

NEWSLETTER No. 1 – 2 FEBRUARY 2012

www.oratia.school.nz

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER **Kia ora tatou, talofa, ni hao ma, zdravo, bonjour, buon giorno, guten tag, goeie dag, greetings!**

Welcome back and happy 2012 to everybody. Happy Chinese New Year also and may the Year of the Dragon indeed be an auspicious one. It was lovely to see all the parents and students back on the first day of school yesterday. The smiling faces tell me that everybody had fun relaxing and resting during the last 6 weeks.

The staff and I are looking forward to a great year of learning and achievement. Our first **home-school partnership meeting** takes place next **Tuesday 7th February 2012**. Please see the note below. The first term of this year is promising to be busy. Teachers have planned their programmes and can't wait to get started.

Throughout 2012 we will be focusing very strongly on fostering the home-school partnerships which are so important for student learning and achievement. In order to do this, I have asked teachers to be proactive in their communications with family and whānau and to make greater use of email communication.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly invite you to feel free to stop by and see me if there is anything you would like to discuss. My door is open and I will always make the time to see you. Alternatively you can email me: sherilees@oratia.school.nz or phone on: (09) 818-6216. *Sherilee Swanepoel*

NEW STAFF

It is our pleasure to welcome the following two new staff members to our school. They are Carys Taylor, teacher in Room 18 and our new administration secretary, Michelle Muir. Look out for these two fine folk and make them feel welcome.

HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP INTERVIEWS – 7 February 2012

We are hosting our first home-school partnership interviews for 2012. These interviews will take place next **Tuesday 7th February**. Please think about what your expectations are for your child's learning so that you can share these with the teacher. At this meeting you will have an opportunity to formally tell the teacher all the information that you think would help them meet the learning needs of your child. Yesterday, the information on how to book your meeting time was sent home. Please look out for this. This year we are using an on-line booking service where parents can book their parent-conference times via the internet.

You can make your booking at: <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/>

☞ Enter in the School Event Code: **H4M9X**

☞ Follow the on-screen steps.

'BRAIN FOOD' SNACKS

During each learning block students are given a short break to move or do brain gym and have a small snack. This brain food snack could include the following:

Fruit (fresh or dried) Nuts, seeds Health bars Water or juice
Sandwiches Vegetables

No fizzy drinks please.

SUN SAFETY – HATS

With the lovely hot sunny weather of Term 1 (thinking positive here!), it is important for our students to wear a hat when they are outside during sport, play times or doing PE. Please make sure your child has a wide brimmed hat at school. School hats are on sale at the office for \$14.00.

STARK BROWN PICNIC

This annual event will be held on **Tuesday 14th February** 5.00pm–7.00pm (More details will come home with your child next week).



LUNCHROOM

This year our lunchroom will only be open from **Wednesday to Friday each week**. Our lunchroom opens on **Wednesday 8th February**. The menu has changed. If you would like a copy, please just pop into the school office and pick one up, or find it on our website at: www.oratia.school.nz.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Piano Tuition – Larissa Kuznetsova-McPherson is resuming piano classes with her existing students for 2012. Larissa is a highly qualified registered piano teacher, Master of Music, AIRMT NZ, with over 20 years experience and she provides a stimulating, friendly learning environment for her students. Some additional spaces are available for new enrolments this year. Contact Larissa on 838 3855 or 021 1139813.

TERM 1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 7 th	Meet the Teacher Evening
Wednesday 8 th	Kapa Haka starts
Friday 10 th	Whole School Assembly @2.00pm
Tuesday 14 th	Stark Brown Picnic @ 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Tuesday 21 st	BOT Monthly meeting @7.30pm
Thursday 23 rd	Senior School trip to Hoani Waititi Marae
Thursday 23 rd	Junior School trip to Piha
Friday 24 th	Whole School assembly @2.00pm
Sunday 26 th	Krypton Factor
Wednesday 29 th	Middle School Heritage Trail trip

MARCH

Tuesday 6 th	Year 6 Piha Surf Lifesaving trip
Wednesday 7 th	Swim Zonal competition
Friday 9 th	Whole School Assembly @2.00pm
Tuesday 13 th	Year 5/6 Swimming Carnival
Monday 19 th	Classroom Open Day
Tuesday 20 th	BOT Monthly Meeting @ 7.00pm
Sunday 25 th	Oratia Triathlon
Tuesday 27 th	Softball T/Ball zonal Competition
Thursday 29 th	Softball T/Ball Save Day

APRIL

Tuesday 3 rd	PTA Monthly Meeting @ 7.30pm
Thursday 5 th	Whole School Assembly @ 2.30pm
Thursday 5 th	Last Day of Term 1

After School Child Care

Experienced nanny available for after school care in the Piha/Kare-kare area.

Happy to pick up from school, own vehicle and full license.

Willing to take to after school activities. Confident with all ages.

Happy to help with homework and cook dinner. References available.

Phone Sidnie: 0211-814-934 sidniekdalton@gmail.com

THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE – Live it at HOME

In June-July 2012 students from over 20 countries around the world will be arriving in New Zealand to study at local high schools for 5 or 10 months.

Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in New Zealand. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill.

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

**To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or
our student exchange programs out of New Zealand**

Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 0800 440 079 or visit

www.studentexchange.org.nz/host-a-student

EASY SHOPPING – EASY FUNDRAISING

Shop, save money, save time and raise funds for your school.

Step 1 – sit down & relax !

Step 2 – get someone to make your favourite coffee !

Step 3 - simply go to www.yourfastshop.co.nz, select your school and start browsing.

- No queues, No parking problems, No aching feet !
- Save on petrol costs.
- Over 70 online stores to choose from including electronics at Apple, fashion at Ezibuy, books at The Nile, toys at Mighty Ape and you can even get FREE DVD rental at Fatso.
- Your shopping is dealt with directly by your chosen online store.
- www.yourfastshop.co.nz automatically provide funds to your school.

Treat yourself to easy shopping and help your school fundraise.