

# Coatesville School Newsletter

“Aim! Strive! Achieve!”

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

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20 March 2018

Newsletter 7



Dear Parents/Caregivers

*Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa*

Dear Parents

## **NZEI meeting this Friday afternoon – children can go home early!**

This Friday afternoon (23 March) half of our teaching staff will be attending an NZEI meeting offsite. This is an official meeting for teachers in the primary teachers' union to attend. Teachers will be hearing about the upcoming collective agreement negotiations taking place with the government.

**School will officially remain open until 3pm but we are suggesting - if at all convenient - you pick your child up early. The lunch bell will go at 12.50pm and children can be picked up from their classroom at that time.**

**If it isn't possible for you to pick them up early that is perfectly fine.**

There will be teaching staff available to supervise the remaining students during the lunchtime and for the rest of the afternoon. **Buses will still run at the normal time.**

*Why are teachers meeting?*

There are some very serious issues needing to be addressed within education.

The number of teachers graduating from tertiary institutions is at dangerously low levels. Combined with the price of housing in the greater Auckland area; the increased compliance and paperwork on top of teaching children; and the difficult conditions in which many teachers have to work (not at Coatesville thankfully!), it makes these negotiations critical for the immediate and long-term health of the teaching profession.

Many, many schools in Auckland are struggling to attract any NZ teachers to positions now. There just aren't any teachers available. If the situation is not rectified it will affect greater numbers of schools and this crisis will escalate.

I am not overstating the issue. It is currently seriously affecting the quality of primary and secondary teaching across Auckland and action must be taken to help the issue now, as well as strengthening our profession for the future.

The government has already signalled support for the teaching profession is high on their priority list.

We will see how negotiations develop!

## **Bells to start the school day!**

We now have a 'new' bell to start off each day!

The **old hand bell will be rung every morning at 8.55am**. This signals the start of the school day. The hand bell lets everyone know that the electronic bell is only 5 minutes away.

We expect students to be at school prior to the hand bell, to make sure they are well prepared to start the day.

Teachers and students must be in class ready to start at 9am when the electronic bell rings. The attendance roll will be taken immediately.

Any student not in class when the electronic bell rings must report directly to the office to record they are late - before going to their classroom.

This new bell system replicates what is done at the end of lunchtime. The 1.45pm hand bell warns students and teachers the afternoon session will start in 5 minutes. It gives students a chance to collect any clothing (to minimise lost property!) and to have a drink and go to the toilet if they haven't already done so.

It has definitely helped everyone get ready for the afternoon learning session and we hope it will help the start of the day – and any lateness – for our students too.

## **Student Wellbeing**

I recently undertook a process which involved surveying students to obtain meaningful data around student wellbeing. The survey focused on their 'happiness' in the classroom and in the playground, and asked for feedback regarding conditions that help/don't help wellbeing, and ideas for strengthening 'happiness' across the school.

Teachers in Rms 1-4 & 13 completed the survey online with their students.

Other classes completed them as focused group discussions.

Overall the results showed very high levels 'happiness' across the school.

### **Classroom survey results**

95% of students rated themselves 'Feeling happy' to 'Extremely happy'

75% of students rated themselves 'Very happy' to 'Extremely happy'

### **Playground survey results**

92% of students rated themselves 'Feeling happy' to 'Extremely happy'

75% of students rated themselves 'Very happy' to 'Extremely happy'

I feel the students engaged openly and honestly with this survey and demonstrated their happiness levels are high. But they were also quite clear regarding the issues – seemingly the same issues the staff are aware of.

These are primarily focused around established friendship groups and their changing group dynamics or involve students on the edge of these groups.

Incidents beyond these friendship issues are rare but we have an awareness they happen and a real commitment to ensuring they are dealt with quickly and effectively.

### ***Where to next?***

Our next steps are to engage students in understanding the main aspects of feedback from the surveys.

The students will then be involved in constructing 'student led' solutions which aim to support the achievement of even higher results of student wellbeing.

These solutions, once ratified by staff, will be promoted widely, and will be monitored in an ongoing manner by both staff and students.

Staff will also follow-up with the few individual students (if they haven't already done so) who shared low levels of happiness. These students will need to be supported and monitored for the short-term and if no change is forthcoming then further talks with leaders and parents may be required.

It has been a very worthwhile process – one which ERO also were very interested in. The next steps will be fascinating, as we see what level of empowerment we can generate from students - to support each other to achieve the target of having the 'best' environment possible for student wellbeing!

I feel this is a process we should continue to undertake twice per year.

## **School Swimming Sports**

We had a fantastic day last Tuesday at our school swimming sports.

The bad weather cleared and our 7 to 10 year olds swam their heats to select the finalists for the Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke. Later in the afternoon the Medley's and class relays were hotly contested.

At the end of the day when I asked, "Who thought they swam the absolute best they could?" almost every child put their hand up. So fantastic effort and well done to all. A full list of results is available on the school website under the Latest School News tab.

Thank you very much to the parents who helped set up the pool and were timekeepers during the day. We really appreciate you giving your time to make the day successful for the children.

Group Champion Certificates were awarded as follows:

7 year old boys	Charles Bensley	7 year old girls	Sonya Kulko
Junior boys	Theo Hoban	Junior girls	Ariane Dawson
Intermediate boys	Jackson Ling	Intermediate girls	May Peng
Senior boys	Kyle Windust	Senior girls	Elsa Aitken

**Mark van Dam**, Sports Co-Ordinator, Coatesville School



### **PIZZA DAY - Next Monday (26 March)**

An order form will go home with each child this Friday.

