



**Welcome back:**

It was great to see the children returning with huge smiles on their faces despite most of the days in the holidays being 'grey' and cold. They seemed refreshed and energised!

**Interviews:**

Thank you for your wonderful feedback about booking interviews with teachers on-line. The process seems to have been very successful with many parents reporting that it was easy and convenient. A few of our parents who didn't have the use of a computer took advantage of using the computers available in our library. I know that these parents also appreciated the assistance from our librarian, Barbara Medlock. Interviews finish today.

**Illness:**

On one of the days in the last week of term 3, we had 83 children absent with 'flu, or away for some other reason. It's not unusual at this time of the year to have this kind of absenteeism. Fortunately the holidays have allowed our children to recuperate and the absenteeism rate has gone down again but please be vigilant. Swine 'flu is amongst us in the community and even ordinary 'seasonal 'flu' is taking its toll. If your children are unwell, please keep them at home until they are well recovered. Don't make 'returning to work' be an excuse for letting children return to school too early.

**NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2009 (NEITA):** The office has forms for any parent who wishes to nominate a staff member for these awards. Further information from the office or on-line: [www.neita.co.nz](http://www.neita.co.nz) Closing date – 31 August 2009.

**Traffic behaviour outside the school gate:**

This has been fairly good and parents are to be congratulated on the care taken as children are being dropped off in the morning and picked up after school. Please remember that our children use the road as well as motorists. A parent reported that she had seen three parents doing u-turns outside the school within the space of 3mins, during our 'busy times'. This is incredibly dangerous. Our children are not expecting motorists to do u-turns at this time. They are hard to predict and hard to anticipate and one day, there is going to be an accident. **DO NOT DO U-TURNS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL AT OUR BUSY TIMES PLEASE!** If you have to do a u-turn, drive away from the school to a place where you can safely conduct this manoeuvre.

**Maori language:**

Last week was Maori language week where there was a special focus on 'Te Reo Maori'. Maori became an official language of New Zealand in 1987 and wherever possible, we integrate Te Reo into the school curriculum. I love the following Maori refrain from a favourite **whakatauki** (proverb) that I shared at the opening of the Jubilee:

**Hutia te rito o te harakeke**

**Kei whea, te kōmako e kō**

**Kī mai ki āhau**

**He aha te mea nui o tēnei ao**

**Māku e kī atu**

**He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.**

**Translation :**

When the heart is torn from the flax bush,  
where will the bell bird sing?

You ask me, what is the most important thing on  
earth?

My reply is it is people, it is people, it is people.

In our school's context, I think of the 'flax bush' as our school and as we build on nurturing the heart of the bush, the bellbirds (or our children-**tamariki**) will sing.

Two great websites you may wish to explore are: [www.korero.maori.nz](http://www.korero.maori.nz) and [www.kupu.maori.nz](http://www.kupu.maori.nz).

**Uniform:**

Please make sure that children are wearing the correct uniform. New uniforms can be bought from 'Grasshopper' in Ilam Road. Thanks to the PTA for organising the sale of second hand uniforms. Some of our PTA mums also went through the lost property box and returned many unclaimed articles of clothing to children throughout the school. We will remind children to take responsibility for their clothing at school. Please reinforce this at home.

Charles Levings  
**Principal**




# The Avonhead Spotlight falls on...

**Bridget Richardson is a reliable student in Room 16. She is a keen sports person who excels at both swimming and netball. Bridget, after a series of trials, has been selected as vice captain for the Canterbury Primary School's Metropolitan B Netball team.**

**Well done Bridget.**

**Poppy Day Collection 2009**

With your help the Student Council raised \$226.30 for the ChCh RSA.



**REMINDER**

The keys to stop bullying are;

1. Students use their **W.I.T.S**  
**W** Walk away  
**I** Ignore  
**T** Tell someone  
**S** Say you don't like that behaviour
2. Students need to keep telling on a bully until they are listened to by an adult.
3. Parents must ring the school and tell us if their child is being bullied
4. Students need support from an adult if they are being bullied.

If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to call Sue Rose, DP.

