



### Dates to Note...

- ✓ Principal's Awards presentation, Friday 27th May, 9.00am.
- ✓ Christian Education for junior pupils in hall complex Tuesdays 8.15am-8.45am.
- ✓ School will be closed on Friday 3rd June (Queens Birthday Weekend) for a Teacher Only Day.
- ✓ North West Choir performs June 23rd at the Aurora Centre, Burnside.
- ✓ Parent/teacher conferences Mon 11th & Tues 12th July. School will finish at 2.30pm on Monday 11th only, except Syn. 4 students who will finish classes at 3pm both days.



- ✓ Russley School Production 24/25 August



### Communicating With Parents

#### School-links Communication Software

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are trialling the 'School-links Communication System' which will enable the school to email parents the fortnightly newsletter plus urgent texts and email alerts (only if we hold correct contact details) in the event of an emergency.

Today's newsletter has been emailed to the email address you have supplied to the school. If you have not received the newsletter electronically it's possible that we do not hold an email address for you or the one we have is incorrect or out of date.

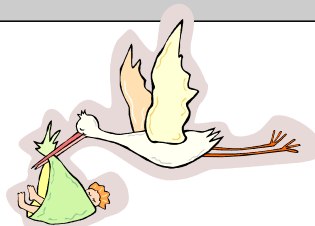
Within the next few weeks we will send a trial text to parents who have provided mobile phone details to the school office.

If you wish to update your contact details please email the school office at [reception@russley.school.nz](mailto:reception@russley.school.nz)



### Staffing Update

We congratulate Mr Pete De Wit (Room 5) on the early arrival of a baby son, James, last week. There are several other Russley staff members expecting babies over the next few months which will result in some staffing changes. Mrs Rachel Hayes (Room 12) will take maternity leave from the end of the term; she will be replaced in the classroom by Mrs Ngaire Shepherd-Wills. Mrs Jo Finch (Room 9) will take maternity leave after the school production in August; our Learning Support teacher, Mrs Robyn Adams, will teach fulltime in that room until the end of the year. We also look forward to the arrival of Mr Jarrad Welsh's (Room 4) new baby in Term 3 and the arrival of Mrs Rae Ussher's (Librarian) first grandchild.



### New Faces at Russley

Russley School welcomes new pupils: Zoë Hoskins (Rm 10), Cameron Woodfield, Nehemiah Lesatele, Finn Lonie and Rebekah MacClure (Rm 14), and Mackenzie Hoskins (Rm 17).



## Greetings from the Tumuaki

Greetings everyone

We are excited about some fantastic successes in student learning! At the last Board of Trustees' meeting we reported our school wide, student achievement in reading and mathematics over the last twelve months. The results are outstanding and there has been a major upward shift across the school. The results show that our students:

- are well above the national norm (the average across the country) at virtually every year group;
- show improvement compared to previous years;
- have reached most of the very challenging targets the Board set last year;
- are improving in maths achievement from Year 6 to Year 7 and again from Year 7 to Year 8 – contrary to the national pattern which shows a big drop in achievement for these groups.
- are achieving at comparable rates whether boys or girls.
- have in some cases not just improved their results but managed to accelerate their achievement beyond the level usually achieved in a year.

These are really exciting results and not achieved without the input of quality professional development from people such as literacy consultant, Murray Gadd, and a huge effort from teachers. The results affirm the programmes we have put in place over the last couple of years. Well done students and teachers. A full summary of the reports is available at [www.russley.school.nz](http://www.russley.school.nz)

### **Disco Fever**

Thanks to the PTA and all the parents who helped make Friday's disco a success. It was great to see students enjoying themselves and having so much fun. A special thank you to the student councillors who stayed to support students at each session - you are excellent leaders and role models.

### **Cross Country**

Fabulous running at the cross country yesterday - well done everyone - a truly great effort. I think we just made it in time with regards to the weather.

### **Extension Programmes**

We are very excited about the new extension programmes in science and maths that have been implemented in response to parent feedback. Teachers used the recommended identification checklist to select the students for the initial groups. These groups will work with the specialist teachers for a certain number of sessions and then new groups will start. That process will continue until all students have had the opportunity to work in the science room in an appropriate programme. Students will continue to participate in exciting science programmes in their classrooms and anyone who joined us for the Junior led assembly last Friday would have seen this in action. The students taught us all about pulleys, levers, machines, inclines and how to persuade a teacher to sit in a wheelbarrow!



### **Year 7/8 Programmes**

Last week we consulted parents of future Year 7/8 students to find out which programmes they valued and which programmes they wanted to change or review. The meeting had to be brought forward so apologies for the short notice and thanks to those who were able to join us and give excellent feedback. A copy of the ideas will be sent home for a final chance to give feedback before we consider the suggestions. We will keep you informed of progress.

### **Emergency Response**

The responses from our community following the earthquakes have been collated. A summary is included in the newsletter and the full report is available on the website. Thank you to Tania Jones (Board of Trustees) for collating the information. We have already picked up some of the suggestions and set up web based communication via cell phones and email so we are not reliant on the power supply or cell towers to make contact with you. The new system will be trialled this week and there is further information about it in this newsletter. The Board of Trustees' Health and Safety Committee is reviewing the school's emergency response policies and procedures. Once completed, a copy of the updated procedures will be made available to you.

## Reports

You received a one page student report this term which was an adapted version of the report we usually send home at the end of Term One and which, for obvious reasons, we were not able to complete. Another one page report will be sent home in Week 9, Term 2, to give you information about your child's achievement to date. This information will be used at the parent/teacher/student meetings in week 11 when the teacher will also outline the progress your child is making towards the national standards. Parents will be advised soon on how to book these meetings online. At the end of the year a summative report is provided that shows actual achievement against the national standards.

