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NEWSLETTER NO.2

Hello everyone,

Wow what great weather for the first weeks back at school. The children think autumn is on its way as there are dead leaves all around the office area. John tells me the trees are stressed ... I thought that only happened to school principals! The hot weather has not caused too many issues at school as the children are being so sensible about playing in the shade and not overdoing the physical exertions in the playground. In fact it's been an amazing start to the year with teachers and students already in focused learning modes. Well done everyone. What neat kids we have at Wanaka Primary School!

Our swimming programme is under way – the lessons are highly organised and of good quality, with the instructors focused on the swimming needs of their groups. Jennie and the teachers who have been swimming with their classes are most impressed. Well done to Tim and his team at the pool. Everyone involved in this week's swimming programme has been very prompt and paid for their swimming programme. If your child is taking part next week, please ensure we have payment by **Friday 12th February**. Please ring me at school if you would like some assistance with the cost of the swimming programme as I still have a few ways and means. A reminder to all classes going swimming next week that children need to have with them a t shirt and shorts/pants for a water safety activity on **TUESDAY** (16th February) ... and please help your children remember to put togs and towels in their bags EVERY DAY for the week they are swimming.

Gilly Pugh starts working with all classes on the **music programme** this week. Where possible I will work in with her as her beautiful assistant.



Our year long theme is '*The Times They are A Changing*' so we will be looking at music from different eras and contexts. For term 1 the focus is on singing (at all levels) and playing a tuned musical instrument (years 3→6). We have recorders on sale at \$8.50 from the school office. We are also purchasing ukuleles for the school and will have some for sale if students would like to buy their own. This week children will be asked to opt in to playing either a xylophone, ukulele, melodica or recorder and will be grouped according to their abilities. Children who can already play an instrument will go straight into the school band. **Year 3 & 4** classes need their musical instruments at school **this Wednesday (TOMORROW)** if possible and definitely the week after. Please feel free to access recorders from other sources such as *The Warehouse*. We have a few spares but because of health regulations do not like to share these around. It is essential that every child has access to a musical instrument. Please ring me if this presents a problem.

YEAR 5 & 6 CLASSES WILL NEED THEIR INSTRUMENTS AT SCHOOL EVERY TUESDAY and **YEAR 3 & 4 EVERY WEDNESDAY**. Welcome back Gilly.

Mary Ann Tamati also started the Te Reo programme today. She is working with the year 5 & 6 classes in the morning during terms 1 and 3 and the year 3 & 4 classes in terms 2 and 4. In the afternoon she will work with the junior classes and will take each class every second week. Kapahaka practices will be starting next week. Welcome back Mary Ann.

A reminder about the **MEET THE TEACHER** sessions on **THURSDAY (11TH FEBRUARY)** this week.

- ★ The **JUNIOR MEETING** is planned for **5.30 SHARP TO 6PM** in **ROOM 6**;
- ★ the **YEAR 3 & 4 SESSION** is **6.00→6.30PM** in **ROOM 8**;
- ★ the **YEAR 5 & 6 SESSION** is in **ROOM 13** from **6.30 - 7.00PM**.



If you wish to bring your children along they will be supervised in the playground – hopefully the weather will be fine. Teachers will share programmes of work and outline everyday routines and learning expectations. These will be short, sharp sessions that will start dead on time so if you are moving from one class to another, please be prompt. Parents will also have the opportunity to talk to teachers one to one after the presentations. Last year we had approx. 40 parents at each session so we are looking forward to the same enthusiasm this year. If you would like to catch up with Kerry or me, we will be supervising the children's playgrounds so feel free to come and approach us.

The first **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING** for the year is being held on **TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY** at **7pm** in the school staffroom. This year the triennial Board elections are being held. There will be a call for nominations by the 15th March with the actual voting day being 7th May. If you are considering putting your name forward or know of someone who would make a great Board member, then feel free to come along to our meeting or perhaps contact one of our present Board members to have a chat with them about the role.

The parent reps. who make up our Board are:

Pete Bullen, Nick Busse, Tracey Gibson, Mike Scurr, Phillipa Findlay, Paul Tamati and Steve Dickey. At this stage we have at least one trustee who will not be putting themselves up for nomination again. So, if you are interested, now is the time to start getting involved.

This term we have a number of sports coaches visiting to work with classes, including the Milo cricket coaching programme, orienteering, Grasshopper Tennis and Rippa Rugby. We need to capitalise on these experts whilst they are in the area. Costs for these, like the visiting performers we book each year, come from your school activity fee. The Board of Trustees is sending home their school donation and school activity request letter this week so be on the look out for this.

Every year we are required to consult with parents to see if there are health programmes that need to be implemented to cover student and community needs. This year we have Harold and the Life Trust Mobile Caravan coming to talk about our healthy bodies and brains. Later in the year we will run the Keeping Ourselves Safe and Netsafe programmes and also D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) for the year 5 and 6 children. Are there any other topics or issues we need to cover? Please let us know either by dropping a note off at the school office or giving me a ring.

My thought for the week: *'Today give someone one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine he/she sees all day.'*

See you on Thursday at the Meet the Teacher sessions.

