

LEVIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.levinintermediate.school.nz

13 May 2009
Volume 1, Issue 7

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

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 14 May - Miniball begins
- ◆ 18 May - Levin Intermediate Swimming Sports
- ◆ 20 May - J-Rock, Palmerston North
- ◆ 27 May - Horowhenua Schools' Swimming Sports
- ◆ 29 May - Teacher Only Day - School Closed
- ◆ 1 June - Queen's Birthday
- ◆ 10 June - Supersport Hockey
- ◆ 17 June - School Photos

Events updated daily on our website calendar

Dear Parents/Caregivers

We have completed our first lot of **3-way conferences** for the year where we showcased our student portfolios for the first time. This was also the first time through for our teachers. Speaking with parents about this data is new learning for them also. I hope this was a useful meeting for you. Any feedback is welcome.

I am very pleased with the progress our teachers have made over the past term in learning about new assessment practices and 'next learning steps' in Literacy. We are now focusing on 'deliberate acts of teaching' so that individual students can make progress. Teachers have also been working hard on developing our school model for Integrated Inquiry Learning and involving students in deciding what questions they want to explore.

We are undergoing this change in teaching practice because we want to be sure that we are doing the very best we can to educate all of our students. These changes coincide with the release of the *'revised New Zealand Curriculum'* which encourages schools to localise their curriculum and to engage students in learning by sharing their progress with them and being explicit about what they need to learn next.

Our **Integrated Inquiry Learning model** has 'rich questions' at its heart. Each term we decide on a broad 'context' for investigation during the term. Each class settles on a broad question from that context, broad enough that there is no one answer to it. Teachers advise/guide students in developing subsidiary questions to 'inquire' about which, in themselves, will add

to the student's ability to form a view about the broad question. It is 'integrated' because the students cover many areas of the curriculum in a more relevant way and there is a purpose to their learning.

Teachers focus on developing the skills needed to ask 'rich questions', to research using a variety of methods, to select and synthesis relevant information, and to present their conclusions with supporting evidence, in a meaningful way.

Some students may only need the opportunity and minimal guidance to be successful. Many will require a lot of teacher direction and guidance, particularly in our first year using this approach. The teachers are also working their way through this new approach to teaching and are enjoying the challenge. As with all teaching, not everything goes as planned, so our current challenge is how to ensure all students complete their first Inquiry as we begin our second one.

The broad context for this term is "The Diversity of Life". Ask your child about their initial 'wonderings' and the subsidiary questions they want to develop. You may well be surprised by what they are interested in finding out about and what they already think. They will certainly be interested in what you think and I hope that they might question you as to why you think the way you do. We want them to be "Inquirers". We want them to be interested in the world they live in and its future. We want them to be passionate. They don't have to be right or wrong. They are learning to be learners.

Naku noa,

Trevor Jeffries, Principal

SUPERSPORT MOUNTAIN BIKING

On Wednesday 5th May Levin Intermediate School hosted the Supersport Mountain Biking Event. This was held at Laws Farm on SH57. This was the 5th year this venue had been used. The track had seen a lot of rain overnight and in the early morning but it stayed away while the event was on. The circuit is just over 3Km long and includes grass, farm tracks, a water crossing, some climbs and downhill sections and is really liked by those taking part.

66 Mountain bikers from Masterton, Ross, Monrad, Palmertson, Feilding and Levin Intermediates took part on the day. We had 9 students competing.

Levin Intermediate, as the host school, received a big round applause for hosting a really great event. A big thank you to Mr Wayne Haley and Mr Terry Sanson for helping setup the venue – a big task.

Top 10 Finishers -

Yr 7 Boys: Hayden Phillips 7th,
Lachlan Woodmass 9th

Yr 8 Girls: Renee Bacon 4th

Yr8 Boys: Jade Coley 8th

SCHOOL UNIFORM - PRICE INCREASE

Class Apparel advises that there is to be a price increase of 7.5% on school uniforms from 1st June.

PUBLIC NOTICES

- **Levin GymSports** - Gymnastics places are still available for children aged 5 years and over. This is a fun and fantastic way to get fit and learn new skills. Join them in their new facility at the Horowhenua Events Centre, Victoria Street, Levin. Contact Louise on 368-151 for more information.
- **Meridian Kids' Bike Jam** - The Esplanade, Palmerston North - Sunday 24 May - promoted by Sport Manawatu - a mountain bike event for every kiwi kid (5-13 years) with attitude, energy and wheels! Suitable for any reasonably fit children who are confident cyclists. Have fun with a friend. It's all about giving it a go and participating. Everyone completing the course receives a medal, certificate and goodies. Wicked short off-road course, heaps of spot prizes and an awesome skills course and competitions. Enter on-line at www.kidsbikejams.co.nz

