



PINEHURST

Proud of who we are, what we know
and what we can achieve

Newsletter

Executive Principal's News

TERM 1, WEEK 3

19 FEBRUARY 2010



Dear Parents

There has been much discussion in the media about National Standards in New Zealand schools Year 1 – 8. The Ministry of Education, under the direction of the New Zealand Government, has undertaken to establish National Standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. One goal is to ensure schools show parents the stage their children are at in their learning and what they have to do next. Another goal is to ensure schools report to parents twice a year on their child's progress and achievement. The Government wishes to enforce this as some schools do not set standards nor do they report effectively to parents.

At Pinehurst, we have always set high standards in all areas and report to parents four times a year. We continue to watch the debate with interest. As an independent school we are not required to use or report against National Standards, however we will use any information or helpful material to continually improve our own practice. You can view the National Standards on "New Zealand Curriculum On-Line" on the Ministry of Educational website "Assessment On-Line" which has an excellent glossary of common terms used for assessment as well as references to recent research on assessment.

We are reviewing our school reports to see how we can incorporate the National Standards.

Last week, I attended our inaugural Scholars' Assembly for students in the Senior College. I am very proud of our students' results. As Ms Jacqueline White and I both acknowledged, this is due to skills and knowledge building as the student moves throughout the School and the extraordinary teachers we have here. Everyone is encouraged within the culture of success we have at Pinehurst.

With kind regards

Sherida Penman Walters (Ms)
Executive Principal

Pinehurst Fishing Competition Saturday 13 March 2010

It's time to get your boat engines revving in preparation for some hefty competition on the water! Lots of fun and prizes!



Proudly sponsored by Fish City and hosted by Bayswater Marina. For parents new to the school, the

Pinehurst Fishing Competition is not only for keen fisherman but a great day for the family. If you're not so keen on getting out on the water or if fishing isn't your cup of tea, then please bring the kids and join us for a fun afternoon.

An organised BBQ starts at **2pm** or bring your own picnic. Weigh-in/prize giving starts at **3pm** followed by a fish auction. For Entry forms please contact Judy Wallace on 414 0960 or email judy.wallace@pinehurst.school.nz
Entries close 26 February.
Please support this event!

Vex Robotics

Come and support the Pinehurst Vex Robotics Team at the Regional Robotics Competition to be held at Pinehurst in the Gymnasium on

Saturday 27 February 2010



CALENDAR DATES

Week 4

23	PFF Coffee & Catch Up (9am, Sport Pavilion)
24	Yr 1&2 Trip to Red Beach Junior College NH Triathlon Zone Day.
25	Full School Assembly (2.30, Gym).
26	Food & Wine Market (Gym, 7pm).
27	Vex Robotics Regional Competition— Gymnasium

Pinehurst Food and Wine Market

Pinehurst Parents are warmly invited to the inaugural Pinehurst Food and Wine Market. Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere created by our very own talented pianist Richard Ellsworth, while selecting and tasting whatever takes your fancy – a great opportunity to try before you buy.

The market stalls offer an abundance of tasty delights including wine, cheeses, breads, chocolates, dips and sauces. This event is put on by independent stall owners and, if this market is well attended they'll return toward the end of the year in time for Christmas purchases. Your support is greatly appreciated.

This is a fantastic opportunity to mix with fellow parents. Friends welcome.

WHEN: Friday 26 February 2010, 7pm.

WHERE: Pinehurst School Gym

School Uniform Shop Hours

Monday 12:30–4:30pm
Wednesday 8:00–9:30am
Thursday 8:00–9:30am



Glen Radojkovich
Headmaster

Primary and Junior College

Primary News

One aspect covered at the Primary and Junior College Parent Information Evenings this week was communication. A particular focus was our desire to work with parents and communicate effectively. In order to do so successfully it is important parents are aware of the communication procedures within the school.

Should you have anything you would like to discuss with your child's teacher please contact them directly to make a suitable time. Teachers are not always in a position to be able to down tools when teaching or preparing lessons to discuss issues and, although we very much value the opportunity to communicate with you, we would like to do so when we can focus our attention on you and your child unreservedly. It is for this reason a meeting time is required to discuss matters.