Please fill out **ONE form per child** and give to the classroom teacher on Monday before 9.00am.

Remember – there will be no Sausage Sizzle on Monday 26 March.

## ICAS exams: Year 4-6 students

ICAS is an academic competition that is offered as an extension opportunity for our students who are excelling in literacy, mathematics and science. ICAS requires a high level of commitment from families as students are expected to prepare for the exams at home. The school will support them by providing copies of previous exams that they can work on at home, as well as some short sessions on how to approach the exam questions. If your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6, is excelling in science, mathematics, reading or spelling and they can commit to putting in the time and effort needed to practice at home, then register for ICAS today!

Please click the [ICAS exams 2018](#) link to the website NOW for more information.

If you are interested, please make sure you **sign up and pay for the 2018 exams by Friday 6 April.**

## Coatesville Competencies Writing Competition

Congratulations to **Kees Thorburn** (room 9) whose story about how the kiwi taught the robin to be prepared has been chosen as this fortnight's winning story. Check out our [competency blog](#) to read Kees's story. Thank you to everyone who entered this fortnight, your stories were all fantastic! We look forward to announcing next fortnights winner based on stories around 'Respect - Listen'.

## E- Award

At assembly, the E-award monitors, Ruby and Lucy, commented that many classes got high scores for their recycle bins this week. This week's awards went to

1<sup>st</sup> Room 13

2<sup>nd</sup> Room 9

3<sup>rd</sup> Rooms 4 & 12

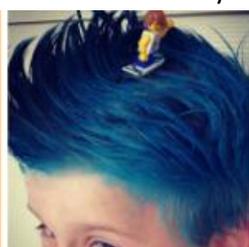


## Glenmore Road Walking School Bus

The walking school bus is up and running! Four Glenmore Road families joined last week! It starts at the driveway of number 76/78 Glenmore at 8.20am and is at the intersection with the highway by 8.40 ish. Then through the pony club field. Once we have an idea of numbers and regular attendance we can think about a parent roster for walking with the group. If you would like to join and/or ask any further questions, please contact Frances Farmer on [francesfarmer10@hotmail.com](mailto:francesfarmer10@hotmail.com)

## Scholastic Book orders

The second Scholastic Book Order pamphlet for this term went home with your child yesterday. If you wish to place an order, please complete the [on-line order form](#) by following the prompts at: [mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz](http://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz). by **9 am Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March**. Orders are on-line only please do not send any money or forms to school - thank you.



*Ka kite ano. Hei konā mai.*

*Richard Johnson*

Richard Johnson – Principal

Friday 25th  
March  
Bring a Gold  
Coin Donation  
for Leukaemia  
and Blood  
Cancer NZ



Student  
Leaders will be  
judging the  
best crazy hair  
in each class!



## **From JACE & FOTS (Friends Of The School):**

The FOTS Annual General Meeting has concluded once again and we look forward to another year of fun and fund raising. We have some changes to the team this year with myself and Anna continuing as Chair and Treasurer for a second year, but we welcome Roslyn Sentch as Secretary and in what is a new position for us as Deputy Chair it is great to have Julie Wall step up to help me and the rest of us with some of the work load and completes the management committee.

Anneke Bodde will step up to handle our media relations and communications in support of Nicki Gibson who again steers up website and social media. We also have set up a new role of Class Rep Coordinator to probably the happiest person I know Alanah Dando. Each monthly meeting, we will decide what messages need to be delivered to the families and Alanah will facilitate communicating that to the class reps.

In another small change on last year, we will now be holding our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (lock it in) with default at the school staffroom but we will for sure have some gatherings out and about like last year – this will be all communicated via your class rep and Alanah.

2018 events will be a repeat of last year but with some fine tuning to make them even better – yes glow disco and adults Casino night – both big hits from 2017.

Remember we are always needing help in every way possible, so if you're wanting to but not sure how, just please let one of us know - [friendsofcoatesvilleschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcoatesvilleschool@gmail.com).

Jace

## **Community Notices**



### **Can You Help? Easter Egg Collection for Ronald Macdonald House**

Two local mums, Debbie Skillcorn and her friend Clover, who volunteers at Ronald McDonald House, are collecting Easter Eggs for Ronald McDonald House. If you wish to make a donation (of Easter Eggs) meet them at the school carpark this and next Wednesday after school drop off.

### **Child Car Seat Recycling**

Did you know you could now recycle your expired or damaged child car seat? Around 90% of seat materials are recyclable which is great news for the environment and keeping expired car seats out of circulation is good for child safety. SeatSmart accepts any brand of capsule, booster or reversible car seat (no polystyrene boosters) for a small fee of \$10 (RRP). For collection site details, visit [www.SeatSmart.co.nz](http://www.SeatSmart.co.nz). You can also like us on Facebook (SeatSmartNZ).

### **Football Registration**

Forrest Hill Milford United Football Club are still taking registrations for the coming football season. We cater for both girls and boys aged from 5 upwards. You can register now at [www.forresthillaafc.co.nz](http://www.forresthillaafc.co.nz) For all queries please email [fhmjuniors@gmail.co.nz](mailto:fhmjuniors@gmail.co.nz)



**Coatesville ANZAC Day Service – 7am  
Wednesday, 25 April 2018 at the Coatesville  
Settlers Hall**

**HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**  
16TH - 27TH APRIL  
FROM \$64/DAY\*  
10% EARLY BUNNY DISCOUNT

**A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING**

MINECRAFT  
CODING  
ROBOTICS  
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Net Kids