Erika Ross

[principal@russley.school.nz](mailto:principal@russley.school.nz)

## Principal's Awards



The following children have earned awards this fortnight. The Russley Values focuses this term are loyalty and fairness. Parents and grandparents are invited to attend the awards ceremony in the staff room on Friday 27th May at 9.00am.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▶ Room 1 Sarah Newton, Lucas Duncan       | ▶ Room 9 Jake Lorkin-Dudman, Trinity Peterson  |
| ▶ Room 2 Daniel Kerr, Conal Morrison      | ▶ Room 10 Sean Marriott, Lydia Hardanava       |
| ▶ Room 3 Callum Bremner, Zachery Abraas   | ▶ Room 11 Yasmin Weenink, Jessica Yu           |
| ▶ Room 4 Zara Mullally, Ualind Smith      | ▶ Room 12 Joel Bremner, Jessica Yu             |
| ▶ Room 5 Joshua Paul, Destiny Sanott-Paul | ▶ Room 13 Hannah Mackay, Alex Law              |
| ▶ Room 6 Catylin Roberts, Nathan Puddle   | ▶ Room 14 Lucas DeGroot-Tsuji, Milania Bercich |
| ▶ Room 7 Rachel Harris, Jessica Fair      | ▶ Room 15 Daisy Sellier, Jacob Unwin           |
| ▶ Room 8 Hannah MacClure, Darcy Halligan  | ▶ Room 16 Baylee Law, Sylvie Yee               |
|   | ▶ Room 17 Lili Walton, Arien Rassoul-Khomeini  |

The 'Pupil of the Fortnight' is **Sarah Newton (Room 1)** whose photo will be exhibited in the office.

## Winter Sport for Syndicates 3 & 4

All Syndicate 3 & 4 students will take part in the Friday afternoon winter sport programme during Terms 2 & 3 (10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> August, with a final tournament on 17<sup>th</sup> August (pp. 24<sup>th</sup> August). All students will participate in either the inter-school team competition or a sports activities programme. A winter sport levy (\$25) will be charged to your child's term account. A uniform fee (\$5) must be paid at the school office before your child can collect a team uniform.

## Parent Responses to the Russley School Web Survey on Earthquakes

The survey was posted on the Russley School website from 23 March 2011 to 8 April 2011 and focused on actions taken on the day of the February 22nd quake and during the weeks the school was closed. The overwhelming theme of the survey responses is one of praise, gratitude and thanks from parents towards the staff of Russley School for their actions both on the day of the February 22 earthquake, during the shutdown period, and when students returned to school. Comments focus on the calm professionalism of staff and the care shown towards both students and parents. Comments show that parents felt that the emergency situation was handled extremely competently with excellent communication via the School website. The website proved to be an invaluable service for most parents. There are comments offering praise to particular staff members and some offering practical suggestions for future improvements to procedures. Improvement suggestions focus on mass communication with parents, emergency supplies and school expectations of parents' action in an emergency situation. Overall parents felt that their children were well cared for and such is their faith in Russley School and its staff that they have no doubts that they would be safe.

The full report can be found at [www.russley.school.nz](http://www.russley.school.nz)

## Parent Teacher Conferences *Monday 11 July (2.45-8.00pm) and Tuesday 12 July (3.15-7.00pm)*

To allow teachers to commence parent conferences, **classes will finish at 2.30pm on Monday 11 July** (except for Yr 7/8 who will attend technology classes at Kirkwood until 3pm as normal). Russley Rascals (Ph. 342 7967) will be open from 2.30pm. **On Tuesday school will conclude as normal at 3pm.**

Parents will be able to book their interview times on-line, the same as last year. A newsletter with details about the interviews website and a Russley password will be sent home in a few weeks.



## School Uniform

### Year 7/8 Jacket

Orders are now being taken at the school office for the Year 7/8 jacket, as pictured. Orders close at the end of next week for the first batch of jackets to be manufactured. Later they will be permanently stocked by our supplier, Mainland Uniforms.

The navy jacket with stylized Russley logo is intended to promote senior students as leaders in the school community. In 2011 this is an optional uniform purchase however from next year onwards they are likely to become compulsory for Year 7/8 students.

To check for fit, you are welcome to view the sample sizes at the school office. They range from Size 8 up to Size L. The jackets are priced at \$50. Orders close Friday 3 June.



### Other Uniform Items

- Mainland Uniforms is now beginning to produce uniforms with the new Russley logo therefore is offering clothing featuring the old logo at half price. Limited stock.
- Until recently there was a shortage of material for girls' winter culottes. New fabric has been sourced from Australia and Russley culottes are currently in production at Mainland Uniforms.

## PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

[russleyschool.pta@windowslive.com](mailto:russleyschool.pta@windowslive.com)



Women's Pamper Evening in new school hall on Wednesday 6th July 7.00pm-9.30pm. \$15 per ticket including free glass of bubbly and supper. Bring your mother, sister, friend or neighbour. Guest speaker is Helen Gwyn of Tall Poppies to talk about how to 'look good and feel great' on a budget. Useful tips on colours, style and how to make 30 outfits from just 12 pieces of clothing. Tickets on sale through the office.

If there are home-based businesses selling women's pamper products (e.g. jewellery, clothing etc) that wish to set up a table at this event, please contact Amanda via the PTA email for further details.

Christchurch Entertainment Books There are a limited number available this year so be in quick. To view a copy visit [www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/flickbook/christchurch](http://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/flickbook/christchurch)

Next PTA Meeting Monday 30th May, 7.30pm, at MONTEITHS MERRIN STREET. Booking essential for this meeting.