**Australian Tests Results for Science & Computer Skills**

**Congratulations to all those who sat these tests. The following pupils received particularly good results;**

<b>Science</b>	
Flynn Maslin-Gilmore	High Distinction
Fraser Gurney	Distinction
Michael Lane	Distinction
Geeny Moon	Distinction
Jacob Reese-Jones	Distinction
Andrew Fordyce	Distinction
Edward Gurney	Credit
Madison Palmer	Credit
Alex Tompkins	Credit
Like Trenberth	Credit
Fergus McIntosh	Credit
Calvin Preston	Credit
Richard Liu	Credit
<b>Computer Skills</b>	
MacKenzie Norton	High Distinction
Dhilan Patel	Distinction
Alice Norton	Distinction
Alex Tompkins	Distinction
Geeny Moon	Credit
Jacob Reese-Jones	Credit
Crystal Li	Credit
Madison Palmer	Credit
Monique Robinson	Credit
Luke Trenberth	Credit
Andrew Fordyce	Credit
Rhys Weaver	Credit

# Celebrations

## School Policies Review Term 3

Because many schools have generic policies for everything from Health and Safety to concerns and complaints, a company has been set up that provides generic policies for schools. This company is called 'Schooldocs'

Avonhead School has adopted the policies in School Docs particularly as the package allows us to 'tailor' some of the policies for Avonhead School.

These policies are available for viewing on the 'Schooldocs' website and for the first time we are inviting parents to view our policies. The instructions to do this are listed below.

A feature of the Schooldocs programme allows a review process to occur where parents from Avonhead School, along with responses from parents of all client schools, may make suggestions or amendments for policies under review. The school gets to see these responses and a committee made up of Principals and Board members at Schooldocs considers your response along with others and makes the relevant changes if needed.

This means that parents can have a say in the evolution and review process of the policies that our school has.

Please have a look at Schooldocs below and familiarise yourself with the policies adopted by the school. We are looking forward to using the new school docs and these policies and procedures are more manageable than our current policies and procedures. However, you will appreciate there will be a transition period between the old policies and the new policies.

The Avonhead School policies can now be viewed on the Avonhead School website. When policies are up for review, and depending on the particular policy, parents will have the opportunity to provide their comments through an on-line feedback system.

Please find below the instructions for (A) accessing the policies and (B) reviewing the policies.

### Accessing the policies

- Go to the Avonhead School website – [www.avonhead.school.nz](http://www.avonhead.school.nz)
- On the "Home" page on the site menu, you will find a button (second from bottom) called school policies which you should click on
- In the user name area, type in "avonhead"
- In the password area, type in "55ahead"
- You will then have access to the Policy and Procedure site
- Navigate your way through the various policies/procedures by using the prompts on the left hand side. (Click on the + sign on the left to show further policies.)

### Reviewing the policies

- The procedure to get to the Policy and Procedure site is as indicated above
- At the "welcome" page, you will see highlighted words "policies currently under review"
- Click on this and it will take you to the policies currently being reviewed. (The two documents under review for parents this term are; Reporting to Parents and Improving Educational Outcomes for Maori Students.)
- This will take you to the review screen
- Policies that parents can comment on will have "parents" indicated beside the reviewers heading
- Click on the policy you wish to comment on
- On the top right hand part of the screen you will see a button saying "policy review"
- Click on this and then select the reviewer type as "parent/caregiver"
- Enter your name (optional)
- In the password area, type in 'pin'
- Login
- Submit your ratings and comments


If you don't have internet access, the school office staff can easily provide you with printed copies of the policy and review form.

### **Term 3 Policy Reviews 2009**

1. Making a Formal Complaint
2. Behaviour Management

Refer to the associated documents in bold in these policies for more information.

