

# LEVIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

[www.levinintermediate.school.nz](http://www.levinintermediate.school.nz)

27 May 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 8

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 28 May - Mufti Day - proceeds to Ronald McDonald House
- ◆ 29 May - Teacher Only Day - School Closed
- ◆ 1 June - Queen's Birthday - School Closed
- ◆ 10 June - Supersport Hockey
- ◆ 10 June - Super Arts Drama
- ◆ 17 June - School Photos

Events updated daily on our website calendar

Dear Parents/Caregivers

### J Rock Success.

A huge "**congratulations**" to our dance group who performed in the J Rock section of the 2009 *Mission On Stage* Challenge in Palmerston North last Wednesday. The students presented a stunning piece of theatre which told the story of Rosa Parks, the woman who began the Civil Rights movement in America last century.

They received excellence awards for choreography, theme, performance and a special award for best school support. The group's directors, Mrs Coogan and Mrs Wood, had help from many other staff, so this was a great team effort.

It was a fantastic opportunity to perform under pressure on a big stage in front of a capacity audience with quality lighting and sound. We were the only intermediate who entered and I think the benefits for our students suggest we should repeat the experience next year. We have enormous talent amongst our student population.

We are trying to arrange for a local public performance with the two colleges (who came first and second in Stage Challenge) sometime in the next two weeks.

### National Standards for Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

The Draft National Standards for Reading, Writing and Mathematics for primary and intermediate students were published by the Ministry of Education last week. The introduction of National Standards is a clearly stated priority for the government and there is now a small window for consultation about these before they are adopted in October and implemented in 2010.

The standards sit alongside a requirement for plain language reporting to parents which will show how a child is achieving and what parents can do to help.

The Ministry wants to hear from the education sector about the design of the draft standards and how they should be assessed. The Ministry wants to hear

from parents on the most helpful type of reporting for them.

The consultation period runs from 25 May to 3 July. There are eleven consultation meetings planned for the education sector from 27 May to 24 June which will attempt to serve the entire country. They are being held on school days, during school time, with no offer of teacher release to attend. Consultation meetings with parents are also happening at selected schools across the country in June. I am unaware of any such meeting scheduled for our region yet, only Palmerston North and Wanganui.

There is a *Parent, Family and Whanau Information and Feedback booklet* which we can order for you or is available at [www.minedu.govt.nz/nationalstandards](http://www.minedu.govt.nz/nationalstandards) and which can be completed online.

What do I think so far? I am dismayed at the short timeframe allowed for consultation. Our experience in the education sector over many years of change is that major new initiatives that are pushed through too fast cause greater issues to emerge down the track (think of NCEA). Take the time to do it right!

Questions I have which need answers include –

- ◆ Are the standards realistic, achievable or aspirational ones?
- ◆ How do the standards fit with the NZ Curriculum expectations and national exemplars?
- ◆ Why are there no standards developed yet for Years 2, 3, 5 and 7?
- ◆ Why do the standards stop at Year 8 when the NZ Curriculum and national exemplars continue to Year 13?
- ◆ Why are the examples of plain language reporting predominantly in the form of simple graphs and the sample learning plan so limited in opportunity for regular feedback?

There are other, more complex issues around collection and publishing of each school's assessment data by the Ministry, the quality of that data, and the fear that schools will teach to the assessment tests in order to achieve the best scores possible. Those are matters which will be addressed by the professional bodies and debated, for better or worse, in the national media.

## Activities Week

Listed below are the choices available to students for Activities Week (14 to 18 September – week 9, T3). The costs are as close as we can get them at this stage, deposit is non-refundable, and final payment must be received in full by the end of week 7, T3 (4<sup>th</sup> September). Some activities have a maximum and minimum number of places.

Students will be asked to choose their activity by filling in a form they will get in two weeks and a 20% deposit for that activity is due by the end of the term. So talk with your child about what they want to do and what is affordable for you.

Activity Name	Est. Cost	Possible Activity Items
Auckland Region	\$370	Kelly Tarltons, Rainbows End, Sky Tower, Zoo
Curious Cove, Marlborough Sounds	\$360	Bush Walks, Ferry Trip, Swimming, Fishing, Kayaking
Rotorua Region	\$270	Buried Village, Thermal Park, Luge
Wellington Region	\$175	Te Papa, Zoo, Parliament, Cable Car
Sports Academy	\$95	Rugby, Soccer, Basketball, Netball, Skiing
Arts and Craft	\$50	Rotation through three or four activities
Electronics	\$25	Construct school Radio Network
Bushcraft	\$10	Camping and tramping in Tararua Mountains

Naku noa,  
Trevor Jeffries, Principal

## J-ROCK REHEARSAL



## SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS

