

EPSOM NORMAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

4 February 2011

Kia Ora Tatou, Greetings to all

Dear Parents

We would like to welcome everyone to the 2011 school year and extend an especially warm welcome to all our new families. I hope you have had a restful and happy time during the holiday break.

We would like to warmly welcome our new staff – Emily Withrington, Corinna Raasch, Martha McFaul, Frances Price, Sarah Shephard and Justine Singh.

Kay Wight will be on leave this year to work with the Ministry of Education in the Special Needs' Area. We wish Kay all the best with this role.

Ateel Sudhakar, an experienced Deputy Principal, will take up Kay's role while she is on leave. We extend an especially warm welcome to Ateel.

Our School Vision is –

- Nurtured by community (inclusive)
- Inspired by optimism (teachers)
- Motivated by empowerment (learning)
- To be responsible global achievers (sustaining the world)

Our School Values are -

- Respect
 - Inclusiveness
 - Optimism
- Empowerment
 - Commitment
 - Courage
 - Enjoyment

Our learning theme for 2011 is *Together we are strong*.

Our 2011 artist is Henri Rousseau.

Our 2011 musician is Vivaldi.

For each term we will have a different focus as follows:

Term 1	I am a Philosopher
Term 2	I am a Chemist
Term 3	I am an Innovator
Term 4	I am a Designer

Term 1 – I am a Philosopher

"I am a Philosopher" incorporates learning objectives from the Social Studies and Health learning areas of the NZ Curriculum Framework but also integrates with several other learning areas. The teaching programme embodies our school values of Respect, Inclusiveness and Empowerment. The Learning foci are:

- I am a treasure (I am unique)
- Different cultures have different storehouses of wisdom
- Our philosophy is influenced by our values, society, other people and the environment
- Our philosophy impacts the way we are in the world
- Just because you can't see it, doesn't mean it's not real
- People have a right to hold their own beliefs

Children will examine some ancient and modern philosophers, begin to develop their own personal philosophies and start to understand their unique strengths.

The topic titles for Term 1 are...

The Senior School Sector	Tribe Vibe
The Middle School Sector	Pearls of Wisdom
The Junior School Sector	I am a Philosopher

Staff Only Day

We have just experienced a very successful staff professional development day, on Tuesday of this week. We were very privileged to have Dr Joh Rall (Professor of Business/Clinical Psychologist from AUT), Dr David Giles (Associate Professor from Flinders University, Adelaide) and Derek McCormack (Vice Chancellor from AUT) speak to us.

Together, the staff and children are looking forward to a positive and very enjoyable year of learning.

Warmest regards

Jane Cavanagh-Eyre

Principal

INFORMATION UPDATE

2011 SCHOOL EVENTS CALENDAR

On Wednesday we sent home home with your child the 2011 School Events Calendar. We hope this will assist you to plan your school year. Individual School Sector newsletters will give information in more detail. Please note that some dates may be subject to change.

ANNUAL SCHOOL PICNIC 17 FEBRUARY, 5.00 – 7.00PM

Be sure to add the picnic date to your calendar now to avoid missing the opportunity to get to know your child's teacher and the rest of the teachers in your child's year group. This very popular event is always a highlight of our school year and promises to be very informative about plans for your child's year groups learning, culture and routines. Watch for a separate notice coming home with the details of the evening.

Shelley Quinlivan

Deputy Principal

BELL TIMES

8.55am	First Session Starts
10.00am	Brain Break (Fruit in Class), no bell
10.55am	Morning Tea
11.20am	Second Session Starts
1.00pm	Lunch
1.50pm	Third Session Starts
2.55pm	School Finishes

ABSENCES AND LATE ARRIVALS

During the year the school is required to know where your child is at all times during the school day. Parents of children who are absent from school for any reason, or are going to be late, are asked to phone the school before 9.00am every day your child/ren are going to be away. The school has an absence line for this purpose. Please phone 630 5144 and follow the instructions given (push 1 to leave a message). Please speak slowly and clearly and give your child's name, room number and the reason for the absence/lateness.

Children are required to arrive at school in time to be ready for class at 8.55am. If your child is not at school by this time, please make sure that you come to the office and sign them in when they do arrive. You still need to do this even if you have phoned the absence line and left a message. The office staff check this sign-in list against any children who are marked as absent before phoning parents to find out where your child is.

For parents taking children out of school during the school term, whether for a couple of days or weeks, a letter is required in writing prior to the last day your child will be at school. Please include the dates your child/ren will be absent and the reason for this absence. Please bring the letter to the school office.

UNWELL AND/OR INJURED CHILDREN

The school sickbay is staffed by office staff members who are trained first aiders. We do not have a nurse or doctor in the school. If your child is not feeling well, ie has a sore throat, cough, runny nose or sore stomach, we ask that you keep them at home until they are well. This will prevent any illness spreading to children and staff.

If your child is unwell, you will be contacted to collect your child and take them home. Please be aware that while we endeavor to give a sick child the best care we can, we are unable to remain with them until you arrive, however we do check on them on a regular basis. We ask that you assist us by coming as quickly as you can or that you arrange for another person to collect them on your behalf.

Thank you

The Administration Staff