

# LEVIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

11 March 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 3

Principal: Trevor Jeffries  
Deputy Principal: Sue Binning  
Acting Assistant Principal: Lyndon Cooney

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 22 March - Dokkyo Saitama students arrive
- ◆ 18 March - Super Arts Hip Hop
- ◆ 23 March - BOT meeting 7.00pm
- ◆ 1 April - Parent Information Evening 7.00pm
- ◆ 4 April - Great Forest Fun Run / Walk
- ◆ 9 April - End of term 1
- ◆ 27 April - Term 2 starts

Events updated daily  
on our website  
calendar

Dear Parents/Caregivers

### Homework

As we move further into the school year a few questions arise about what we do or don't do at L.I.S. and why. One common question often asked is about **homework**. At our school we do not give out regular homework in the form of worksheets or projects. This is a decision made by me with the support of management and staff and has been in place since I was appointed Principal three years ago.

There are good arguments for and against homework and I have examined them all. One common reason put forward in favour of **homework** at this age is that it develops good habits and time management in preparation for college. This is not proven by the facts. Research recently published by Dr John Hattie confirms earlier findings that for the vast majority of students, using **homework** to set study routines does not work and can be counterproductive by raising anxiety and reinforcing failure.

Worksheets, in particular, serve no useful purpose on their own. They are not directed to each student's level of learning or their individual need. There is no guarantee that the student has been taught the skills necessary to complete the tasks. It then falls to someone at home to show the student, and not all parents are available or confident to do this. So some students cannot complete the work anyway.

However there is definitely a place for doing school work outside of class time. This work falls into two broad categories – practicing new learning, and researching to get some background information to enable good questions to be developed

about a topic. Both of these categories enable the teacher to give meaningful feedback to a student and to help them make progress with their learning.

From time to time your child's teacher will expect them to do both of these things. Students will always be supported and have the tools to succeed in this work. The theory is that if a student is succeeding in their learning they will be motivated to repeat that success. We are seeing that right now in our Inquiry Learning, where many students are providing feedback from home to their class Learning Cave. This is used at school to help drive the class Inquiry.

### Assessment

We will begin testing our students reading ability over the next two weeks. We are using a new tool called **e.asTTle** (a tool for the future) as part of a New Zealand wide trial. I will be demonstrating it at **our parent information evening on Wed 1 April**.

### Property

Progress on the new **Administration Block** has picked up speed and we hope to start moving in to it early in Term Two. This will free up Rooms 1 & 2 for modernisation. The Board of Trustees has set up a small team to investigate how we can redevelop our classrooms to provide a better learning environment for our students. If you have visited a school where you saw a classroom design with the WOW factor we would love to hear about it. Our aim is to provide the most modern, exciting, future-proofed classrooms we can afford across our school in the next two years.

Naku noa

Trevor Jeffries, Principal

## LEARN TO SWIM

We are offering an opportunity for students to be taught by a qualified instructor to learn to swim. Places are limited and attendance for the nine lessons is compulsory. If you want your child to join this small group, please notify the office or Miss McKay as soon as possible. Lessons will be held at the Aquatic Centre during school time and there is no charge.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The library has undergone extensive technology upgrading. These upgrades have allowed students and staff easier access to a wealth of information. It has been pleasing to see students' attitudes change over time and many are now more focused in their approach to reading and researching.

**Amnesty** - Please keep an eye out for our library books at home. We would appreciate them back regardless of how long ago your child was here.

**Donations** - If you or your child have pre-read books that you wish to donate to our school library we would be appreciative of your donations.

**Wheelers Bookworm** - Every time you purchase books with Wheelers on line our school benefits! Wheelers Bookworm is now online which means that you can order discounted books through out the year from Wheelers quality range of children's and adults titles (over 1.4 million). Simply visit [wheelers.co.nz](http://wheelers.co.nz) and click on *The Bookworm* to get started. Wheelers will send the books directly to you at home. All friends and family of our school qualify for the Bookworm, so visit [wheelers.co.nz](http://wheelers.co.nz) today! **Plus place your order before 31st March to receive 30% off a title of your choice. Simply enter the code BW256 at checkout!**

Rata Cornell, Librarian

## DENTAL CLINIC

The Dental Clinic will be closed from Monday 16 March for approximately two months.

For relief of pain or emergency treatment, please contact Levin North Dental Clinic, 368-4529 or Fairfield Dental Clinic, 368-5501.

Thank you.  
Elise Atkinson  
Dental Therapist

## RIPPA RUGBY ACTION



## PUBLIC NOTICES

- **4th Levin Girls Brigade Company** - Levin Uniting Parish, St Andrew's Church Hall, Oxford Street, Levin - 6.00-7.45pm, Thursdays - 5-17 years old. Contact Viv Hudson 368-7191
- **Levin GymSports**, Essex Street, Levin - Tuesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st March - 3.30 to 5.00pm - Only \$5.00 per session - For more information phone 368-6151.
- **Levin Waiopahu Lioness Club Easter Egg Hunt** - sponsored by the Panel Beaters of Levin - to be held at the Levin Adventure Playground Saturday 4th April - digging starts 10.00am - tickets available at Knit World or Levin Motor Camp or on the day - \$2.00 per dig - 1 egg per ticket.