## Caretaker's Corner - Jim's Tips

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kumara Topped Tuna Pie</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 tbsp olive oil 1 onion, sliced 2 tsp dill seeds Pinch chilli powder 1 tbsp plain flour 400g cqn tomatoes 2 185g Cans tuna, drained 1 bunch spinach, blanched &amp; drained S&amp;P 1 kg kumara, peeled &amp; cubed 100g butter, melted ½ cup warmed milk 1 cup grated Cheddar cheese</p> <p>In a large pan, soften onion in oil. Stir in dill seeds, chilli and flour and cook for 1 minute. Add tomatoes; boil until thickened, stirring continuously. Add tuna and spinach and season to taste. Place into a deep baking dish.</p> <p>Meanwhile, boil kumara until very tender. Drain well and mash, adding butter, milk and S&amp;P to taste. Pile mashed kumara onto tuna base and top with cheese.</p> <p>Preheat oven to 180C. Bake pie for 30 mins until heated through and the cheese is golden.</p>	
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### Term Diary

<b>July 28/29</b>	Parent teacher Interviews
<b>30</b>	PTA Meeting ESOL Conversation for parents in staffroom
<b>31</b>	School Disco
<b>Aug 4</b>	NSW English
<b>5</b>	Student Council Wacky Hair Day Yr 5-8 Health Consultation Meeting
<b>6</b>	<b>BOT Meeting</b>
<b>7</b>	PTA Sausage Sizzle Winter Sport finishes
<b>10</b>	Zone Winter Tournament
<b>12/13</b>	Canta Maths Newcomers Lunch
<b>17</b>	Music Fest Rehearsal in Town Hall
<b>18</b>	NSW Maths test
<b>20</b>	Ski trip seniors
<b>27</b>	PTA Meeting
<b>Sept 3</b>	Central Winter Tournament
<b>4</b>	Sausage Sizzle
<b>16</b>	School Photos
<b>24</b>	PTA Meeting

## Notices

**Social English Conversation for Adult Speakers of Other Languages. Come and join us at Avonhead.**  
**Where? Avonhead Staff Room**  
**When? Last Thursday of every month**  
**Next: July 30th**  
**Time? 9-9.30am**  
**Clothing & Food**

**Music Tuition**

**M. C. Blanchard**

**M. Ed., High. Dip. Tchg, LTCL, (Performer's)  
ATCL, (Teacher's)  
AIRMTNZ (Registered Music Teacher)**

**Teacher  
of  
Piano and Theory**

**Vacancies Now  
Phone 352 6466**

# Notices

Riccarton High School PTA invites you to an evening with

**John Cowan.. from Parents Inc**

***Hot Tips for Parenting Teenagers***

**When? Wednesday 5 August 7.30-9.45**

**Where? LaVida Conference & Community Centre  
34A Hansons Lane, Upper Riccarton**

**Cost? \$5 – tickets can be purchased on entry (cash only) or  
from the Riccarton High School office, Ph 348 5073.**

**I ImpactAlpha Gymsports**

**have vacancies in term 3 in our  
trampoline, gymnastics and  
cheerleading programmes. For  
further information please phone  
338 4566 or email**

**[impactalphagymsports@xtra.co.nz](mailto:impactalphagymsports@xtra.co.nz)**

**Last chance to own a piece of our history..**

If anyone would like their child's name to feature in the donations grid to be on permanent display, contributions in \$20 blocks may be made in the next few days. Please see Karen Honeybone in the office.

## PTA CORNER

### **EASY SHOPPING FOR YOU – EASY FUNDRAISING FOR US**

**Leading stores including Noel Leeming, Bond & Bond, Dominos Pizza, Dell and many more. You can shop for DVD's, fashion, holidays, baby, home, iPods, books, magazines, toys, gifts, electrical and even your groceries! Just select Avonhead School when you shop or browse online at [www.yourfastshop.co.nz](http://www.yourfastshop.co.nz)**



#### **Special General Meeting.**

A Special General Meeting for the Avonhead School PTA is being held on the 27th August 2009.

Meeting time is 7.15pm in the school staffroom.

This is for the purpose of voiding our current constitution and adopting a new one. A copy of this document will be available for anyone interested from this week at the school office or through request at

[pta@avonhead.school.co.nz](mailto:pta@avonhead.school.co.nz).



#### **PTA Meeting 30th July**

This month we kick off our meeting with a light supper to celebrate 50 years of the Avonhead School PTA. All Parents / Caregivers / Staff welcome. 7pm in the school staff room. Meeting follows at 7.30pm.