



From these roots will strong trees grow

# Newmarket School News

## 25th October, 2011

**Tena koutou katoa**  
**Dear Parents/Caregivers**

### Welcome to Term 4

My thanks go to Eileen Dixon and Virginia Kung for being fabulous Acting Principals during my absence on sabbatical. They managed the school very competently and their work was much appreciated by the staff and Board.

At the end of this newsletter I have included some photos and comments on my sabbatical.



Well done the ABs with designer flags

### Fair Go Finalists – Wednesday, 7.30pm, 26<sup>th</sup> October

Congratulations to Rooms 3 and 10. These buddy classes are finalists in the Fair Go 'Cheese Tree' commercial. Their 'brief' was to sell a block of cheese. Room 3 had the majority of the acting roles while Room 10 had the 'behind the scenes' jobs, such as producer, director, editor, music composer and a dog wrangler.

The production brief asked for a creative way to sell a block of cheese so Room 10 decided that a garden gnome searching for cheese that grows on trees was a novel way to meet that requirement!



### Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Newmarket School Board is 6.30 pm Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. All welcome.

Board meetings are held in the staffroom.

### PSG Meeting

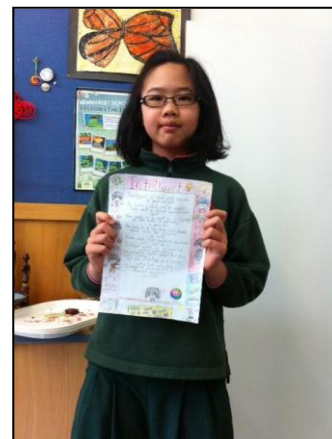
The next meeting of the PSG is Monday 31 October, 7.30pm in the school staffroom. All welcome. The PSG have scarves on sale on sale at \$10 each while stocks last. Buy now for next winter.

### Term 4 Donation

For those parents who pay the donation per term a reminder that Term 4 Donation of \$100 is now due.

## Key Dates to Note this Term

- 1 Nov - APPA Choir Rehearsal 11am – 2 pm, Northcote College
- 3 Nov - School Athletics Day, Mt Smart Stadium 9.15 – 2pm (help needed)
- 4 Nov - Green Gold Awards Presentation Day (all day)
- 7 Nov - APPA Choir Rehearsal 9.15am – 1 pm, Town Hall
- 8 Nov - APPA Choir Performance 7.30pm, Town Hall
- 9 Nov - Senior Tiri Trip/Beach Clean Up
- 10 Nov - Junior Assembly
- 15 Nov - Marae Trip 9am – 1pm, ANI Y6 Orientation Day
- 17 Nov - Kids for Kids Concert Bruce Mason 9 -1pm, Show 7 – 8.30pm BMT
- 17 Nov - Remuera Lions Junior citizenship Awards 6.15pm, Dilworth School
- 22 Nov - Remuera Zone Athletics (Seniors – all day)
- 27 Nov - PSG Car boot Sale
- 28 Nov - BOT Meeting
- 30 Nov - Senior monitors to Rainbows End (all day)
- 2 Dec - Market Day (mid-morning)
- 5 Dec - PSG Christmas Craft Evening
- 7 Dec - School Prize Giving, 9.30am
- 8 Dec - Reports and Yearbooks home
- 9 Dec - Big Day In, 9am – 1 pm (lots of helpers needed)



## Principal's Sabbatical Report

My ten week sabbatical was provided by the Ministry of Education and the Newmarket Board of Trustees. I thank them most sincerely for supporting this opportunity.

The sabbatical had two purposes, the study of other education systems, and the researching of an area of education relevant to school principals. I was fortunate to attend the Singapore Principals Forum, the International Congress of Principals in Toronto, and the Principals Delegation to China. The trips were supported by Asia New Zealand, the Confucius Institute and the China language institute Hanban. These trips were extremely valuable in developing my knowledge of global education issues, and the study of Asian languages and culture.

My research was focused on investigating the use of student voice in written reporting.

- **Singapore**

The main impression I gained of the Singapore education system was of a highly cohesive and systemic approach to education, one that is striving for greater creativity and innovation. The levels of connectedness across the system were astounding, with the message from all we spoke to the same. The Singapore government has recognised that an 'industrial' rote-learning, education system is no longer appropriate and has set goals to ensure their approach to education will better meet the needs of their 21 century learners. These goals are inclusive of all learners, and also their educators. High levels and standard of professional development were described at all levels of the system.

The Singaporean's I spoke with were all very open about the positives and negatives of their system, and were very keen that our discussions should be collegial and frank. The school visits clearly demonstrated that newer key focuses discussed at a policy level were beginning to be implemented at a practical level.





The relentless focus on high academic achievement was often mentioned by Singaporeans, from educationalists to people on the street, as a negative aspect of their educational system. However, while most people understood the reasons and need for change,



educationalists were still finding it hard to shift the long held values of Singaporean society. In many respects Singapore classroom programmes appeared still driven by their exam system, although outside the classrooms doors the arts were celebrated ranging from hip-hop dancing, clubs, to formal choral performances.

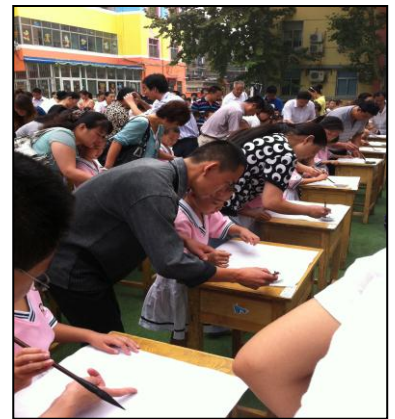
• **Toronto**

The themes of the International Congress of Principals included leading student achievement, strengthening curriculum, and strategies for leadership. This conference was hugely useful for me in thinking about where to next for schooling improvement. There is much New Zealand education does well but there is also room for improvement.

• **China**

The 2011 Confucius Institute New Zealand Principal’s Delegation to China visited Beijing, Jinan, Qufu and Shanghai. The programme encompassed a broad range of activities including school and university visits, meetings with New Zealand and Chinese government representatives and visits to sites of cultural significance.

The objective of the visit was to gain firsthand experience of Chinese culture and contemporary Chinese society. The delegation included twelve New Zealand Principals from primary and secondary schools around the country. It was an eye-opening experience for this principal.



One highlight was being at a school for the special welcome ceremony for new entrants where the new students all painted a letter with the help of their very proud parents.

With kind regards  
Wendy Kofoed  
Principal

