

LEVIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.levinintermediate.school.nz

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

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 3 November - Levin East Year 6 students visit
- ◆ 4 November - Levin North Year 6 students visit
- ◆ 6 November - Levin School Year 6 students visit
- ◆ 6 November - Orientation visits for Year 6 students
- ◆ 9 November to 12 November - E.R.O. visit
- ◆ 11 November - Horowhenua Schools' Cross Country
- ◆ 17 November - LIS Athletics
- ◆ 18 November - Supersport Touch Rugby

Events updated daily
on our website
calendar

Kia Ora Koutou

Last week the Minister of Education released details around 'National Standards' and 'plain English reporting' to parents from next year. Schools are to compare student test results against 'National Standards' and report to parents whether their child is above, at or below them.

The education sector was underwhelmed by the lack of rigorous debate about ideologically driven changes which appear to be in direct conflict with the design of what is universally acclaimed to be an outstanding new school curriculum, also due for implementation next year.

The politicians seem determined to break down what is a very complex thing (assessing a child's progress in learning) into something simple to measure like a growth chart in the Plunket book. Rates of progress are not straight line measurements like getting taller. There are peaks and troughs, rapid advances and sometimes going backwards. Results of any test are a snapshot of where a child is on that day, given all the variables in their life at that time and their level of motivation. Results can change from day to day because of these variables.

I cannot see how reporting on test results against 'National Standards' in this simplistic manner will inform parents better than the regular 3-way conferencing we now do which encompasses comment on many other skills, strengths and weaknesses of their child. How will knowing whether your child is at, better, or below a 'National Standard' make planning their progress for learning any different than it is now? Put yourself in each of those situations and ask that question and remember this is for every year from the age of five through to twelve. Will we end up sending our kids to summer school?

In England where something similar has been tried for nearly a decade, politicians have raised the stakes of these tests so that results can determine what school a child can attend. Schools with a large number of students who are not achieving the 'National Standards' have focussed all their efforts into teaching to the tests in order to improve results for their school. Teaching and learning in other curriculum areas has been sidelined.

I do not have all the answers but I recommend you look at Sir Ken Robinson's talk at the TED conference in 2006 on Creativity for an alternate view. It's on UTube or Google it. It will make you ponder.

Naku Noa

Trevor Jeffries

iMove 2009

We are running our iMove for the next four Tuesdays, in conjunction with Sport Manawatu, to encourage students to walk or cycle to school instead of getting dropped off by car. Cyclists will be supplied with a high visibility vest so they are more visible and more aware of safety issues while getting themselves to and from school. We also encourage parents to get involved and walk or cycle with their children to school.

Our plan is to have check points at the Raleigh St entrance to our field and the main school entrance on Collingwood St, where they can collect their daily stamps. Students coming to school by car could be dropped off, or picked up from the south end of Tiro Tiro Rd and walk the short distance to the main entrance. Those coming from the North could be dropped off and picked up by Trafalgar St on Tiro Tiro Rd and walk down Grenville St and Raleigh St to school.

The same routes can be used by those walking or biking from the north or south ends of Tiro Tiro Rd. Please encourage your child to participate in iMove each Tuesday in November.

ENROLMENTS 2010

If you have a Year 8 student please ensure that you have sent in their College enrolment form for 2010.

We are currently accepting enrolments for next year. Enrolment packs are available from the School office.

CANTEEN HELP WANTED

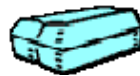
Our Canteen Manager, Christine Lange, would love to have some parents volunteer to help in the preparation of lunches from 11.00am to 1.00pm. If you are able to help for one day a week or more, please contact the School Office, 368 8306. This is one way you can really help our school and our students.

LOUD SHIRT DAY

Our Loud Shirt Day raised \$176.50 for the Jaide Pearson trust fund.

EGG CARTONS & YOGHURT CONTAINERS

Our Science Department are looking for empty egg cartons and yoghurt containers (any size). Please send them along to school if you have some available at home. Thank you.



PUBLIC NOTICES

- ◆ **Nothing But Wheels** - Halloween Costume Party - Friday 30 October - \$5.00 entry - Under 10's 5.30-7.30pm - Others 7.30-10.00pm.
- ◆ **Levin Waiiopehu Lioness Club** - Rides in Rigs - 28 November - 10.00-2.00pm - Adventure Park Levin - \$2.00 per ride - Proceeds to Food Bank.
- ◆ **St Mary's Scout Group** - New Kea Club - registration night for boys & girls - 11 November 5.30-6.30pm at St Mary's Church hall, 3 Manchester Street, Levin.

SUPERSPORT CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday, 22 of our students took part in the SuperSport Cross Country in Feilding. The TeMona Park course was an interesting one covering 3.6 km. Renee Bacon won the year 8 girls race, backing up her win as a year 7 last year, with Shannan May finishing second. Ethan Walsh also followed up his win last year as a year 7 winning the boys race with an excellent run. Hayden Phillips was 3rd in the year 7 boys after being crowded at the start and making his way through over half the field.

Topping the day off was the result of the girls, who won the banner for the top overall school on the day, based on the points of the top 5 runners from each school.

Results of the top ten from our school:

Year 7 girls - Saira Saussey 7th, Holley-May McKee 8th, Brooke Hori-Te-Pa-Phillips 10th

Year 7 boys - Hayden Phillips 3rd

Year 8 girls - Renee Bacon 1st, Shannan May 2nd, Casey-Mae Waddell 5th, Jane Phillips 7th

Year 8 boys - Ethan Walsh 1st, Daemon Kennett 6th, Cullen Millard 8th



SOCCER

Congratulations to Sam Larmer, Patrick Berry and Zak Meads who represented Horowhenua in the 12th Grade Soccer rep team that finished 6th overall at the regional competition held in Wanganui during the holidays. Well done boys.

INQUIRY LEARNING - STUDENTS FROM ROOM 10

