

**Staffing for 2009**

Welcome to Pip Olorenshaw who is teaching Room 1 children until the end of the year, as Nikki Todd has taken maternity leave. Nikki's baby is due on 1st October (or thereabouts) and we wish her and her Adam well for the big event!

Ryan Pearce, our Year 7 and 8 teacher, has had a major 'back' operation with associated complications. We have Shirley-Anne Collins in Room 18, and next term Ryan will return for three mornings a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) for the first six weeks, and then as he grows stronger, this should extend to become three full days. It is expected he will be working fulltime again at the start of next year. Ryan also gets married in the holidays and his aim is to be able to stand (with the aid of crutches) for this big event. We wish Ryan well. He is an incredibly valued staff member and we are all looking forward to his speedy recovery and return to school.

Teacher Only Day

In the first week of the fourth term the children will be having another holiday on **Wednesday 14 October**. On this day teachers are having a combined '**teacher-only**' day with Russley School, where all the staff will attend a whole-day workshop with Australian educator, Kath Murdoch. Once again, we apologise for the timing of this day but we have had to work around Kath's availability.

The Ministry of Education has allowed us to have this day as a teacher-only day and the school will be closed. Staff will be working with Kath off-site and there will be no-one at school so please make arrangements for your children for this day. CASPA will be running a full-day programme (8am to 6pm) for families with children registered with them. Please confirm your booking with their office.

In our last newsletter I wrote an article on the new curriculum that all schools have to adopt by 2010. I must say that this new curriculum is one of the most exciting initiatives in education that I ever seen introduced. It requires all schools to focus on quality learning and teaching but gives us the freedom to construct an Avonhead School curriculum that suits the needs and aspirations of our children. For this reason, the fantastic feedback you gave us in the community consultation forms that you and your children provided us with earlier this year, has been the source of our visioning and shaping of our new curriculum. We are still working on this but we are making good progress and we will share this work with you sometime early in the fourth term.

Included in the new curriculum is a focus on Inquiry learning. Put very simply, Inquiry is all about children going through a learning process to find the answers to questions that they have generated themselves – thus developing the important skills of independent learning, because our ultimate aim is to empower children to become 'thinkers and learners for life'. Kath Murdoch's approach to Inquiry learning puts a 'rigour' into the process that means all children work at a very high level of learning and understanding. I will report on this after our teacher-only day as to what her approach means for Avonhead children.

Environment sustainability

We have a wonderfully motivated group of Year 7/8 students who have been working behind the scenes to promote a reduction of waste at our school and to reduce the level of landfill. Part of their plan is to have the three-coloured wheelie bins located in strategic places around the school so children can practise separating their own rubbish into organic waste, recyclable waste and ordinary waste. It's important that we encourage children to be responsible for their own waste and to ensure that the rubbish that does not need to go into the landfill is recycled in some way. For this reason, we have removed the general bins around the school. We want children to start using the three bin stations around the school. I am happy to report that since Monday our children are managing well.

Happy holidays

Enjoy the holidays with your children. I'm hoping to do a bit of whitebaiting with my family and catch up on my reading. **School finishes at 3pm on Friday, 25th September and we start again at 8.55am on Monday 12th October.** The good news for teachers is that day-light saving starts in the holidays and our children will have had plenty of time to adjust to this new time-frame before their return to school!!

Charles Levings
Principal

The Avonhead Spotlight falls on...



Congratulations, the Avonhead Senior Rugby team, who are now the proud holders of the Canterbury Primary Schools' Year 7/8 Rugby Competition trophy.
Our thanks to their coach, Marie Forster and to Helene Pollard, their manager.

This is the first time Avonhead has won this competition since its inception in 1935!

NSW English

Congratulations to all those who sat this test.

The following students did very well;

Amy Archer	Distinction
Isabelle Chai	Distinction
Fraser Gurney	Distinction
Alice Norton	Distinction
Grace Visser	Distinction
Edward Gurney	Distinction
Anthony Hyde	Distinction
Alex Tompkins	Distinction
MacKenzie Norton	Distinction
Emma Hogan	Distinction
Josiah Morgan	Distinction
Brianna Hampton	Credit
Sahara Pohatu-Trow	Credit
Jacob Reese-Jones	Credit
Jack Davies	Credit
Juliet Harrison	Credit
Madison Palmer	Credit
Tamzin Goodwin	Credit
Casey MacDonald	Credit
Fergus McIntosh	Credit
Anna Reese-Jones	Credit

Congratulations to the YMCA Basketball team who came 4th in the season! A special thank you to **Myron Friesen** for coaching this team – we appreciate your efforts!

