



# Banks Avenue School



"Learning today to succeed tomorrow"  
*Kia mau ki ngā akoranga, kia tau ai āpōpō*

## NEWSLETTER

27 May 2015

Hi, kia ora, goeie dag, haileo, jou sanh, goedendag

Number 15

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**Wednesday 27 May**

**Parent Evening – TONIGHT – everyone welcome**

**Friday 29 May**

**Teacher Only Day – school is closed for instruction**

Monday 8 June

PTA meeting - 7:00pm in the staffroom – all welcome

Tuesday 9 June

Strike Percussion - Teams Totara & Kahikatea

Wednesday 10 June

Canterbury Cross Country

Friday 12 June

Mufti Day – visa – versa theme

Friday 12 June

PTA Disco

Tuesday 23 June

BOT meeting – 6:30pm in the Sky Room – all welcome

Thursday 25 June

Shirley Area Music Concert – Matinee & Evening

Wednesday 1 July

Reports go home

Friday 3 July

Last day Term 23 – children dismissed at 3:00pm

*Banks Avenue School trip / event postponements and or cancellations will only be heard on  
NEWSTALK ZB 1098AM and CLASSIC HITS and viewed on our website: [www.banksave.school.nz](http://www.banksave.school.nz)*

**SCHOOLGEN LINK:** <http://schoolgen.co.nz/schoolgen-schools/banks-avenue-school-christchurch>

Dear Parents and Whānau

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou – a warm welcome to you all.

### Parent Evening TONIGHT

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Derek Wenmoth presenting

**Our New School**

The Rae McDonald Library Information Centre  
(school library)

As you read today's newsletter we are officially half way through Term 2. The term has already been packed with a number of exciting learning experiences. As we look at the five weeks ahead, it looks as if it will continue to be very busy. Some of our experiences to date are:

- Our ANZAC celebration
- Ferrymead visit
- School camp for 168 pupils
- Pasifika groups performing at school
- Winter sport started for netball and basketball teams
- Students at a leadership symposium
- Junior celebration day
- Science Alive – focus Space and Mindball

Please remember school is closed for instruction this Friday as all teachers are involved at a one day Otakaro Cluster conference at Shirley Boys High for the day.

Tonight we have our parent meeting in the school library where we have the opportunity to discuss our new school. I hope we have a great turn out of parents as this is a rare opportunity having an expert in the field of *future focus education* share his knowledge and wisdom. Doors open at 6:50pm and a crèche is available.

### TEACHER ONLY DAY

**Friday 29 May**

**Teachers will be involved in professional development with approximately 300 other teachers from schools in our local area.  
School will be closed for instruction**

### People Matter

One of our strategic goals this year is *People Matter*. This relates to staff, students, family and community being valued and supported. Each strategic goal is monitored and reviewed throughout the year and below is an excerpt from a report that the Board of Trustees received at last night's Board meeting.

## **Student well-being**

*Student well-being is linked very closely to behaviour management; we are aware we have a variety of needs with behaviours across the school. Through sound classroom management and programmes like Keeping Ourselves Safe many behaviours are managed within the room however we have a small number of children (less than 10) who are presenting on a regular basis at management level. Typical behaviours we are dealing with are - children who absent themselves from class, children who are regularly non-compliant to teacher requests, children who are hurting other students physically or emotionally, children who are displaying inappropriate social behaviours. With each of these students we take an individual approach in dealing with them as they come from a variety of backgrounds and one solution does not suit all. Families will always be involved when behaviours are at management level and often we have other agencies involved as well. At times we have had to call parents to take their children home and sometimes children have been stood down from school for a few days. The BOT receive a report at every Board meeting where these children and concerns are discussed as it is vital they are in the loop with behaviours and well-being. We value working in partnership with families as we endeavour to support children's needs. The old adage, it takes a village to raise a child, is very true! Foremost, is the need for us to keep all of our students safe therefore another strategy we use quite frequently is restricted play zones.*

*We have several students who we have teacher aides involved to support them in the classroom and the playground.*

*We had funding from the Red Cross for a social skills programme but could not find a provider so therefore we have thought outside of the square and bought resources to support a puzzle club. The puzzle club will operate at lunchtimes and cater for those children who are socially inept or troublesome in the playground. We have found that with many of our difficult children when they have a puzzle to play with they relax and communicate a little more freely.*

*We work very closely with a number of agencies to help us with the high level of needs. This term we called an extra pastoral care meeting because of the needs.*

*We are aware that our current STEPs Programme is very punitive and intend to work toward a much more positive behaviour model which will focus on our school vision and values (which are up for review). This will shift the focus from those few children making bad choices to the majority of children who are actively living and displaying our*

*school values. Research shows that when you get the majority of good children being even better the behaviours of the top 5% will also improve.*

*Earthquake stress and anxiety is still visible in children. This is presenting itself with children attending school with delayed speech, attachment disorders, and sleep and bedwetting issues. We continue to use a range of agencies to support needs.*

*We are aware that we need to formally gather our student voice to ensure they are feeling safe. Physical and emotional well-being is paramount to creating a safe learning environment. In the near future we have a school wide survey that all children will get to take part in. This will give us some base line data as well as the opportunity to further wipe out inappropriate behaviours.*

## **Family and Community Well-being**

*It is very noticeable that our community is changing. There is a level of transience in the community as families shift and relocate from one house to another. There is also financial stress and pressures in families. Anxieties due to earthquake issues still exist.*

