



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S CHAIR

NEWSLETTER: 22.6.17

Thank you to all of you who took part in the communication survey.

It was a useful exercise and we had 27 of our 49 families who responded to the survey. Some of the interesting results were that 85% of the people that responded have regular cellphone coverage. This supported another of the results which was that families prefer to get their communication about school from emails (96%), texts (93%) and paper notes (74%). This was very helpful in getting us to think better about how to get messages out to the school community.

We also found that only 14% of the respondents access the class weeblys frequently. This was supported by 74% of respondents who thought that the Class Dojo would be an effective way to communicate their child's learning. The teachers have decided that we will discontinue the use of the class weeblys in favour of the Class Dojo. If you would like more about Class Dojo you can speak directly to your child's teacher or attend the sessions on Class Dojo at the cybersafety evening next Wednesday.

The comments that were made by people were helpful as well and included ideas such as sending out a text when paper notes are sent out, putting the school newsletter on facebook as well as the school website and by email, ensuring that we don't send emails after 9pm and asking us to become more consistent with our communication. We appreciate these and will be working to attend to the issues raised.

The survey is now closed but if you would like to let us know anything about our communication we would still like to hear about it.

Sean Wansbrough

Principal

Assembly

Assembly is next Friday at 2.15 in Te Kiekie. This will be Friday 30th of June.

Cyber Awareness Evening Wednesday 28th June at 5.30pm

We are all aware that being online is becoming more and more part of our everyday lives. On the movie night we will be holding a cyber awareness evening for parents to give you more information about digital devices and online safety.

Robin Johnstone from Networks, Firewalls and PCs in Ashburton will give a talk about ways you can be more cyber aware at home. He will also bring a selection of devices along and you can discuss with him any of the requirements you have for these.

There will then be three sessions on Class Dojo, Hapara and the Parent Portal. You can opt into these sessions after Robins talk. We will run each session twice to allow you to access the information about each.

These sessions will begin at 5.30 to coincide with the movies.

Rata Room Movie Fundraiser Wednesday 28th June at 5.25pm

Ruby, Bronte, Iulia and Kyla have organised a movie fundraiser for the senior camp. They will be playing 2 movies. They are the Bee Movie and the Goosebumps movie. One is more for the junior school and the other is more for the senior school. The movies will begin at 5.25 in two of the classrooms. The girls have organised popcorn and baking to be sold prior to the screening. Any unsold baking will be available at school on Thursday.

Year 4 and up require a permission slip to watch the Goosebumps movie.

Harakeke News By Madi Holgate.

Interesting things have been happening in Harakeke lately.

Monty said “ We have been doing some maths in class, my favourite maths game is skoolbo which we do on the computers. I do multiplication and addition, some of the questions are quite hard. I really enjoy maths”.

Noah commented by saying “ We have been doing some reading where I read a book with Miss Gaskin and it was about tadpoles turning into frogs. I really enjoy doing reading because we do reading sheets and I get a lot of time to work on them, plus they are really fun!”

Charlie replied with “We did some writing where we get to talk to a buddy about what we did in the weekend and then we write about what our buddies did, we also do paper scissors rock to see who goes first which I really enjoy”



Leo agreed with Monty and says that “ We have been using Skoolbo on the computers”. Leo also says “We did some maths on 1/2s, I really enjoy maths because we don’t have to work it out in our heads Miss Gaskin says we can use materials”. Leo knows that in the next couple of days Harakeke are going to be learning about keeping safe.

Peyton noted that “ We have been doing some reading. We also get to do literacy stations where we do pen pal writing, reading eggs, skoolbo, stencils and reading with Miss Gaskin. My favourite literacy station is writing to our pen pals because my penpal is Etta and I like writing to her.”

Peyton has learnt that you need to read fluently and she says she is nearly there! Peyton tells me that tomorrow they are starting a new shared book for the class and she isn't sure what it is yet.

Miss Gaskin explained, "In Harakeke we have been learning about fractions and position and orientation. We have started learning to type as well as handwriting and we are starting a unit about keeping ourselves safe. I learnt about stick insects as that was our shared book. We are going to be doing some writing in the next couple of days on what we learnt about stick insects and a reading group are designing a board game on the 3 billy goats. We are going to learn about $\frac{1}{3}$ s in fractions and shapes of sets."

Thank you Harakeke for letting me interview you, you shared a whole load of things you learnt with me!!

Bible in Schools

We have been offered the opportunity for any children who would like to participate in the Bible in Schools programme for once a week over a 6 week period. This will be for half an hour. At present we are unsure which day as it will depend on the number of children and the availability of bible teachers.

