

"Learning for Life"

Sara Cohen School

Teaching students with diverse needs

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Principal: Raewyn Alexander

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From the desk of the Principal

Tena Koutou Katoa, Greetings to all

Whoops! Last week when I wrote the newsletter there were four weeks left this term but I didn't take into account that I send it out on a Friday this year. So actually there are now only **two weeks** left this term and they are both short, 4 day weeks.

On Wednesday Gael, Ross and I travelled to Balclutha for the Clutha Expo. It is always a valuable day as we get to speak with a variety of people, and even catch up with the occasional ex-pupil. The beautiful Recreation Centre was this year's venue, and while there was heaps of space there was not the usual foot traffic just coming off the street. I'm sure next year will see it back on the main road at the Town Hall.

Next Tuesday Gael, Shelley and I are meeting with the MoE in Invercargill to look at how we write National Standards into our Charters. As you can imagine I see this as nonsense for the majority of our Years 1 – 8 students, most of whom are working at a level of expanded curriculum below Level 1. It is an insult to try and measure these students against National Standards and demonstrates that our Government does not understand the learning needs of students with multi-developmental needs.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our full newsletter. It shows all the great learning activities our students do as part of their week.

Raewyn



Totara Happenings

Krissy, Tony and Perrin from our Totara group have been attending a Drama group on Wednesday mornings at the Presbyterian Church in South Dunedin. We are loving joining in with surrounding Dunedin schools and enjoying the ability to be creative, letting our guards down and not taking life too seriously by learning role play and theatre games.



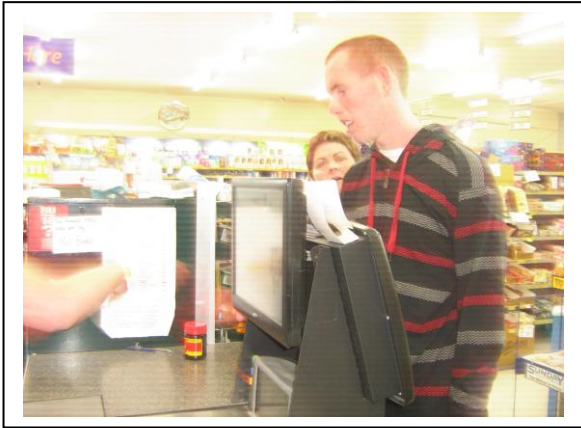
Krissy and Perrin are making shapes with their friends while Tony performs a skit for all to enjoy.

Friday afternoons are something to look forward to with Kapa Haka starting up led by Duncan, our new Teacher Aide. David, Ricky and Robert grin from ear to ear as they begin to learn and experience Maori Dance, Art and other exciting aspects of the culture. We look forward to learning more from Duncan who is doing an awesome job with this group of boys on Fridays and also around the school during the week. Great job Duncan for teaching such valuable skills and knowledge and well done to the three boys who are focused to learn!



Ricky, David, Robert and Duncan discuss aspects of the Maori culture that they will learn about over the coming weeks and the boys learn simple moves with Taiaha (sticks).

Rata Group . . .



Luke buying some marmite from Caversham Four Square



Luke and Morgan having hits at the swingball



Morgan looking at the different photos on his birthday card.

Students have enjoyed looking for or at different signs in the community ranging from toilet signs to others for pedestrians or for vehicles.

We have visited a number of shops to buy items for lunch or for the class or school. This has included visiting the Caversham Four Square on South Road, Kmart, The Warehouse, and Dick Smith (to buy a camera to replace our one that had stopped working). We have been looking at different coins and matching or identifying different features about them.

Some of the students have been making jam or marmite sandwiches, and are getting better at spreading toppings on the bread.

It is good our computers have been fixed by Chris so students can enjoy using the touch screen, or other computers again. Morgan enjoyed getting a birthday card from the class, and having Happy Birthday sung to him last week.

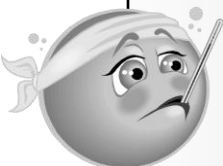
Students who are sick / absent / going to be late (including satellite students)

If your student is sick or is not going to be at school for any reason, please phone the office each day this is to occur. Our policy is to follow up students soon after 9.00am if they have not turned up, and we have had no message to say why. This is to ensure the safety of the students getting to school. It is also a requirement of the Ministry that we check unexplained absences.

Just leave a message on the answer phone any time of the day or night, or the office is open at 8.00 am. You can also email me: julie@saracohen.co.nz.

Advanced notice of known absences eg. appointments, is also appreciated. Absences affect programme planning and staffing.

Thank you for your support in helping our programmes run smoothly. Julie at the Office.



Kowhai Group...



Kowhai students
Playing
Musical Instruments

Greetings from Karamu

End of Term 1 2012

We have had an excellent term. It is very exciting for us to be part of the new, awesome school called Bathgate Park and we feel very included.

Our community access this term has been centered around visiting local parks and playgrounds and learning to understand the different signs that we see. We have had good weather on these Tuesdays and lots of fun!!



EASY SHOPPING – EASY FUNDRAISING

Step 1 - simply go to www.yourfastshop.co.nz, select your school and start browsing your favourite stores. That's it! No queues, No parking problems, No aching feet! Save on petrol costs.

Over 70 online stores to choose from including electronics at Apple, fashion at Ezibuy, books at The Nile, toys at Mighty Ape and you can even get FREE DVD rental at Fatso. Your shopping is dealt with directly by your chosen online store. www.yourfastshop.co.nz automatically provides funds to your school.

Treat yourself to easy shopping and help your school fundraising.

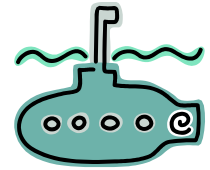
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Coming Up . . .

- March 26 Otago Anniversary Day.
- April 5 Last Day of Term 1
- April 23 Term 2 begins
- April 25 ANZAC DAY
- June 29 Last day of Term 2

March with Piko Piko!



We have had an interesting term visiting seashore and water spots around our community. The weather has been varied, but Dunedin has been luckier than other places! This term we visited St. Clair beach and park, the Gardens and the nearby pet centre.



This week we travelled to the Portobello Aquarium. There we had a virtual submarine trip and enjoyed the touch pools and fish tanks. Back in class we are preparing a sensory story with a group of Concord students, called "Who sank the boat." We hope to present this.



Our students enjoy a range of multisensory experiences in the afternoons. We look forward to having a new and modern classroom built this year. Finally Happy Birthday to Zara and thanks for your help with our students this term, and go well!