*In recognition of financial pressures on families this year we have reduced and delayed school donations in the hope that more of our families would pay if donations were less. We are also endeavouring to be more accountable to parents when we ask for other money, e.g. senior module learning experience fee. We were able to subsidise camp costs and swimming costs through Red Cross money.*

*For the latter part of last year we had a social worker that we could refer to or our parents could self-refer. Sadly she has now left and it is unsure whether her position will be filled. Our two chaplains Bob and Diane continue to provide a great service in a low key way to children and families.*

*Community events are still drawing families to the school; our flower show in term one was highly successful as are the junior parent mornings for reading or maths. We had a very good turn out to a pre camp meeting for parents and are hoping for an equally good turnout for our visioning meeting for parents tonight.*

*We have continued to try to keep our community informed with school events (through newsletters, tweets, website etc) although we are always disappointed in how many parents seem to not read our school newsletter. Our website is being revamped and is just about ready to be launched. Material on this will be more easily updated.*

## 'HOT SHOT' LEARNER



**Luke has displayed our school value of empathy. He was aware of a child in the playground hurting other children so he made sure an adult was aware of it so the problem could be solved. This kind of pro-active, caring student is the foundation of the culture we are building at Banks Avenue School.**

**Great work Luke!** 😊

A special big Banks Avenue School welcome to Tayla-Gwen (Rm 9), Sam (Rm 8) and their families who joined our school community this week.



Tayla-Gwen  
Rm 9



Sam  
Rm 8

### Movie Stars

We had a small group of juniors who participated in a promotion for The Edge Radio station. They were filmed answering questions that prompted some very funny answers.

We are waiting for the link to their Facebook page so we can see what they all had to say.

This is a picture of a small group of our movie stars. They all received a Crusaders Scarf for taking part.



### Red Cross Budget

We have had a significant amount of money from Red Cross – over \$40000. This needed to be all spent by June of this year however we had great difficulty in trying to find providers for some of the things we had put in our application – e.g. a social skills programme. Ms Carroll has worked hard liaising with Red Cross to see if we could make some amendments to the initial application. There has been leeway which means we hope we will have spent all of the money and we won't need to refund any.

Red Cross funds have

- Subsidised every child for camp
- Paid totally for some children to attend camp
- Subsidised swimming
- Paid for REACH activities
- Purchased trees and plants for an edible garden
- Funded fun events learning activities at school - eg mind ball
- Helped with individual needs for testing or counselling
- Helped individuals with stationery and uniform costs.
- Purchased thermals for all of our new entrants.

We have been very fortunate to have this funding and have tried to allocate it in a targeted way so all children have got to benefit from one degree to another.

This has been an excerpt from a report to the Board on our strategic goal - People Matter. The full report will be available online once our new website is up and running.



**Blake, an avid league play, was the lucky recipient of a new Warriors jacket last week. Looks awesome Blake!**



## Policy Review

Our school policies are on the website:

<http://banksave.schooldocs.co.nz/>.

Login with *banksave* password *banks*. Go to the *Employer Responsibility* tab on the left. Once you open it you will see a link to the *Protected Disclosure Policy*. Each term we have a number of policies we need to review. This website gives parents links to all of our policies but also the chance to have their say about the policy when it is up for review.

### *About The Protected Disclosure Policy*

**If an employee of the school believes that serious wrongdoing has occurred within or by the school they can declare it by way of a protected disclosure.** The Protected Disclosure policy:

- ensures that there is a procedure in place for [reporting](#) and [investigating](#) serious wrongdoing
- protects the person who reports it from retaliatory or disciplinary action, and also from civil or criminal proceedings.

If you would like to comment on this policy click on the link in the top right hand corner. Follow the instructions above.

### *Reporting to Parents*

This term we have also reviewed the *Reporting to Parents* policy. You can still comment on this policy by following the same procedure.

## CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS

On Friday afternoon Mrs Meikle and I took a group of Year 4-6 students to Shirley Boys High School for an afternoon with Dav Pilkey.



Dav Pilkey is a renowned children's book author (Captain Underpants, Ricky Ricotta series). Dav spoke about his writing and how he



became a writer. He showed us a sneak preview of his latest Captain Underpants book – not yet on the shelf!

He very kindly signed our books and gave the school a drawing of Captain Underpants. It was a great and very informative session.

## Mufti day – June 12

Our student leaders have organised another mufti day – this is on Friday June 12. The theme is vice-versa. The proceeds of this mufti day will help to pay for next year's student leaders to attend NYLD 2016.

## House Keeping / Reminders

### Lunch On-line

Remember lunch on-line every Thursday. Orders must be in by 8:30am. Go to:

<http://www.lunchonline.co.nz/> to place your order.



Once a week, on a Thursday at 2:30pm, we have a coffee van in the junior school area for any parents who would like to come early, buy a coffee and sit around for a chat with other parents.

**Second Hand Uniforms** – the shop will be open on the following days and times:

Friday 5 June 2:45 – 3:15pm

Enquiries outside of this time can be made to Katrina (PTA) on 021 899 141

Next PTA meeting:

Monday 8 June at 7:00pm  
in the staffroom  
All welcome



*Come along and see the sorts of things we get involved in. The more heads we get together the better the ideas we come up with. You never know, there may be something you might like to get involved in!*

***“Nothing ventured nothing gained”***

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Next meeting

Tuesday 23 June at 6:30pm  
***Please note the change of time for the open part of the meeting.***  
in the Sky Room  
All welcome



***“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes....including you!”***