It will likely be in Term 3. It would be during a lunchtime in order for it to have as little impact on the classroom learning as possible.

Could you please email Sean by 29th of June at principal@mtss.school.nz if you would like your child to opt in to this programme.

This Week in Kowhai by Emily Greer

On the 19th of June 2017, I have been talking to 5 students from Kowhai room about their week.

Today one reading group are reading Cakes, Biscuits and Pancakes. They are also doing a paper mache waka huia. "I have a pink balloon because they don't pop," said Jack. Once they have done a few more layers, they will paint the waka huia brown.

"Mrs Ashton has already painted hers brown," says Emily.

Once they are all done Kowhai will be showing them at assembly.

Big Thanks to Zoey, Jack, Sylvie, Blake, Emily.

Bye, see you all in two weeks.

Beech Room Report by Abby Lowe

On week seven Beech room learned about the Matariki for their learning. For many Maori it heralds the start of a new year. Matariki is normally celebrated by planting new trees or crops but for beech room they made kites and flax flowers.





“Matariki means a big cluster of stars which comes out late May or early June,” Commented Ella. “For Matariki it means the seven sisters and one of them is Matariki.” Grace told me. “When we made the flax flowers it was really fiddly but quite fun. I liked when we put it together with fish mobiles. When we were making the kites we had to use a strategy where we had to tie not glue”.

Thank you beech for letting me into your classroom, and thanks Grace and Ella for teaching me a lot about Matariki some of the facts you taught me were really interesting.

R and R Donation

You may have noticed the advertisement in our newsletter for R and R Precision Fertilisers. We would like to thank Ron and Ben from R and R for their \$1500 donation to the school.

School Photos

Orders for photos are due back to the school office tomorrow. Thanks you.

Winter Options

A reminder that Winter Options forms are due back tomorrow (Friday 23rd June). Teachers will confirm which option your child has been placed in (first or second choice) next week.

Library News

Our school library is now CLOSED until the beginning of Term 3 while we go through a change in software programmes. Please return all books ASAP to your child's classroom.

Former Mt Somers and Springburn Students

This is part of an occasional series of articles written by the Year 7 and 8 Media Team about old boys and old girls from the schools that make up Mt Somers Springburn School. This week Abby and Madi have interviewed two former students.

Nicola Grigg Interview By Madi Holgate

Last week I was fortunate enough to send Nicola Grigg, who is press secretary for Bill English (I know, right, I got to interview someone who works with Bill English!), an email asking her a few questions on what it was like being at Mount Somers School. Down below you will find the questions I asked and the answers she gave.

When did you attend Mt Somers School? I think it was about 1985-1991.

Who else was at school with you? The families and the friends I remember best - and who are still around - would include the Acland boys, the Morrow girls, the Humms and the Stanleys.

Are there any teachers you remember well? Lesley Millar was my favourite teacher but I do remember Mr Maffie and Ms Palmer.

What one special moment do you remember from your time at school? Pet shows and flower shows were always a highlight, riding our ponies from Surrey Hills across the Ashburton River bridge and through the village was always a little precarious...

How did things you learnt at our school impact your life? As much as academic lessons, the learnings I think I took from growing up in a small village and a rural community have set me in a good stead for my professional career. I love coming home to see people I've known my whole life - not just those I went to school with - who are interested, caring and grounding in equal measure. Mt Somers is a spectacular place that I am proud to call home.

What have you achieved in your life after leaving school? I have travelled the world, lived abroad, worked in all sorts of fascinating places and have learnt a lot.

What advice would you give to the school children now? Never stop listening and learning, believe in yourself and your instincts, and enjoy every moment of it!

Thank you so much Nicola for letting me interview you I am really glad that you answered my questions. You have definitely taught me a couple of new things about what I should do at school to become a better person like always listening and learning and to believe in yourself and your instincts.

An Interview with Mandy Casey By Abby Lowe

On the 7th of June I was fortunate enough to catch up with a former student of Springburn School Mandy Casey who works as a health promoter for the Cancer Society.

Mandy started at Springburn School when she was five and left in Year Eight.

When I caught up with Mandy she told me that the school only had about fifty students. She told me all of her favourite memories including sports day where she enjoyed her packed lunches made from her mum.

Mandy and I talked about her favourite teachers for when she was at school who were Mr Porteous who had kids at the school and was such a community man and Miss Ward-Smith who was such a nice teacher.

Thank you Mandy for giving me your time to ask you some questions.



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Cindy - 0210432 774



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How exciting we are having a session at night. It is Matariki and we are coming together to enjoy and celebrate it. Tuesday night 27th June from 5 pm till 7 pm.

