

CONCORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"Together We Learn and Grow"



Kia ora whānau, families and friends of Concord School

It is great to report to you again about all the exciting events that have been happening at Concord School. There have been many highlights over the past year. We have tried to summarise some of them in this newsletter.

One that many of the community would have noticed is the installation of our new TigerTurf top court earlier in the year. This is a great asset for our school and community and it is being well utilised.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for their support of our fundraising ventures this year, that includes cheese rolls, raffles, fudge etc. The funds from this go back to the children in the form of resources, sports equipment, school camps and extra trips.

Our first day back for 2018 is Tuesday 30th January. The office will be open 9.00am-12.30pm on Monday 29th January for new enrolments. I hope you have a great Christmas, Happy New Year and a relaxing break.

Regards

Steve Turnbull
Principal



Big Day Out – In February the whole school had a fantastic 'Big Day Out' in Mosgiel, walking along the Silverstream to the Mosgiel Park for a play and lunch, followed by a swim at the Mosgiel Pool. A bonus was our surprise visit to Otago Helicopters, our whole school photo in front of a helicopter, and a briefing given by one of the paramedics.

It was pleasing to see children of different ages playing together, both at the playground and in the pool. Our annual Big Day Out is always a great bonding experience for all the children at the start of a new year.



Orokonui Ecosanctuary Trips – We had two beautiful days to visit the Orokonui Ecosanctuary earlier in the year. Some of the highlights were seeing the takahe feeding, spotting skinks, hand-feeding robins and learning about how they detect and trap predators. The ecosanctuary is a great asset to Dunedin and well worth a visit with the family as there are many walking tracks and native birds and animals to spot.



New Top Court – In February Multisport Surfaces installed our new top court. This was officially opened in March, when the children performed the school song and haka in front of our special guests, the Highlanders.

We are all very proud of our court that has both basketball and netball markings, and dual hoops that we can swivel around. This is a big improvement on the old asphalt that was at the end of its life, with its fading lines that needed regular upkeep.



We would like to thank the Board of Trustees, the Parents Group and the four charities that donated money to enable us to complete our project, the NZ Community Trust, the Alexander McMillan Trust, The Lion Foundation and the Otago Community Trust.

While this court benefits our children immensely at school during sports, games and break times, it is also an asset for the wider community, with it being well used after school hours and in the weekends.

Year 6 Camp – "Our Year 6 camp was lots of fun at Bannockburn. Some of the activities we did were going fishing, a trip on the Earnslaw and rides on the luge and gondola in Queenstown. We also took part in goldpanning at the museum in Arrowtown, bike riding to Cromwell, swimming and Fear Factor." – by Nevaeh

Year 5 Camp – "The Year 5 camp was at the Waiora Scout camp. We built some bivouacs and Mr Turnbull poured a bucket of water on top of them to test their water-proofness, and some of us got wet. We played spotlight, did team building activities and we went on a walk through the trees. There is also a great confidence course at the camp that we went on. We had lots of fun." – by Kaley

New Sport Activator - This year we welcomed Holly Robinson as our new Sport Activator. Holly competed for NZ at the Rio 2016 Paralympics in track and field, specialising in javelin. She was also the NZ flagbearer at the Opening Ceremony. She also competed in the World Para Athletics Championships in London in July. Holly graduated from the Otago Institute of Sport and Adventure with a Bachelor of Applied Science in physical activity, health & wellness.



School Security – If you see anything unsuitable happening in our school grounds at any time please do not hesitate to ring the police. If it is urgent dial 111 or phone the Dunedin Community Police on 471 4800.

Chinese Exchange Teacher – In Term 3 we welcomed Ada, an exchange teacher from China, to Concord School. Ada teaches English to secondary students in China at a school that has over 5000 students and 500 staff! Ada spent a week in each class watching and delivering lessons. We all enjoyed her visit immensely and learned a lot about her culture, school, and daily life in China. We all really enjoyed the dumplings she taught us to make (and the staff have loved sampling different Chinese dishes at lunchtime!).



Making dumplings with Ada

Sports - This year the school has had a variety of sports teams competing in local competitions after school. It is pleasing to see the children enthusiastic and keen to learn and practise their skills. We very much appreciate our parents who volunteer to manage and coach the teams.

Concord is part of the Greater Green Island cluster of schools and this year we have been involved in triathlon, cross country and athletics. Well done to all the students who competed in these competitions and to those place getters that went to the next level and were involved in the Otago Championships.

Grandparents Reading – This year we celebrate 10 years of grandparents reading at Concord School. Students enjoy going to the library every Thursday and reading to our lovely grandparents and we really appreciate our grandparents giving up their time to work with our children.



Duffy Books – We have had some great news this year that our long-term sponsor, Yarrow South Charitable Trust, has now committed to paying 50% of the cost of this programme, up from 25% that they paid previously.

We really appreciate their ongoing support and acknowledge that the 'Duffy Books in Homes' programme is invaluable in supporting our children's reading. The children really look forward to getting their Duffy books each term.



"Stars On Stage" – This year our performance was titled "I Believe". It was all about Tinkerbell making all the other toys come to life. There were many different characters, including ballerinas, soldiers, teddy bears, jack-in-the-box, Bob the Builder, Pinocchio, Elmo, Cookie Monster, Lego people and Monster High dolls. It was a great experience for the children to perform in front of a packed-out audience in the Regent Theatre.

Ashley's Tree – We had an exciting morning earlier this term watching a crane move Ashley's tree from the section we sold, back into our grounds. Many thanks to Ben and the Otago Polytech arborist students - it was a huge job!

Ashley was a Year 6 student at Concord School when he passed away in 2002, and the ash tree was planted as a memorial. We also have the Ashley McKeachie 'School Spirit' award donated by his family, which we present at the end of each year.



Digital Technologies – This year our two senior rooms have been using our new chromebooks and the Google Classroom programme to complete most of their schoolwork on. We have found the chromebooks very motivating for students, especially with their creative writing. It is pleasing to see that some of their writing has improved in quantity and quality using this programme.

Students are also able to easily share their work with their teacher and parents at home, and also work on it out of school hours. The use of this technology also makes the transition to Kaikorai Valley College, or other intermediate schools, more seamless as they will be expected to use the same programmes there.

At the end of the year the Board of Trustees donate some of their meeting payments to fund a chromebook for the Year 6 winner of the Whiti Marama Award.



CLEVER CATS

Hi, my name is Sue Howard and I am the New Entrant/Year 1 teacher at Concord School. I run a programme for children from age 4½ called 'Clever Cats.' Clever Cats is a transition programme that introduces the child to school life and expectations and gives them a chance to meet and spend time with their future classmates and teacher.

It is held every second Friday, on the odd weeks of the term, from 1.30 – 3.00pm in Room 2. During Clever Cat sessions we often visit the school library and meet up with our 'buddies', one of the senior children from Room 5, who read to us and also assist us in choosing a book to take home. We then share a big book back in Room 2 and take part in a follow-up activity.

If you would like more information about Clever Cats, ring the school office and I will happily make a time to talk with you.

Merry Christmas

And a safe and happy holiday season, from us all!



Year 6 School Leavers for 2017

Skyla-Jade Burgess
Luke Buswell
Blake Clark
Chloe Davis
Xavier Dwight

Nikora Evans
Nevaeh McKenzie
Shiloh Scoullar
Kelsey Wadley
Hayley Woodhouse

We wish them all well for 2018 and beyond

Concord Kids CARE



We still have copies of our school fundraising cookbook to sell. Get yours NOW for Christmas - only \$5.00 each!! (available at the school office until Dec 15)