to the staff for the mighty effort they have put in so far. A large portion of the holiday time was spent thinking about, and preparing for, the new school year.

Last week every day involved meetings - staff meetings, syndicate meetings, leadership team meetings and professional development days, along with the other requirements of setting up rooms. It has everyone feeling well prepared for another big year ahead.

#### **'Meet the Teacher' afternoon**

Thursday 19 February 3.15-4.45pm

This is a chance for parents to meet and hear directly from your child's teacher. It gives an opportunity to hear class expectations, routines & any upcoming events.

Syndicate leaders will also be available during this time to talk and answer any questions.

Further details of the afternoon next week.

#### **Court redevelopment project**

Huge thanks to Stephen Williams of Williams Concrete who has redeveloped our court area over the holiday break. Those who have seen the results will appreciate the hard work that has gone into the project, giving us a more attractive, slightly bigger and safer new surface (along with new drainage and reinstated side fencing).

A super job – thank you once again Stephen. We look forward to making the most of the new court.

#### **Bell times**

As shared via email earlier this week, we have made some changes to bell times this year. The start and end of the day are unaffected but our three blocks have been adjusted to maximise learning during the day. Also having a 'brain break' at 10am (where healthy 'brain food' and a drink is encouraged) gives impetus at the right time to get the most out of the morning session.

The feedback from staff so far has been overwhelmingly positive, as they feel there are many benefits to both staff and students. Your feedback is welcome too as we look to evaluate this change. It was well discussed prior to implementation but seeing it in action gives us a chance to measure its success during the first term.

#### **New bell times**

8.55 Bell to start school

9.00 Roll taken

11.00 Morning tea

1.00 Lunch

1.50 End of lunch

3.00 End of school

#### **Swimming pool**

Thank you to David Reid who looked after the school pool over the holidays. It is a big job requiring constant monitoring and maintenance of the whole pool complex. The holiday swimming season was very successful – with plenty of thanks to David for that. Eugene O'Sullivan (our caretaker) has resumed looking after the pool during term time.

#### **Police vetting of school helpers**

The safety of our children is a huge priority for our school. The BOT made the decision that all helpers who worked with children in an unsupervised role are required to be police vetted. This is a simple process (with an easy form to complete) which gives us confidence to ensure the safety of our children. We do want helpers at school – they are highly valued for the help they provide to staff and students. So please do not let this process in any way deter you from helping as a regular helper.

Thank you for a great start to the year – please enjoy the long weekend with your family and we will see everyone ready on Monday for the first full week of the new term!

**Absences** – A reminder that if your child is absent from school we require notification by email to the office or a phone call (leaving a message is fine).

Also please ensure your child is at school before 8.55. It is important that they are ready for learning before school starts. So please make a big effort to beat the bell and set the day up for success.

### Online Stationery/Swimming Payments

A friendly reminder that if you returned your child's form saying you were paying online, please make sure you have actually made the payment. Thanks.

### School Contact Directory

If you have any changes from last year's directory, please notify the school office. The new directory will be printed in Week 4.

### Class Swimming – Helpers Needed

Please refer to the timetable below and make sure your child brings their swimming gear and towel on the appropriate days. *Goggles are also recommended – please name these.*

In order to get the most value out of swimming lessons we need your help. If you can assist please see, email or send a note to your child's class teacher. No pre-schoolers please.

#### Swimming Timetable

		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Blk1	10:30	R8	R10	R6	R7	R7
INTERVAL – 11.00-11:30						
Blk 2	11:30	R7	R9	R8	R8	R5
	12:00	R6	R5	R5	R4	R8
	12:30	R10	R12	R9	R10	R12
LUNCH – 1:00-1:45						
Blk 3	1.50	R3a/2	R3	R12	R3a/2	R6
	2.30	R3	R4	R4	R3	R3a/2

### Keeping Ourselves Safe for Coatesville School

This term we will be teaching from a health programme called *Keeping Ourselves Safe*. This programme is taught alongside our Police Education Officer, Constable Dave Mitchell. Constable Dave will be teaching two lessons in each classroom, one at the beginning and another at the end of the unit. Each classroom teacher is also responsible for teaching a number of lessons.

We believe this in an important series of lessons which are covered across Y0-Y6. To enhance communication within families there may be some homework tasks or discussions and we encourage you to check the bags from Week 4 (23<sup>rd</sup> February) to Week 7 (20<sup>th</sup> March).

**There will be a parents' information session held in the school library on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 2:15. At this session Dave will outline the programme and you will be able to view the resources used.**

For parents who are unable to attend this session or for those who want to find out more, please contact any of the classroom teachers or myself.

*Sheila Helleur Room 5*

[shelleur@coatesville.school.nz](mailto:shelleur@coatesville.school.nz)

### Board of Trustees Vacancy

The Board of Trustees will be holding a by-election next month to fill one vacancy for a parent representative on the Board. The term of office will be for one year from April 2015 until April 2016 when there will be full Board elections for all five parent representatives.

The election will be held on Wednesday 25 March 2015, with nominations closing on Wednesday 25 February. Chrissie Dunn, the Returning Officer, will provide further details next week of what you need to do if you wish to stand for election.

If you would like more information about what is involved in being a parent representative you are welcome to contact Belinda Finlayson, Board Chairperson, on 444 0480 or 021 0557273.

### Mathletics Log Ins

Please remember that your child can still use their 2014 Mathletics login until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Your child's teacher will be giving them their new login on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Sharleen Telford – Maths Co-ordinator*

### Thank You PFA

The PFA have sponsored sun-screen for every class this term. These will be arriving next week.

### PFA AGM

Next Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm in the staffroom.  
Everyone welcome (preschoolers too).

**Winter Soccer** - Please note that this is a club (not a school) sport. If your child is interested in playing please see the community notice below. Most of our children play through the Albany United club.

*Richard Johnson*

Richard Johnson – Principal

**Winter Football (Soccer)** – Registrations are now open for the winter season at our local clubs. Please visit their websites for more information [www.albanyunited.org](http://www.albanyunited.org) and [www.ecbaafc.co.nz](http://www.ecbaafc.co.nz) Register early to have the best chance of being in a team with your schoolmates.

### Marrzipan Drama

We run awesome drama classes which focus on key life skills in the Library/Music Room, Thursday straight after school. We play fun engaging games and perform at the end of term once to parents and once to the school. Give me a call to come along for a free trial, or just a chat to discuss how our classes can benefit your child's development. Email Zac [zac@marrzipandrama.co.nz](mailto:zac@marrzipandrama.co.nz) or ph 02102373421.