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NEWSLETTER NO.5

Hi everyone,

Before I can write my editorial I need to get something off my chest. After my *'no comment'* to the Wanaka Sun reporter who rang me last week, I was disturbed to read the write-up on Wanaka Primary School donations. But I was even more upset to learn that some parents thought it was the Board or myself who initiated the article. **It was not!** The Wanaka Sun seems to delight in making mischief, with a knack of getting inaccurate or patchy information, then looking for the negatives and, if all else fails, misinterpreting or misquoting to sensationalise issues. In the last year or so, there have been a number of incidents and hence conversations with reporters and the editor from the Wanaka Sun about the inaccuracy of their reporting. I have been used to working with supportive community media such as The Mirror, the C.O News, the O.D.T and Radio Wanaka, where their reporters gather reliable information and present issues in a factual manner, without resorting to distorted interpretations and misrepresenting quotes.

With regard to the school donations, they **are not** used for professional development and **are not** used to provide release time for teachers; these provisions are made from Ministry of Education staffing and operational funding granted to our school. As outlined in the donations letter from the Board, the additional funds attracted through donations are used to offer extra teaching time and teaching programmes for all classes in such areas as; music, drama, dance, Maori, extra programmes for children needing a boost in literacy and numeracy (not including special needs programmes which comes from a different pool of funding), extension programmes, e-learning programmes, small group and individual programmes. Extra teacher time and provision for additional programmes is not possible without using community funds, given the confines of the operational grant received from the government. Our goal is to make a difference for **all** of our learners and school donations assist us to do this. The donations letter from the Board was relating factual information from our review of the 2009 funds received. It stated the importance of these donations to the school. It was not intended to offend parents who had contributed donations in 2009, nor was it intended to make others feel uncomfortable. Its purpose was to inform our school community, in a transparent and direct manner, of the funding we had received. We are extremely grateful to the parents who have given donations to our school, both in the past and in recent weeks, and we will continue to record our appreciation via the school newsletter.

I for one will not be looking to the Wanaka Sun to share and record our school's achievements and issues in the future. It is particularly disheartening for me that this local newspaper cannot focus on the positive and exciting aspects of our school, especially with the imminent move to the new site. The immense amount of goodwill and hard work going on quietly in the background to provide the best learning opportunities for our children does not deserve knock-backs such as this. Our Board members are volunteers who represent you and are totally focussed on providing an optimum educational environment. If you have any comments or suggestions about the school donations or activity fees, please put these in writing to the Board.

I intended to send this as a *Letter to The Editor* of the Wanaka Sun but did not want to risk publication of an abridged version, creating further controversy.

Welcome to Perry who is coaching all classes in Grasshopper Tennis over the next three weeks and also to the Milo Cricket coaches who are working with year 3 to 6 students over the next few days. With Rippa Rugby, triathlon teams getting ready for the C.O triathlon and our team of 15 swimmers taking part in the C.O. Primary Schools' Swimming Champs tomorrow, there are bodies zooming around everywhere!



Parent, teacher, student **3 WAY GOAL SETTING INTERVIEWS** are taking place over the next two weeks. Parents can book their interview times online. Please go to the following website www.schoolinterviews.co.nz enter the school code NUXL5 and follow the simple instructions. 118 families have already booked interviews but we would also like to remind the remaining 147 families to follow suit. If you do not have access to a computer, please call in at the office or phone Katrina, who will book a time for you.

INTERVIEW DATES AND TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **MONDAY 8TH MARCH** Year 5 & 6 students (Rooms 13, 14, 15, 16,17) 1.30→5pm
- **WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH** Year 3 & 4 students (Rooms 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) 1.30→5pm
- **THURSDAY 11TH MARCH**
Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 students (Rooms 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17) 3.15→5pm
- **MONDAY 15TH MARCH** Juniors (Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 6) 1.30→5pm
- **THURSDAY 18TH MARCH** Juniors (Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 6) 3.15→5pm

We heard on Friday that **THE PRIMARY TEACHERS' UNION MEETING PLANNED FOR WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH HAS NOW BEEN PUT OFF UNTIL EARLY MAY**. So there is no need to make alternative arrangements for your children as all staff will be on board and it will be school as usual. I apologise for this but it is beyond our control.

If you would like to purchase a ukulele, we are happy to put in an order at school prices. They are \$47.00 each, inclusive of G.S.T and freight, so if you would like to purchase one, please send back the slip below **with your cash or cheque** made out to Wanaka Primary School by this Friday, 5th March.



✂ -----

I wish to order a **UKELELE**. Please find attached payment for \$47 (incl. GST and freight).

Name: _____ Phone contact _____

✂ -----

A pile of student free passes for the Wanaka Airshow has arrived. These passes are for Easter Friday only. We have one for each child and we will give these out in the last week of term. So look out for further information about the distribution of these. Many thanks to the Airshow organisers for this kind gesture.

My thought for the week (borrowed from Radio Wanaka's quote this morning):
A comment you don't make is one you don't have to explain (well ... in most cases, Ed!!!)
 Have a happy week.

