

Kia ora katoa, Welcome and Happy New School Year

If you were in the school before 9am on Tuesday you would have heard many excited voices from children returning to school, alongside a number of quieter ones who were enrolling for the first day or moving classes. You may also have spotted the Room 7 playground designs that Megan Campbell-Boyne painted over the break - thanks, Megan.



Welcome to the following new students who have started at Silverstream School this year: Courtney, Meegan, Shaye, Nathaniel, Krystal, Emily, Mia, Shani, Noah, Lucas, Hannah, Alix, Charlise, Alexander, Shyah, Marissa, Zach, Jamie, Sarah and Zaine. We are very pleased to welcome all new pupils and their families and hope you will all feel welcomed and encouraged to become a part of our school community.

While we try really hard to ensure children get the best education possible, we don't get it right all the time. If questions arise, at any time, please feel free to contact us so that we can deal with the matter quickly. Teachers are always happy to discuss the progress and general well being of your children and if that is the area of concern that should be your first port of call. I welcome opportunities to talk with you, too. All staff have email addresses at school - please see each teacher to get their contact details.

Office Hours The office is 'manned' from 8.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Contacting children during school hours Arrangements for your child are best made with them before school. A note to the class teacher regarding reminders about changes in their routine are welcome. We are able to contact children in emergency situations.

Family 'homework' A sheet will be coming home with the eldest child in each family. We ask that you sit as a family to share thoughts and help by reading through the sections and writing your child/children's ideas on the sheet to speed the flow of ideas - especially with younger children. It should not take more than 30 minutes. ☺

Meet the Teacher Session This year all teachers will be contacting each parent personally (please make sure we have your contact details). On the 24th Feb when the Board of Trustees is asking families to come and share their ideas for the direction of the school we will have syndicate then class meetings for you to catch up with your child's teacher in person. PLEASE KEEP THIS EVENING FREE.

Working bee We are having a working bee on Saturday 20th February to paint the remainder of the school playground areas. We would love to have offers of help from parents/adults in our community. Please contact Anna Crashley (Room 7 teacher) if you could spare a couple of hours with a paint brush from 10am to 2pm.

Swimming All classes are having an extra week of swimming. Our teachers will be taking the lessons and will be looking for parent help with swimming groups. Please let class teachers know if you can help.

Assembly Every second Friday we take the opportunity to share children's learning at our 2pm school assembly. We welcome all members of the school community to join us. The first assembly for the year is next week, 12th February. We celebrate children's learning and achievements and love to have families in our audience.



Naming Belongings Please make sure that all of your children's clothing and belongings are clearly named. This includes underwear and shoes please!

Stationery Packs Packs are available to buy at the school office. They contain all the items the students will need for the year. The school provide these packs as a service to our community. We do not make any money on them and the suppliers give us a very competitive price. Be careful if buying other cheaper brands of books as they may not be the correct book, often have fewer pages and don't last as well. Many of the cheaper brands of pencils have very soft leads and hard wood which are very difficult to sharpen.

Smart Lunches Price Increase School lunches are available for \$2.50 (or \$3.50 for a larger lunch) each day of the week. The lunches consist of two sandwiches (variations of filled rolls, pizza etc), a piece of fruit, a biscuit or muffin and a jelly or milk pudding. **Smart lunches will resume on Monday 8th February.**

Sunhats - we all wear the school sunhat - students and staff

To promote safety in the sun, a condition of enrolment at Silverstream School is that all students and staff wear the school sunhat when outside in terms 1 & 4. New sunhats can be purchased from Postie Plus. Please check that your child has a school hat which is in reasonable condition - and is named.



Newsletters These are sent home each Thursday with the eldest child in the family. Please ask your child on Thursdays for the newsletter. If they don't have one have a quick look in their schoolbag - you might be surprised by what else is in there! Failing that, please ask the class teacher the following morning. If your child is away on Thursday, teachers will name a newsletter and hold it for them until they return to school. Please give your email address to the office if you would like these emailed.

Absences For the safety of your children we ask that you ring the school office on 489 8577 or Text on 027 3899372 before 9.15 am if your child is not going to be at school. If we haven't heard from you Mrs Raudon or Mrs Pridham, will phone home to ensure your child is safe. It will save considerable time if you are able to contact us first.



On behalf of all staff, we look forward to 2010 where we all strive towards our school vision of LEARNING TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE
Elizabeth (Libby) Cleverley

Future Dates

12 Feb	Assembly 2.00pm
15-19 Feb	Middle and Seniors Swimming, Mosgiel Pool
20 Feb	Working bee for playground markings
24 Feb	6.30 Meet the teacher session 7pm - 8.30pm Community Meeting to guide future planning for our school
26 Feb	Assembly 2.00pm
5,8,10,11,12	Juniors Swimming
March	Mosgiel West Pool
22 Mar	Otago Anniversary Day - school closed
1 April	Term 1 ends for Easter Break
19 April	Term 2 begins
2 July	Term 2 ends

Thought of the week ...

Weighing the pig never made it any fatter!
(See notice below ☺)

Community Notices

4FRONT at Silverstream School

Guitar lessons will be offered again at Silverstream School this year. For more information please visit our website at www.schoolofguitar.co.nz or call Tim Davis on 489 5959

PIANO & KEYBOARD LESSONS

These start again on Tuesday 9th February. Last year a number of children were on a waiting list. If you still wish for your child to learn piano or keyboard this year please email Jenny Begg on jenny.b@slingshot.co.nz. There are three spaces available at this stage. If your child received lessons in 2009 and you have indicated to Jenny you would like them to continue this year she will get them from their classroom for their lesson. Please remind them to bring their books.

National Standards

There has been a lot talk recently 'announcing' the compulsory introduction of National Standards. I would like to assure our community that teachers have used nationally standardised norms for assessing and targeting student achievement for as long as I have been teaching. It has always been parents' rights to know and teacher's responsibility to inform families about children's learning and achievement. The 'who else needs to or should know' 'why' and 'how' are what concerns educationalists. A **public forum** on the topic of National Standards is being held at Macandrew Intermediate School at 7pm on Tuesday 9th Feb. Lester Flockton will be the main speaker at the forum, and there will be a Q & A session with a panel on the topic of national standards. At Silverstream there will also be the opportunity for our community to discuss these. The NZEI National Standards bus tour will be at our school from 10.30- 11am. A web site which families may wish to look on is www.handsupforlearning.org.nz