



# RICHMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

7<sup>th</sup> July 2016



2016/21

**THIS WEEK FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK ...**

## THIS WEEKS INTERVIEWS

This week we have held our annual mid-year parent-teacher-child interviews. This is an incredibly important part of the reporting process. At these interviews you received a bullet point written report about how your child is progressing, future goals and ways you can help at home. All part of quality home-school partnership.

Recently there has been media coverage about National Standards and how well certain schools and regions in NZ are performing by comparison to others. Most of this contributes little to the education of an **individual child**.

**I would like to tell you – your individual child matters to us.** We try to do our very best for every child by providing a personalised programme for them. We do this by knowing each one as well as we can and endeavouring to cater for every child's needs. They aren't like 'cans in a factory' or a minute part of a school-wide average – they are all individuals!!

Every child's development in terms of the Key Competencies is ultra-important. Academic progress in terms of *National Standards* is only one aspect of these. Our main aim is for children to leave Richmond School as well-rounded students and citizens.

Some parents have asked 'What specifically are the Key Competencies?' The *New Zealand Curriculum (2008)* identifies the following **five Key Competencies**:

- **Managing self**
- **Relating to others**
- **Participating and contributing**
- **Thinking**
- **Using language, symbols and texts**

## NATIONAL STANDARDS - an explanation

Last night I had an interesting conversation that went like:

**How come our Year 5 child was 'At' the standard last year and yet six months later he is 'Below'?**

Firstly, I assured the parents that *National Standards* are difficult for parents to understand and frustrating for staff to endeavour to explain to parents. We are obliged by government decree to report to parents twice a year on children's progress and state how they are achieving against the *National Standards*.

So at mid-year we have to report against the *National Standards* in Reading, Writing and Maths (for a child at the end of the school year). The issue for schools is the government/Ministry of Education have never determined mid-year *National Standards*. We must report progress against the end-of-year *National Standards* (for Year 4, 5 and 6 and at the end of a child's first, second and third year of schooling).

What makes this a crazy, cumbersome system is that many parents become very confused (and I fully understand the confusion and frustration) about how come their child was 'At' the *standard* the previous December and now 'Below'. **Simply put, they still have six months of education to achieve the next standard.**

We must identify pupils present attainments as being in one of the following four *National Standards* achievement categories. We must only use these – that is, we can't say a child is 'Well Above' or 'Nearly at':

- **Well Below**
- **Below**
- **At**
- **Above**

If your child is presently 'Below' or 'Well Below' the *standard* you will have seen on your child's report the following statement with the important part being **...at the end of Year...**

***"Overall your child is performing 'below' (or whatever is applicable) the National Standard for Reading for a child at the end of Year 5. At the current rate of progress I would expect she/he will be near or at the applicable standard by the end of the year."***

**In summary for the mid-year reports**, I would encourage parents not to place great emphasis on the category that is ticked but focus more on whether the teacher expects your child to achieve the standard by the end of the year if the current progress is maintained.

## REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY

Here's a photo of our regional cross country team who competed on Monday at Saxton Field.

One parent told us "the kids were on their best behavior and their efforts were amazing. Richmond School should be very proud of them". And we are. Well done team.



## HOLIDAYS

This is the last week of term. Have a safe and warm break, and see you all on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

## WAIMEA INTERMEDIATE – Year 6 visit

Dates for year 6's and their parents to note:

- Waimea Intermediate visit to our school – Monday 8 August 9am
- Parent Information Evening at Waimea Intermediate – Thursday 15 September 7pm
- Year 6 enrolment forms to Richmond School Office - by Wednesday 14 September
- Year 6 orientation visit to Waimea Intermediate - Monday 31 October 1.30pm

## NITS

The dreaded nits! They are fairly prevalent in all areas of the school at the moment. One of our parents has offered to help OUTWIT THE NITS

Do you need help tackling head lice? Advice on treatments and help applying them?  
Trimming or cutting hair to make application and treatment easier?  
Contact: Sairin Fisher 0275444809 - qualified hairdresser for 16 years  
Cost for hair cuts & product, advice free

### NETBALL DRAW

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Richmond Cobras – court 2, 9am  
Richmond Thunders - court 12, 9am  
Richmond Lightning Strikes – court 5, 10am  
Richmond Shooting Stars - court 10, 10am

### MINIBALL DRAW

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Richmond Chicks – court 3, 6.30pm  
Richmond Knight Riders – court 2, 4pm  
Richmond Wizards – court 2, 5.30pm  
Richmond Shooting Stars - court 2, 5pm

# COMMUNITY NEWS

These are notices we include on request of the  
**DISCLAIMER**  
following organisations and individuals.

Brought to you by  
Tahurangi  
Community  
Centre

**Nigel Latta**  
The Modern Family  
Survival Guide  
Nelson College  
15th August

Tickets Available from  
The Theatre Royal  
Box Office  
(03) 548 3840  
www.ticketdirect.co.nz

Photo Credit: Jonathan Sisking  
Language may offend some people  
TicketDirect

**Book Fair**  
Saturday 16 July  
9.00am - 12.00noon

- \* Huge Variety of Books
- \* Collectors Items
- \* Children's Books
- \* Jigsaws
- \* Free Magazines
- \* Free Sewing & Knitting Patterns

Come and browse and enjoy a  
delicious morning tea

**Church on the Hill**  
27 Dorset Street, Richmond

**Babyjewels  
Childrens Market**  
\*Kids be a stallholder\*  
Family fun that won't bust the bank

**Stalls Theatre Cafe Minifair**

Every Friday of the school holidays 11am-1pm  
Auckland Point Schoolgrounds  
www.babyjewels.nz

**Thumbelina**  
The Mini Fairy  
21-23  
July 2016  
Theatre Royal Nelson

Based on the Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Tale  
Tickets available from the Theatre Royal 035483840 or TicketDirect

**HOLIDAY PAPER CRAFT CLASS**  
Come and have fun making 2 paper projects  
using Stampin'Up products.  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 1-3pm  
Or Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1-3pm  
\$10  
16 Lammas Street, Richmond  
Email [Createdwithlove745@gmail.com](mailto:Createdwithlove745@gmail.com)  
or 021 116 3351

Starting next term  
**GROUP BEGINNER GUITAR LESSONS**  
Tuesday lunch break at school for Year 3 and  
above  
I am a trained and experienced primary school  
teacher wishing to develop children's musical  
interest in a fun environment.  
Term Price: \$55 per child (based on group of 4)  
To confirm your child's place or for further  
information, call Anna Mollett on 027 3803229.