When resolving issues regarding your child's learning, in the first instance communicate directly with your child's homeroom teacher (or subject teacher). If you would like to communicate further regarding a matter you are then able to contact the area Head of School, or Headmaster, in order to make a time to do so.

We are endeavouring to email a great deal of our communication this year. If you are not receiving regular emails from the school please contact us as it may be we do not have an accurate email address for you.

Once again we are looking forward to working with you this year to ensure the best possible learning gains for your child. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need to clarify any matter, to provide feedback (both positive and negative) or make a time to discuss your child's learning.

Kind regards
Glen Radojkovich

News from Room 5

Gillian Goldring

Room 5 has made a great start to the year. Everyone is working well following new routines and striving to become focused learners.

Our Historical Story unit for Reading and Writing is being enjoyed by all with the classic story of "Treasure Island". After drawing the described setting of that Treasure Island, the children described their own treasure island. Enjoy reading part of Caitlin Trotter's description:

As soon as I saw it I knew it was absolute paradise, crystal clear water, golden sand beaches and two wharves. There was a rocky mountain, ideal for climbing, with a bright red cross right at the summit. There was a tropical bird sanctuary in a palm tree forest with yet another two crosses. The last place had a gold mine!

Crosses! Crosses! Wonderful crosses! The huge baked mud covered in crosses in pure red ink! There in red writing it said, "JACKPOT". There were like fifty crosses dotted all over. It was

more like double jackpot, maybe even quadruple jackpot. Right in the middle, smack dab, was a hill with sparkling glittering gold so bright that we had to shield our eyes.

Then I spoke up, "We're going no matter what!"



Support the Bow Tie Week 20 – 28 February 2010

On Wednesday 24 February we will be having a Sausage Sizzle to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand.

Sausages, bread and sauce will be \$1.00.

You can also donate a coin and receive a bow tie pin. This donation box will be at the front reception desk.

We thank you for supporting this very worthy cause.



Lost Sports Kit

A full kit in a green bag was lost last week in the Room 5 area. All named: Dominic van der Steeg. If found please contact Elle 021 512 111.

Year 3

We have had an exciting start to the year with many new learning experiences.

Each of us has a bag of learning tools that we understand. We are now learning how to use them to assist our learning. Our main focus is to train our brains



to listen to information, because this is the beginning of the thinking process: To think, is to listen to our brains talking to us.

We are steadily settling into classroom routines, and look forward to our learning journey this term.

Daphne Davies



Year 7 Students Enjoy an Excellent Start to the Junior College

The first few weeks of term have been busy for the Junior College students although they have settled in well. Everyone has adapted to the timetable system and can now find their way around the various classrooms with relative ease. The new students in Year 7 have taken everything in their stride and act like they have been at Pinehurst for years.

The first inter house competition has already taken place and this was swimming at Whangaparaoa Leisure Centre. The number of students participating was exceptionally high with many finals being hotly contested. Many parents attended the event and the support from them made it a very enjoyable occasion. With house points being earned for every student who raced, the final totals are expected to be high.



A major event in the Year 7 calendar is Camp Week and this is only days away. In Week 4 we are heading to Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre and this will be an action packed four night stay with the emphasis being on establishing new friendships. A lot of activities have been scheduled to suit their age group and these include abseiling, high ropes, sailing, archery and orienteering. Our time away will give the students added responsibility during the activities and meal times

to ensure they are punctual and contributing to the spirit of the camp.

All the Year 7 homeroom teachers are very proud of the students and how well they are working in the Junior College. Whilst there is still debate over which class is the best, many more competitions lie ahead that will help decide that argument.