Notices

Team 5/6 :

Will have their
End of Year Final Assembly

Wednesday December 9th
at 1.30pm in the hall.



Parents are encouraged to attend.

If you have little whiteboards that you're not using at home, and are wondering what to do with them, Room 14 is wanting a collection of whiteboards and markers for maths.

Thank you, Miss Jones, Room 14

Accessing the Policies...Go to the school website, in the user name type '55ahead'. To review the policies type 'pin'. in the password area.

Access to School Dental Services over the September/October.

The Community Dental Service has a contract to provide an emergency dental service for pre-schoolers and primary school children over the school holiday period. The service is limited to the relief of acute pain only and will operate from 8:30am until 12:30pm from the Oral Health Centre, 16 Tuam Street, Christchurch for the following times;

Monday, 28th September – 9th

October 2009 (excluding weekends) Routine treatment will **not** be offered/available over the holidays and any accident related issues will be referred to Community Dentists as per usual practise. Dental Clinic telephones will have a message regarding how to access emergency care.

Term Diary

24	PTA Meeting Adult English conversation
25	Last Day of Term
Oct 12	First day of Term 4
14	Teacher Only Day - School Closed
15	BOT Meeting
16	Rehearsal for Town Hall Festival Evening performance for the School Tennis Team 3/4
22	PTA Meeting
23	PTA Auction Food bananza Team 3/4 tennis
29-30	Athletics Yr 5-8
30	PTA Sausage Sizzle Team 3/4 tennis
Nov 4	Team 3/4 Athletics Day Team 7/8 Airforce Museum
5	Team 7/8 Airforce Museum Team 1/2 athletics morning
6	Yr 7/8 Talent Quest Team 3/4 athletics day
9	Zone athletics Team 3/4 swimming commences Team 5/6 swimming at Jellie Park commences
13	Show Day-School closed

Celebrations

- ☺ **Amy Weaver** competed in the Canterbury Artistic Gym champs recently. Amy came 7th in vault & 9th overall.
Well done Amy!
- ☺ **Isabella Waterman** qualified for the zone team for rugby.
- ☺ **Yura Tokuo** performed in a hula dance recently.
- ☺ **Logan Foster** scored 2 soccer goals and was made Player of the Day.
- ☺ **Ethan Stewart** won his last game of rugby for the season.
- ☺ **Kobe Beecroft** was Tackler of the Day in rugby recently.
- ☺ **Owen Tsai** was Player of the Day for Soccer recently.
- ☺ **Taleisha, Anna, Georgia, Amy & Bella** in Room 7 have all sat dance exams.
- ☺ **Jack Davies** – Most improved player for UII Red Burnside Rugby Club 09.
- ☺ **Conor Jones** is playing Otago for the Canterbury Junior Rugby Team on Sun.
- ☺ **Abbey McCarthy** was awarded Highly Commended in Jazz & Honours in Tap exams recently.
- ☺ **Marion Hardwick** is competing in the National Irish Dancing comps in Auckland!
- ☺ **Eun Gi Lee** came 1st in the Sth Is Ice skating Champs Novice Speed div.
- ☺ **Josh Santich** has been selected to a 12th grade Canterbury soccer squad competing over the holidays!

Congratulations to **Flynn Maslin-Gilmore**, Room 14, Year 6. His Milk-Bottle Invention got into the top 5 in New Zealand for the TV show, Let's Get Inventin'! That's a top achievement! Good luck!!

Chrystal Pal, Rm 11, has been selected to represent NZ in the U12 basketball team travelling to Australia in November to compete. Wow!

Term Dates – 2010

TERM 1	Start date for teachers	Monday 1 February
	Start date for children	Tuesday 2 February
	End of Term 1	Thursday 1 April
TERM 2	Start date	Monday 19 April
	End of Term 2	Friday 2 July
TERM 3	Start date	Monday 19 July
	End of Term 3	Friday 24 September
TERM 4	Start date	Monday 11 October
	End of Term 4	Friday 17 December

2010 Holidays

Schools must be closed in 2010 on Saturdays and Sundays and on the following days:

- New Years Day - 1 January
- Day after New Years Day - 2 January
- Waitangi Day - 6 February (Saturday)
- Good Friday - 2 April
- Easter Monday - 5 April
- Day after Easter Monday - 6 April (Tuesday)
- Anzac Day - 25 April (Sunday)
- Queen's Birthday - 7 June (Monday)
- Labour Day - 25 October (Monday)
- Canterbury Anniversary day - 12 November (Friday)
- Christmas Day - 25 December
- Boxing Day - 26 December