Smiles and hugs,

Wendy B

SEASONS FOR GROWTH.

Seasons for Growth is an eight-session programme that assists children to understand the changes and feelings they experience because of the loss of a parent or significant other person in their life through death, separation or divorce. The programme can also address the loss children feel because of the shift to a new country or of changes in the home because of physical/mental illness of a close family member.

Seasons for Growth offers a range of activities that helps children understand that it is normal to experience and express a range of emotions connected to change, loss and grief. They are offered the opportunity to talk about what is going on inside them and often find that others feel the same. Children are encouraged to learn positive ways to deal with their various emotions. Each person in the group has a workbook, which follows a set structure to work through. The group is always small and consists of children of a similar age.

The programme runs in school time. If you are interested in your child being part of this programme, please return the form below to the school office. For further information, please contact Kathi McLean, Seasons for Growth Co-ordinator [03] 448 6115/ kathi@coreap.org.nz or discuss with your school Principal.



Yes I am interested in my child being part of the **SEASONS FOR GROWTH** programme.

Name _____ Their loss is _____

Age _____ Parent's name & signature _____

Contact Phone/email _____

Yes / No I would be interested in attending a Parent Information session

Yes / No I would be interested in attending a similar 2 session adult programme.



OUT OF HOURS MUSIC CLASSES will be starting next week.

Guitar, keyboard and singing in group sessions. Phone Gilly on 443 9226 or pick up info. from the school office.

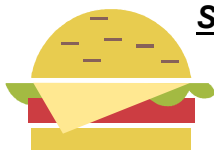


GUITARS. If you have a guitar gathering dust in the wardrobe, would you be prepared to lend it to the school?

DRAMA classes for children will resume this week. 5 years +. Please phone 443 9226 for information.

AFTER SCHOOL BUS ARRANGEMENTS need to be updated for 2010. There were many absences from bus lines last week which we can only presume to be changes to after school activities this term. **Please** contact Katrina in the school office if your child will not be taking the bus home on any given day.

FEE-PAYING PASSENGERS – MT IRON BUS: Many thanks to those who have already paid this term's bus fee but we would appreciate payment from EVERYONE concerned by the end of this week. Charges remain the same, i.e. \$50 per term per child, with cheques made out to **Central Motorways** please. Cash is also acceptable.



SUBWAY ORDERS – FRIDAYS ONLY. All classes have a supply of **Subway** envelopes and **Subway** is available once a week, for those interested. Money must be placed in the **Subway** envelope and handed in to the school office by **9am** on a **Friday morning**. **Subway** staff deliver filled orders to school by lunchtime. No late orders can be accepted.

A reminder that the **UPPER CLUTHA A & P SHOW** will be held at the Wanaka Showgrounds on **FRIDAY MARCH 12TH** and **SATURDAY MARCH 13TH**. We would like to encourage our primary school children to enter exhibits in the Junior Section, ranging from arts & crafts, baking and photography through to vegetables and decorative. Visit the website www.wanakashow.co.nz. Entry forms are available online or from Paper Plus or the Town Library – we also have one available for you to look at in the school office. Please contact Jan Allen on 443 7373 or 027 331 0104 if you have any queries. All entries and exhibits are to be in by 5pm on Thursday 11th March. The Home Industry Committee will be available to take entries from 1→5pm Monday 8th March to Thursday 11th March. .

UPPER CLUTHA JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2010 @ THE RUGBY CLUBROOMS AT 6.30PM
All intending coaches from U7 up, committee members & helpers please attend.
Apologies to: Mandy Knight – 443 6088 or Grant Ruddenklau – 443 5064.

The **MT IRON WALKING SCHOOL BUS** service resumed today. 'Passengers' to meet at the ex-*Big Bounce* building in Anderson Road at **8.15am** on **TUESDAY** and **WEDNESDAY** mornings. Children are welcome to join 'the bus' at any part of the walk along Anderson Road, over the hill via Stratford Terrace to Warren Street ... and on to school. Any offers of help would be very welcome. Cancellations are broadcast over Radio Wanaka on the day. Any enquiries please phone Kath Wilson on 443 7874.

WANAKA JUNIOR FOOTBALL REGISTRATION will take place on **THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY** from 3pm onwards under the shade sails outside our school library. Download your registration form from the COFA website cofa.org.nz, fill in the details and drop off at school with payment. Practice starts on Thursday 18th February @ 3.15pm. More coaches are needed. Ring Rudi on 443 9711 for further information.

HAITI FUNDRAISER DINNER & AUCTION at **The Ale House** on **WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY**. Tickets available from The Ale House for \$50 per person, which includes main meal and dessert. Over \$2,000 worth of items donated by local businesses up for auction, including an afternoon skiing session with the famous Wells brothers. All money raised from the evening will be donated to the New Zealand Red Cross.

The **CLIFFHANGERS YOUTH CLIMBING CLUB** is starting up again at Basecamp Wanaka on **WEDNESDAYS** from 5pm to 6:30pm and **THURSDAYS** from 3:30pm to 5pm. Any questions, ring 443 1110.