Steve Fiet Y7 Dean



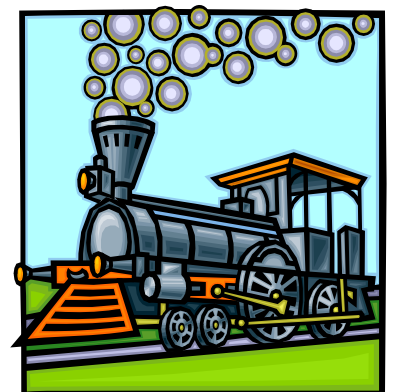
The Railway Children

A Musical based on the classic family novel and featuring one of our Pinehurst Students in the chorus

Feb 27 – Mar 13

Centrestage Theatre Orewa

www.centrestagetheatre.com





Jacqueline
White
Headmistress

Senior College News

Dear Parents and Senior College Students,

When I was at secondary school, back in the early 1980s, school camps were the highlight of the year. Looking back, while it is difficult to remember specific things that happened in the classroom, I still have very vivid memories of the various activities and group bonding sessions on the many camps I attended between Years 9 and 13. Maybe it was the warm glow of these memories that made me so keen to offer to attend the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Camp at Shakespeare Bay. At the time, it seemed like a great idea. I thought "roughing it in a cabin won't be so bad. The industrial mashed potato will be tolerable. The shower will probably be low pressure but you can handle it 'cause you're tough!!" The more I thought about it, the more enthusiastic I became!

So imagine my shock when I asked Mrs Rea for an equipment list the night before camp! Suddenly I realised that I may have been a little over hasty in my desire to relive the glory days of school-camps-past! The gear list was like a foreign language: water purification tablets, bed-roll, baby wipes.

"Baby wipes" I thought.... "that's an interesting item?!"

However, as I stared at the list, the full horror of what awaited slowly dawned: no huts, no showers, no food and, quite possibly, no toilets. GULP!

My mind worked feverishly as I tried to think of a cunningly clever way of getting out of the camp. None of my excuses sounded believable so I thought I would just tell the truth: that I'm too puny and wimpy!

As I plotted my extrication from this unfortunate situation, I could hear Ms Beardsell, Mr Phua and Mrs Rea outside my office,

enthusing about how great it would be not having a shower for four days and, suddenly I realised that there was no way out. I felt like I had signed up for Club Med and, instead, found myself in the French Foreign Legion.

For the next 24 hours I went through a visualisation "you can do it" strategy. I text my friends for advice. Most of them text back to say that they would give anything to see this!

Those that were less kind simply responded "Ha Ha" or "Lol". Needless to say, I am rethinking those friendships. While you may be asking, "where is all this going?", the point is that once I got to camp it was marvellous. I witnessed young people, many of whom had never slept rough or cooked food in the open, learn a whole new skill set. Over the two days that I was on camp, what I witnessed was a disparate group of Year 10 students become a cohesive unit, all working for the benefit of the collective. I even had to admit that sleeping on the ground wasn't SO bad (although my smuggled super-dupa air mattress deluxe may have played a part in this) and that a cup of tea that took an hour to boil on a primus is more satisfying than a flat white on Ponsonby Road precisely because it took an hour to boil.

Essentially, what I'm saying is that if I had followed my gut instinct, I would have got out of attending this camp and, in doing so, I would have missed out on one of the highlights of the year thus far. To Ms Beardsell, Mr Phua and Mrs Rea, thank you for your commitment to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and for the watchful, yet hands-off way you ran the camp, allowing students to problem-solve without a teacher coming to the rescue. To those Year 10 students who attended camp in spite of your reservations: well done! I am sure that in 20 years time you will still have fond memories of the four days you spent together. By accepting challenges we broaden our experience-base and, ultimately, we grow as human beings.

Pinehurst Family & Friends

(A Social Network)

Last week the newsletter showed a picture of the PFF banner – please look out for it next Tuesday as it will guide you to the Sports Pavilion for the first **Coffee 'n Catch Up** of 2010. **9.00 – 10.15 a.m. in the Sports Pavilion** (by the new multi-purpose courts). Bring a friend and come and meet other Pinehurst parents! Any enquiries you might have can now be e-mailed to our address: PFF@pinehurst.school.nz or to Marieke at 021 86 88 44 or Amanda at 021 421 700.

Upcoming date for your calendar is the **'Positive / Negative Family Portraits'** on **Saturday 20 March between 9.00a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

Once again PFF offer Pinehurst families a marvellous opportunity to pictorially record a snapshot of family time (with pets or family memorabilia if desired). Further information and booking information next week in the newsletter and on the school website.