Wendy B 😊

BATTLEGONS are being brought to school by some of our younger students and causing a few issues. Please ensure these are not being sneaked into pockets and bags. *Thank you.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 03/03: C.O. Swimming Sports in Cromwell.
- 08/03: Years 5 & 6 goal setting interviews 1.30→5pm
Milo cricket and Grasshopper Tennis all week
- 10/03: Years 3 & 4 goal setting interviews 1.30→5pm. Parent Forum meeting 7pm.
- 11/03: Years 3→6 goal setting interviews 3.15→5pm
- 15/03: Upper Clutha Rippa Rugby tournament
Junior School goal setting interviews 1.30→5pm
- 17/03 Harold the Giraffe and the Life Education Trust mobile classroom arrive
- 18/03: Junior School goal setting interviews 3.15→5pm
Parents meeting for Harold 3.15pm.

The **RESULTS** of the **U.C. SWIMMING SPORTS**, held at the Community Pool last Monday, are posted on our website www.wanaka.school.nz under 'News/Upcoming Events' – March. We have some great young swimmers who are obviously going places!



News from our PARENT FORUM: The boxes in the school foyer are starting to fill with items for our grocery hamper raffles at the A & P Show. Thank you **SO** much to the families who have contributed so far, especially those who have brought in more than the two non-perishable goods per family requested. Please continue to send things in between now and next Monday, if you haven't already done so. We plan to have 3 draws and the more attractive they look, the more raffle tickets we will sell. **Please check expiry dates on products being donated.**

We are also desperate for more offers of help selling raffle tickets. **We need helpers from midday→4.00pm on Friday 12th March and from 10am→2pm on Saturday 13th March.** If you could give an hour of your time on either of these days, please email your name and contact phone number to Barbara Murphy at twomustangs@xtra.co.nz, phone Barbara on 443 4375 or complete the tear-off slip below and return to the school office.

✂ _____

YES I can help sell raffle tickets for the grocery hamper at the A & P Show.

(Please circle which day and time suits you best).

FRIDAY 12/3/10			12→1pm	1→2pm	2→3pm	3→4pm
SATURDAY 13/3/10	10→11am	11am→12.00	12→1pm	1→2pm		

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

(so a roster & instructions can be forwarded to you.)

IMPRESSIONS BEHIND THE DOOR HOUSE TOUR : SATURDAY 27TH MARCH.



A reminder that we have 13 homes listed for our house tour and one of the pods at our new school will be open, showcasing a junior classroom. Tickets are available from the school office and are priced at \$40 each. We need 6 helpers from each classroom to be on security at each house. Each helper will be given a free ticket to go on the tour when they are not on duty. The ticket will not include lunch. Forms in classrooms or email Nick McDonald on gavin.nicola@xtra.co.nz

The Ministry of Education is currently reviewing **SPECIAL EDUCATION**. A discussion document has been released to provide information about this review, which is available from the school's admin. office or the Ministry website www.minedu.govt.nz. Patrick Crowley, District Manager for the MoE Special Ed., will be holding a brief workshop presentation at Wanaka Primary School on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 10th @ 6pm**. All teachers, parents and other interested people are urged to attend, given the limited resourcing we get for special needs programmes in our school. Forms will be available for you to make a submission on this review. Decreased resourcing in Special Education will have an impact on the learning of all. Come and ask lots of questions!

U.C. JUNIOR RUGBY REGISTRATION DAY : THURSDAY 18TH MARCH, 3.00→6.00pm
@ The Rugby clubrooms. Subs are to be paid on this day, \$60 per family; \$35 per player U16→U7, \$10 for U5s. Enquiries to Mandy 443 6088.

YEAR 1 & 2 FUN FERNS: Early stages of fun basic netball skills. Girls are required to attend one lunch hour practice per week for **Term 2 only**. **NO SATURDAY NETBALL** for this age group. All girls interested, please register with Katrina at the school office by **FRIDAY 26TH MARCH**. For more info., contact Yvonne Brew 443 5650. Also, any parents interested in learning to umpire primary school-aged netball, please contact Yvonne Brew.

GOLDFIELDS SCHOOL DUATHLON : SUNDAY 7TH MARCH, first race 9am.
\$15 per competitor aged 5→16 yrs; \$5 per preschool-aged competitor. Entry forms are available from our Wanaka Primary School office or can be downloaded from the Goldfields School website www.goldfields.school.nz. No entries accepted on the day. Enquiries to Michelle (03) 445-0326 or A/H (03) 445 3129.



to **Libby Henderson**, who has had a wonderful story published in the **Extra** newspaper. You can read it for yourself in the window of Room 16.



The Wanaka Primary School Future Trust is very excited to be part of a fundraiser with 63B at the Warbirds Over Wanaka air show on Easter Friday, Saturday and Sunday (2nd, 3rd and 4th April).

We know there have been lots of calls for volunteers lately but chances like this don't come up very often. We need two sets of volunteers. The first would work from 7am to 10am making sandwiches at **The Venue** (Cnr. Cardrona & Orchard Rds.) – which is kid friendly. 4 persons per day are required. The second shift is working in the silver pass area of the air show from 10am→4pm. This would entail clearing, selling, kitchen preparation, etc. If you have special skills please let us know. We have the potential to earn in excess of \$7,000 for the Trust if we can fill all the places. Heather Wellman is coordinating the roster. Please call her on 443 7347 to book a time slot. Thank you all in advance for your support.
Sandy Guy, Chairperson.