We will have some sausages and hot chips (\$3.50 per scoop) for tea. Hot Chips will have to be pre-ordered so if you would like to join us please let me know before Monday. This is a great opportunity for families to have some special family time with friends.



Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It rises in mid-winter. For many Māori, it heralds the start of a new year. Matariki literally means the 'eyes of god'.

For more information or to order please contact:
Cindy - 021 0432 774

Calf Rearer Required

We are looking for someone to join our fabulous fun team calf rearing for approx. 2 months from August 1st.

No previous experience required but must have a can do attitude, love animals and have lots of patience.

8 kms from Mt Somers.

Please phone
Chrissie Wright 303 9004

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YEAR 7/8 PRESENT**

**THE
COURT
THEATRE**

**SCARED
SCRIPTLESS**

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JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY

WHAT'S ON WEEK 1 - 10TH JULY TO 14TH JULY
ALLENTON SCHOOL HALL - 110 HARRISON ST

M 10TH JUL

SLIME Slime slime


Get messy with us making slime... Customise your own slime and enjoy experimenting with slime that changes colour, is magnetic, fluffy, galaxy and so much more...



T 11TH JUL

Fidget Mania

Fidget spinners have invaded HitPlay HQ - come make your own to take home including edible spinners... Join in the challenges and activities in the Fidget School.



W 12TH JUL

Suds & Bubbles


Science & craft combine to create a wonderland of sensory play. Come slip & slide with us... From unbreakable bubbles to jelly soaps and more.



TH 13TH JUL

Minecraft Mania

Help Steve round up all the creatures, avoid TNT and watch out for those pesky Creepers! Come join the fun and games there is even baking too.



F 14TH JUL

Mid-Winter Christmas

We are 1/2 way through 2017 and who really needs an excuse to party! Come join the fun!



For information including times, price and activity details please login to AIMY
P 03 423 2270 - E info@hitplay.co.nz

**5-9
Years**


**hit
play**

WHAT'S ON WEEK 2 - 17TH JULY TO 21TH JULY
ALLENTON SCHOOL HALL - 110 HARRISON ST

M 17TH JUL

Moana & Maui Madness


Join us for an Island Party... Games, craft, activities and more. Make your own Maui Hook, restore the heart of the ocean and more.



T 18TH JUL

Let's Create


It's time to be creative. Bring your imagination for this one and try your hand at a wide variety of activities. So what can you make



W 19TH JUL

Star Wars


Join the resistance and graduate Jedi Training to take on Dark Vader and the Death Star. Make your own light saber, bring to life your own yeti!



TH 20TH JUL

Balloon Wizards


Balloons, big, small... toys and more. Join the races, create animals and more... We will even be baking with



F 21TH JUL

That Kids Got It!

Perform in your talent show... sing, dance, perform... Help with the stage, music, make up or maybe you want to be a present or judge - Let's celebrate you - sing, laugh and live!



REGISTER ONLINE HITPLAY.CO.NZ

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY

WHAT'S ON WEEK 1 - 10TH JULY TO 14TH JULY
ALLENTON SCHOOL HALL - 110 HARRISON ST

M
10TH
JUL

SLIME Slime slime

Customise your own slime and enjoy experimenting with this wonderful stuff... There is even a edible version to make and play with.



T
11TH
JUL

Fidget Mania

Fidget spinners have invaded HitPlay HQ - come make your own to take home including edible spinners... Join in the challenges and activities in the Fidget School.



W
12TH
JUL

Suds & Bubbles

Science & craft combine to create a wonderland of DIY body butters, whipped soaps, bubble bars and more



TH
13TH
JUL

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Help Steve round up all the creatures, avoid TNT and watch out for those pesky Creepers! Come join the fun and games there is even baking too.



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10+
Years

hit
play

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ALLENTON SCHOOL HALL - 110 HARRISON ST

M
17TH
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Island Party

Join us for an Island Party... Games, craft, activities and more.



T
18TH
JUL

Let's Create

It's time to be creative. Bring your imagination for this one and try your hand at a wide variety of activities. Beading, jewellery, Science and more...



W
19TH
JUL

Star Wars

Storm trekking across the universe, got a wookiee steak for tea... it's a little chewy.... hahaha The force has a sense of humour!



TH
20TH
JUL

POP

Everything has a balloon in it today... from games and activities to hover crafts and baking.... complete challenges and master fun test of skill.



F
21TH
JUL

That Kids Got It!

Set up and run the concession stand! Come have a great time! Preform in our talent show... sing, dance, preform.. Help with the stage, music, make up or maybe you want to present or judge...



REGISTER ONLINE HITPLAY.CO.NZ