

31 March 2011

From the Principal

**Our values for term 1 are PCS:
Polite, Considerate and Sensible**
Our focus is on really good manners.

Dear parents and caregivers

We are loving the early autumn days and appreciating the cooler nights as we move from late summer into autumn. The trees are holding onto their leaves that are rapidly changing colour as there is little wind. We are so fortunate to have such lovely old trees at our school.

Bullying in schools: I am sure that many of you will be following the current news and debate about bullying in schools. Enclosed in this week's newsletter, for your information, is our schools' behaviour policy and student code of conduct. I want to assure you that we take any form of bullying very seriously. We contact parents or caregivers if we have any bullying and ask for their support and we have processes and consequences in place when it happens.

There are students who bully others in all schools. All schools are deeply concerned when it happens. We all find that if children are bullying others, they have in most cases been bullied themselves. We use a range of strategies to manage these students and attempt to change their behaviours. We put a great deal of effort and staffing resource into making sure that the bullying ceases.

We have a whole school approach to stamping out any form of intimidation and as you know we expect all students to be polite, considerate and sensible at all times. Each child has a right to feel safe and supported at our school and we work very hard to make sure that this is the case.

If you have any concerns at all about your child and bullying, please contact us immediately. We can only deal with an issue when we know about it. We have legal responsibility for your children from 8.30am – 3.15pm each day and we are very vigilant about any form of bullying at all times and take immediate action if required. Thank you for your support in these matters. When parents and caregivers are on board with us, we can usually achieve good outcomes for all concerned.

Counties Manukau Sport: I would like to thank CM Sport for the well organised sporting activities that they are initiating in our area. Lincoln Jefferson, the Youth Development Manager, is coordinating a number of wonderful sporting activities for your children and I would like to acknowledge Lincoln. On Tuesday, along with Rick Child from Southern Districts Hockey Association, Lincoln organised a Papatoetoe and Otara schools' hockey tournament. Mixed teams of boys and girls had the privilege of playing a number of games on the amazing hockey turf at the new Papatoetoe Sports complex. Our team did very well and they had a great day, coming 5th overall. Thank you very much to the parents who came along in support and to team coach and hockey specialist, Celia Talbot.



PTA Sausage Sizzle: Special thanks to our PTA parents, Stan Good, Korini Filipo, Paul Ralph, Hellen Park and Christine Hutchby for sharing your culinary skills with us on Tuesday. Once again our wonderful PTA organised a fundraising sausage sizzle and over 400 sausages were sizzled. Many children and staff tucked in, as usual. Thank you for your support and thanks so much to our fantastic PTA team.

All the best for the best of weekends. No doubt many of you will be supporting the Indian cricketers in their quest to win in the finals of the world cup – it has been a wonderful competition, for sure. Whatever your choice of recreation over the weekend, I hope that you all can spend some special time with your special children.

Kind regards
Marilyn Gwilliam
Principal

General Notices

Welcome to our New Students: Papatoetoe Central School welcomes the following new students to our school – Nirav Naidu.

Assembly Day: On Monday, 4 April, Room 6 and the choir will lead our assembly. As always you are most welcome to attend but please make sure that you are seated in the hall by 1.15pm.

Class visits to St Christopher's Residential Home: Tomorrow, Friday, 1 April (weather permitting) at 1.30pm, Room 6 will be visiting St Christopher's Hospital.

Book Club: The book club orders will close on Friday, 1 April 11. Would you please make sure all orders and money are put into a **sealed envelope** and ALL CHEQUES are made out to Papatoetoe Central School, as we send one cheque to pay for our book order. The order and money is to be placed in the money chute outside the side entrance to the office.

School Photos: Enclosed with this newsletter is a prepaid order sheet/envelope with your child's name and room number printed on the bottom. If you want to have your child's photo taken please fill in the envelope with your money enclosed and return it to the school office **no later than 9am, Wednesday 6 April**. Portrait photos will be taken on Wednesday, 6 April and Thursday 7 April and class photos on Thursday, 7 April. Sibling portraits will be taken following the completion of individual photos. Prepaid envelopes are available from the office. We only have photos taken once a year so please make sure you order on time.

Urgent: term 2 enrolments: If your child or if you know of a child that is starting school on the first day of term 2, please make sure you have completed all the enrolment forms by Friday, 8 April.

Term 2 enrolments: If you have or know of any preschoolers who live in the Papatoetoe Central school zone and who will be starting in Term 2, 2011, would you please fill in this form and return it to the school office.

Child's Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Parent name and contact phone number _____

Term Events

Year 6 Disco – Tuesday, 5 April

Class & Portrait Photos – Thursday, 7 April

Last day of term 1 – Friday, 15 April

School Portrait Photos – Wednesday, 6 April

PTA Meeting – Monday 11 April