

Glen Eden School Newsletter

'Growing inquisitive minds'
'Whakatupuria ana te hinenqaro tuhura'

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Week 6

Tuesday 29th May 2012

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 31 May	FOGs meeting 2:15
Friday 1 June	Assembly R 6
Monday 4 June	Queen's Birthday NO SCHOOL
Friday 8 June	Interschool Rugby
Friday 8 June	Assembly R 9
Monday 11 June	Kiwi team- The Museum
Thursday 14 June	School Socials
Friday 15 June	Assembly R 7
Monday 18 June	Tui team - Zoo
Thursday 21 June	Home/School Partnership Meeting @ 3:15
Friday 22 June	Assembly R 14
Friday 22 June	Interschool Gymnastics
Monday 25 June	BOT Meeting 6:30pm
Wednesday 27 June	Interschool Gymnastics
Friday 29 June	Assembly R 10
Friday 29 June	Last day of Term 2
Monday 16 July	First day of Term 3

Welcome to Carter, Charles, Taylah-Jane, Skye and Tristan.

Riya in Room 9 has been studying the water cycle and this is her report: *The water cycle is really important to life. This is how it works. Firstly the water in the sea evaporates. Next the water cools down and rains down on earth. Then the rain water on the mountain goes down into the sea. If we didn't have water then we would die. If the water cycle didn't exist then plants would not grow and we would go hungry. That is why the water cycle is so important.*

Thank you to Heather Dellow and her team who ran the Home School partnership meeting last Thursday afternoon. The topic was Oral Language and we had lots of fun with the various games and activities presented by the staff. Our next Home School partnership meeting will be held on 21st June and will have a Maths focus.

There will be a FOGs meeting in the staffroom on Thursday afternoon this week. We will be organizing the school socials which are planned for Thursday 14th June.

If you have a child who is turning five this year, please ask at the office for an enrolment pack. We have school visits on Wonderful Wednesdays from 2pm - 3pm and suggest 5 sessions before they start school.

Please see over a message from the Principals Federation regarding the budget announcements.

Linda Mayow
Principal

Is your child interested in cheerleading? One of our parents has offered to coach a team to enter into a Cheerleading competition on Sunday the 12th of August.

Your child will need to attend 1 practice per week this term and then be ready to train 3 lunchtimes per week in Term 3. In Term 3 the team will be coached for 3 lunchtimes by a specialist coach.

The competition costs \$30 per child. Please fill in the slip below if you would like your child to be in the team.

My child _____ of Room _____ is interested in being a part of the team. I will pay \$30 at the beginning of next term and will make sure my child is available to compete on Sunday the 12th of August.

Name _____

Phone _____

A message from the Principals Federation: The Budget just announced has left principals and parents deeply disturbed by the direction in which the government is taking education. When you put the reforms together as a whole, it is clear that our high quality public schooling system and community controlled, self-management model is being undermined:

- *Our rich broad curriculum is being narrowed and replaced by an over-emphasis on assessment and the 3Rs*
- *Class sizes will be increased*
- *There will be fewer teachers and they will have heavier workloads*
- *Learning support programmes will be compromised including special needs and gifted and talented*
- *Years 7 & 8 specialist teaching is under threat*

The current Budget announcements have come directly out of the Treasury and are about saving money, not about improving or even maintaining our education standards.

The Kiwi way of educating has been very successful. You as parents see this every day and we can see it by our international achievement results. Kiwis rank right up there in the top group of countries in the world, even though we rank lower than most when it comes to government investment in education. We have locally controlled, self-managed schools so that we can be more responsive to individual needs; we are inclusive and accommodate a variety of children with special needs into our mainstream classes; we also accommodate children for whom English is a second language; we are innovative, and provide a rich and diverse curriculum co-constructed by our school professionals and our local communities. Our standards are high and our expectations of children are high. Our teachers work very hard to provide the very best education they possibly can.

The government is telling us that the increase in class size is a trade-off for increased quality teaching. We do not agree there should be a trade-off. And many of you as parents instinctively do not agree. No matter how great your classroom teacher is children are not going to get the attention they need in bigger classes than we have now. Each child will get less teacher time and there will be less flexibility and resource to respond to priority learning needs. The very children who the government wants us to prioritise are the very children who need small class and group instruction.

Principals and parents want the same thing for children. We want an innovative, personalised, 21st century learning programme. We want a high quality teaching force delivering a broad, rich curriculum that reflects the values of our communities. This Budget puts money ahead of these ambitions for our children's future.

We urge you to take any opportunity to voice your opposition to increasing class sizes.

If you wish, you can email the Minister directly with your views on:

hekia.parata@parliament.govt.nz