

**From the desk of the Principal...**

Road Safety: Last week one of our students rode his bike home on the footpath and, just outside the new hall, he accidentally struck a child who was standing on the footpath waiting to get into a car. This accident is appalling and shouldn't have happened. The boy was injured but it could have been worse.

Children must not bike on the footpath! Please remind your children that it is illegal and certainly against the school rules to do so. If your child is not confident enough to ride on the road he/she should not be bringing their bike to school.

On another note, we have repeatedly told children that they cannot cycle or scoot out to the boundary gates. They must walk with their scooter/bikes and then get on them outside the gates. It's time to get tough with children who are compromising the safety of others as people walk out to the gate. Please reinforce this rule with your children and point out the genuine concerns we all have for children's safety.

Attendance: Thank you for your help and support with our new initiative – electronic attendance. This is where staff check for those who are absent by 8.55am (or close to this time) and send the absences to Hilary in the office, electronically. Hilary will then start the process of checking absences against the messages we have received and if we don't know where your child is, we will ring you as soon as we can. We have been pleased with the response from parents and Hilary seems to be ringing fewer people now as parents are getting used to ringing in and leaving a message about an absence. Thank you for this. Because of the efficiencies in the way we collect information about absences, we need children to be early. We start at 8.55am and if children arrive at this time they are late and must report to the office for a 'late slip'. This slip is filled out by Hilary and indicates to the teacher that the student has reported in and that Hilary has changed the 'absence' entry to a 'late' entry. This slip is an administration procedure and there are no consequences for the children if they have to call into the office to collect one but it is important that they do. We realise that some children may be late for very genuine and good reasons.

Holidays: We start our holidays at 3pm tomorrow (Thursday) and we will reopen at 8.55am on Monday, 19 April. The weather looks to be good (I hope it is as the Levings are going fishing in Dunedin!) so enjoy the break with your children.

New hall: The hall is coming together quite well and should be at 'lock up stage' by the time the builders finish tomorrow. We are expecting the hall to be completed by mid May but we may not be able to use the hall at this stage until the certificate of completion is issued. We are planning to have an official hall opening on June 10 and there will be an open day for the community all day on Friday 11th where interested community members can have a guided tour of the hall by senior students.

Board of Trustees nominations: Just a reminder that applications close at noon on Friday, 23 April. This is the first Friday after the holidays so you still have time to consider whether you would like to stand for the Board of Trustees. You can obtain a nomination form from Hilary Taylor in the office or you can download one from our website.

Swimming Pool: We have been having some wonderful 'summery days' so I'm sure people will make good use of the pool over the holidays. At the end of the holidays the pool will be closed and parents are urged to return the key and receive a \$10.00 refund which you must do before the 30th of April. Just a reminder that this key will not open the pool next swimming season as the lock will be changed.

ICTPD: You'll probably wonder what these letters stand for! They stand for 'Information Technology Professional Development'. As you know, our school is part of a cluster of schools including Russley, St Martins and Riccarton where staff work together collaboratively and collegially with the support of an expert 'professional development' provider – "e-time". Every Staff member has spent a day in an 'e-time' workshop this term and have worked on 'developing literacy with still images'. The quality of the Professional Development has been amazing and staff have been working on individual projects with their classes. I am impressed with the quality of work that is coming from the children – school wide. There will be more workshops through the year and the e-time facilitator, Nick Leith, will be coming to our school to work alongside teachers in the classroom and help them with their individual projects. It's a very exciting time at our school when we see our children using ICT meaningfully and with a strong, learning context.

Reminder – the applications for the Special Groups in the Christchurch Schools Music Festival close 1 April.

Charles Levings
Principal

Term Diary

31	Easter Raffle draw-winners announced newsletter
April 1	End Term 1
April 19	Start Term 2
21	BOT Meeting 2.15 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' parent meeting MPR
23	Nominations close noon for BOT elections
27	PTA Meeting 5/6 Hagley Walk
May 5-7	5/6 Camp Living Springs
7	PP School Cross Country
19	BOT Meeting
25	PTA Meeting NSW Computer Skills test
26	Zone Cross Country
27	PTA Newcomers Welcome
June 2,3	Parent Interviews.
4	PTA Sausage Sizzle Winter Sports
7	Queens Birthday-School closed

Celebrations

☺**Erin Downie** represented Canterbury in the Interprovincial Athletics Meet at the weekend, her first meet, and achieved outstanding results!; 1st in 200m, 2nd in 60m, 2nd in Long Jump & 1st in the 4x100m Relay. Well done Erin.

☺**Jenner Johnson**, R 8, won Player of the 09/10 Season in T-Ball under 8yrs. Congratulations Jenner!

☺**Jasper Johnson**, R 2, won Best All Rounder 09/10 Season in T-Ball mixed. Congratulations Jasper!

☺**Jack Orchard's** indoor soccer team made it into the final on Sunday and they won their game 6-0, giving them the gold medal for the season and all six goals were scored by Jack! So well done to him!

☺**The Avonhead Attackers'** 11 and under, won the finals for their division yesterday, 16-11. Very very exciting! They are all Avonhead School students and one ex student. It was a great game and the prize giving was absolutely brilliant, they were all beside themselves with delight when they received their GOLD medals it was fantastic to be a part o. These children worked extremely hard this season and it was a really deserving end result! (Looking for a couple of extra players for terms 2/3 winter season on Fridays afternoons, that are aged 10+.. Call Lisa Walker on (3434169).

