



12 August 2011

2011 Learning Theme: Together We Are Strong

*Ehara toku i te toa takitahi  
Engari toku toa i te toa takitini.*

*My strength comes not from myself alone,  
But from the strength of all the people.*

Kia Ora Tatou, Greetings to all

Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to our new students and their families who have started this term. We are very pleased to have you as part of the Epsom Normal Primary School community. A warm welcome also to our two new teachers Anna Hedstrom and Mark Bridges.

### ***Our learning topic for Term 3... I am an Innovator***

The conceptual ideas that we want students to understand are:

- *People's innovative ideas make an impact on the greater community*
- *Innovations are often born out of an identified want or need*

### **Senior School title is... *Our School, Our Nation***

The students will investigate the innovations that have taken place in the new senior teaching space. They will also focus on innovation in regards to the Rugby World Cup and the technological processes employed to manage the logistics of running an international event in Auckland.

### **Middle School title is... *Thirst to be First***

The students will be investigating innovation in regard to bridges and transport in the first part of the study. They will then identify a particular area they wish to explore and work through the design process to come up with an innovative solution to a problem.

### **The Junior School title is... *Moving and Grooving***

All students will learn how to identify a problem and have opportunities to find ways that will solve problems. Year 2 students will look at ways of making new playground equipment as part of their study. Year 1 students will look at designing ways to move their favourite "teddy" from one place to another.

### ***Student Participation and Achievement***

We are proud of all students in this school and the way they work to achieve high quality learning results for themselves. All students have unique talents and as a school we work towards supporting all students to reach their full potential. One of our key phrases in the school's vision is; *students are motivated by empowerment* and one of our seven values is *enjoyment*. We therefore are committed in the school to provide opportunities for students to be part of our decision-making and to participate in a variety of activities that they enjoy. Students are asked about their thoughts regarding topic planning and evaluation and the feedback from these discussions with students provide staff with valuable feedback on which to plan future learning programmes.

Students also have opportunities to be involved in a variety of extra-curricular groups. One of these groups is the Chamber Choir. They have recently competed in the Kids Sing Competition and won a silver medal award. Congratulations to all the students involved and thank you to Jo King, our musical specialist teacher who conducted the choir. The Epsom Normal Gymnastics group also won their competition at the Remuera Zone Competition. Congratulations to these students and thank you to their teachers Taryn Boyte (who is presently on maternity leave) and Emily Withrington.

### ***Parent Consultation Week***

We will be again this year holding morning and afternoon teas during Week 6 to hear your views about our educational programmes and to support us with our planning for 2012. Your invitations will be sent to you in the post.

### ***Visitors to our school***

The principal and staff from the America School in London visited our school late last term. We received very positive feedback

from their visit. They thought our students were very engaged with learning and in particular thought the quality of the writing our students were producing was excellent.

### ***125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

Please enter into your calendar Thursday 1 December 2011 as we are having a Garden Party to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Mayor Len Brown is our very special guest who will be attending on the day.

Warmest regards

Jane Cavanagh-Eyre

**Principal**

### **INFORMATION UPDATE**

#### **Library**

Do you have a few hours per week to spare to support our Library? We are looking for a small group of volunteer parents to help out for a few hours in the Library each week. As you can imagine there is a lot to be done so if you have some time to spare during the week, it would be much appreciated. Our Library requires constant updating and attention and is a wonderful resource for all, so if you want to volunteer your time, please contact Denise Morris by email ([dmorris@epsomnormal.school.nz](mailto:dmorris@epsomnormal.school.nz)) or call into the school office and leave your name and details with the office staff.

#### **Parent Tutors**

Do you have an hour per week to spare to support Junior School youngsters learning to read? Are you interested in becoming a parent tutor? At ENPS we operate a parent tutor reading scheme where parents read weekly with a small group of students using texts supplied by class teachers. You will help learners to understand new vocabulary, talk about the story in detail and ask questions to check on meaning. These children are beginning readers aged 6-8 and some are new learners of English who will be delighted to build a relationship with you as a supportive adult. If you have some time to spare and are keen to help, please contact Shelley Quinlivan on 630 5144 ext 705 or email her on [squinlivan@epsomnormal.school.nz](mailto:squinlivan@epsomnormal.school.nz).

#### **Chaos at the School Gate**

Epsom Normal Primary School is participating in the Auckland Transport's Chaos at the School Gate programme. It involves placing parking officers on patrol outside schools to observe non-compliant behaviours and issue tickets to those illegally parked.

The Chaos at the School Gate programme has been very successful and is helping to reduce the danger to children as well as improve traffic flow around schools.

#### **PTA UPDATE**

The next PTA Meeting will be held at 7.00pm in the staffroom on Monday 15 August 2011.

### **ADMINISTRATION UPDATE**

#### **Parent Interviews**

Parent Interviews are being held on Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 August 2011. Bookings close at 4pm on Monday 14 August 2011. On Wednesday 17 August school will close at 1pm. Would you please make arrangements to collect your child/ren at this time.

#### **Uniform Shop**

We are delighted to announce that Eftpos is now available in the Uniform Shop.