☺An Avonhead Tennis club team comprising 4 Avonhead school players, **Rhys Weaver, Fergus and Theo McIntosh and Yusei Mameno** recently won the finals of their interclub contest against Burnside Park. Although Yusei couldn't be there for the actual final, his skills throughout the season contributed to the 40.5 end-of-season score which got us into the final. Well Done boys!

Lost... a black scooter, Piranha brand, with Hannah O'Connell's name on it Ph 348 2098.

Elections for School Board of Trustees

Nominations are called for 3 Parent Representatives on the Board of Trustees. Nominations forms may be obtained from **Hilary Taylor, Returning Officer, in the school office. Nominations close on 23 April, 2010.**

Get a copy of this newsletter by email

If you would like to receive a PDF copy of this newsletter via email look for the link on the school website
www.avonhead.school.nz

PTA CORNER

Photo fundraiser-the 1st 3 families to order were;

Momoka Ishikawa
Phillipa Buckley
K Gullery

Congratulations to those families. Refunds are going home today.

Easter Raffle winners are;

Barry Whitefield
Lesley Gill
Takashi Ishikawa

Congratulations to those lucky people!

Entertainment Books – Please get your order in asap. We keep taking orders until sold out but if you don't want to miss out then order NOW!

Sleeping Bag fundraiser- Get your orders in to ensure delivery before Yrs 5/6 camp. Sleeping bag sample available to view in the school office.

Hair Check Nights – Fridays!

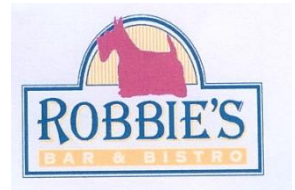
Next meeting 27 April.

Notices

Dental Care over the School Holidays

The Community Dental Service will operate an emergency service over the school holidays. This service is to provide relief of pain only and will not undertake 'routine' treatment. The service will be available each working day from 8:30am until 12:30pm from the Oral Health Centre, 16 Tuam Street, Christchurch for the following

times: Tuesday, 6th April – 16th April 2010 (excluding weekends) This service will operate by appointment only and if we are unable to see your child, alternative options will be given. If your child has dental pain as a result of an accident please contact your dentist in the first instance. You can phone and make an appointment for the emergency clinic by ringing 364 1860. Alternatively, your school dental clinic phone will have a message on how to access emergency care.



Robbie's Bar & Bistro Church Corner is running a promotion for schools. When parents and family of children at Avonhead School dine at Robbie's **Church Corner**, Robbies donate 10% of the total bill back to Avonhead School PTA.

This donation will help Avonhead School PTA fund additional resources for classrooms at the school. When dining at Robbie's Bar & Bistro **Church Corner** please tell them that you are family of Avonhead School and the donation will then be sent to the Avonhead School PTA.

👉 Looking for... a parent who might be interested in doing after school care for a junior student. Reply to **Heather Law, Assistant Principal on hlaw@avonhead.school.nz**

For Sale – School uniform size 8 – tracksuit pants \$10, short sleeve polo \$2, long sleeve polo \$5 and size 10 long sleeve polo \$5. Phone Jenny 9422320

For Sale: - 1x size 6 Summer Dress - \$25.00; 2x size 8 Summer Dresses - \$25.00 each; Phone Carmen 021 771 471

As you may know, some lucky pupils were able to participate in the kiwi release in Riccarton Bush recently. Here they are with a DOC worker and one of the kiwi raised at Willowbank.⇒

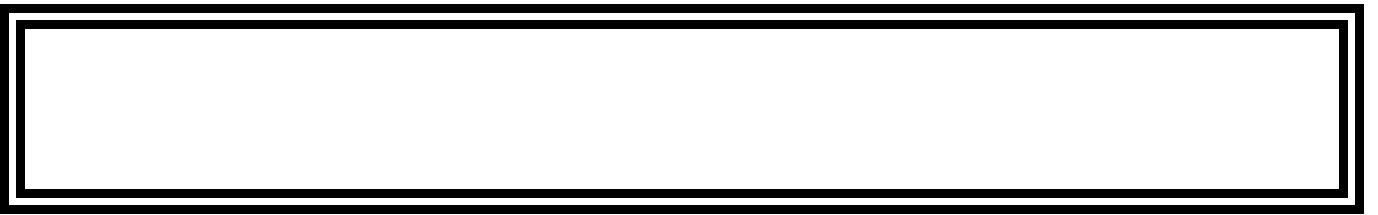
Great News!

Avonhead School won 2nd prize in the Year 4-6 category of the NZ Schools Lantern-Making Competition recently. \$200 is making its way to the school because of the fabulous artistic efforts of our lantern-maker!s You may have noticed several of these in the school office. What clever children we have.



Canterbury Primary Schools Triathlon Results from QE II

Rhys Weaver 25th/110
James Malin 98th/110
Arna Criglington 62nd/110
Lucy Walker 93rd/137
Paige Campion 128th/137
Josh Santich 35th/92
Edward Gurney 43rd/92
Nic Moore 59th/92
Hayden Allan 83rd/92
Jeremy Northcott 90th/92
Lissy Robin 74th/91
Kayden Thompson 53rd/60
Alex Whyte 59th/60
Elisa Richnow 49th/70
Geeny Moon 66th/70



The Avonhead Spotlight falls on...

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**