

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to this edition of our school newsletter. I hope you find it useful and informative. We try to include items of interest to parents, including upcoming events and, at times, suggestions from staff. You are also able to access an on-line version of this newsletter through our school website. Any feedback on this newsletter is welcome.

Our Year 7 camps are well and truly underway. I would like to thank all of our staff who have put so much effort to make these camps both worthwhile and enjoyable. Having camps at this time of the year certainly helps the vast majority of our Year 7 pupils feel more at home at Kirkwood. Could I also thank those parents who are able to support our programmes through transport and attendance at the camps – without your support it is impossible for us to offer these opportunities.

Next week will see us, along with the whole of Christchurch, Canterbury and New Zealand, remembering the devastating earthquakes of 22 February 2011, the day life changed for so many of us. While we do not want to dwell on the past, we believe it vital for our children, and our staff, to take the opportunity to reflect

on that day, and the prior and subsequent earthquakes. I know that the City Council have arranged a number of remembrance activities for the day. If you wish to attend any of these with your children, we please ask that you contact the school so we know where your child is. At school we will be holding a two minute silence at 12:51. If you wish to join us you are very welcome, but we will be trying to maintain a low key approach. There will be no speeches or other activities at this time. We hope that you will understand and support our approach to this time.

I hope you and your family are feeling very positive about your involvement with our school. I am always proud to be associated with Kirkwood, with our wonderful staff and fantastic children. I hope you will be too. As always, please remember if you have any concerns or worries, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or any of the staff at our school.

Best wishes  
Phil Tappenden  
Principal



## **International Children's Peace Art Festival - In celebration of 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit**

Kirkwood was delighted to be one of only two schools in New Zealand invited to submit artwork to be displayed at the International Children's Peace Art Festival - Summer, Aleisha, Amelia and Caitlin produced these two beautiful pieces of art between them. These works will be displayed in a corridor where many political leaders, including John Key, will walk to attend the Summit daily.



### Rugby Coach Wanted

The successful rugby team from 2011 has lost Blair McWirter as its rugby coach.

Is there an interested parent out there that would like to take charge of this team?

The actual season begins on Thursday 8 May.  
Please contact Peter Aitkin if you can help.

### Homestay Wanted

We are looking for a homestay for a Korean girl in Year 8 for seven weeks from 26 February.

Please contact Amelia Jang if you would like more information or can help at all.

Please phone school on 348 7718 or email [ameliajang@kirkwood.school.nz](mailto:ameliajang@kirkwood.school.nz).

Her mobile is 021 1438758.

### China Korea Student Exchange Proposal 2012

Last year a number of our students and their families expressed an interest in visiting China and Korea, including visiting our sister schools, and having the experience of living in Chinese and Korean households. Previously we have held exchanges to Korea only, with the support of the Songpa-Gu City Council. However, for various reasons these extremely successful and popular exchanges have stopped, leaving us to organise a different programme.

If we have enough interest expressed, our current intention will be to fly to Shanghai for 1 or 2 nights, then travel to our sister school in Wuhu for 4 or 5 nights homestay. After this we hope to travel to Beijing for 2 nights, then fly to Korea. In Korea we will visit our sister school near Daejeon for 4 or 5 nights, and then complete the trip with 2 or 3 nights in Seoul before returning to Christchurch. We intend that this trip will

happen mostly in the October school holidays.

Before we go any further we need to ascertain if there is sufficient interest in this proposal. I ask that you complete the slip below and return it to the office by the end of next week – Feb 24. Completion of this slip does not mean you have to go – just that you would like to hear more. A rough estimate of the cost would be around \$3500 per student (although I hope it will be less). The students will be accompanied by members of the school staff who have visited these places before. It is unlikely that there will be any opportunity for parents to travel with the group. If you should have any questions, please feel welcome to contact me at school.

Phil Tappenden  
Principal



### China Korea Student Exchange Proposal 2012

I would be interested in attending a meeting to hear more about the proposed trip to China and Korea.

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_

Parent name \_\_\_\_\_ signature

## Message from the Board of Trustees

The Board wishes to offer their congratulations to Paul Lancaster for accepting the position of Board Chair for 2012 and to thank very much Dr Brian Li for all his commitment and hard work for Kirkwood Intermediate over the past two years, as past Chairman. Brian will remain on the Board until the completion of his term at the next Board elections in 2013.

### Greetings to the Kirkwood Intermediate Community:

The Board of Trustees wishes to extend its very best wishes to you and your families for 2012. Hopefully everyone is settling well into the academic year and you have managed to get through the important but somewhat daunting amount of notices and other information which heralds the start of school.

One of the very important aspects of education for our students is assessing achievement and reporting to parents/caregivers. We have some statutory obligations to meet including assessing and reporting on National Standards.

There is a lot of discussion in the media about National Standards. Our Board's approach to the implementation of National Standards is to continue our usual monitoring and review of student progress with well-established assessment tools as well as implementing the National Standards approach in full consultation

with the Ministry of Education to ensure that we are meeting our statutory obligations. We have found this has worked well and we continue to monitor and review student progress.

If you have any questions about student progress or assessment, please talk to your child's teacher. If you have any questions beyond that, please contact the school's principal, Mr Tappenden.

On a final note – our Board of Trustee meetings are advertised throughout the year. You are more than welcome to attend these meetings and learn more about the governance and management of the school.

Best wishes  
Paul Lancaster  
Chairperson  
Kirkwood Intermediate Board of Trustees  
Cellphone: 021 0557497



**Abseiling -  
Rm 11 Purau Bay Camp**

### Results from the Waterpolo game played on Friday 10 February

A good start to the playing year!!! Kirkwood won 11-0 against Casebrook. The team played really well, with good passing and positions. We had no reserves so they all played the full game. Kathryn was awarded Player of the Day for her great positional play.

**Our Term Calendar:** (you can also refer to our website – [www.kirkwood.school.nz](http://www.kirkwood.school.nz))

Mon 20 Feb	Rm2 to Purau Bay Camp
Wed 22 Feb	Rm9 to Purau Bay Camp
Mon 27 Feb	Rm1 to Purau Bay Camp
Tue 28 Feb	Rms 5 & 7 Botanical Gardens visit
Wed 29 Feb	Rm 3 Botanical Gardens visit
Mon 5 Mar	Rm 6 Botanical Gardens visit
Tues 6 Mar	Rms 4 & 12 Botanical Gardens visit
Wed 7 Mar	School Photos will be taken Rm 13 Botanical Gardens visit Rm 11 Visit to St Peters WORLD MATHS DAY
Thur 8 Mar	Rm 2 Visit to St Peters
Mon 12 Mar	Girls' Self Defence lessons start
Tue 13 Mar	Rm10 Visit to St Peters
Wed 14 Mar	Swimming Sports 10am – 12 noon
Tue 20 Mar	Rm 1 Visit to St Peters Rms 8 & 9 to Riccarton Bush
Wed 21 Mar	R10 & 11 to Riccarton Bush Rm 8 Visit to St Peters PTA Annual Meeting, 7.30pm
Thur 22 Mar	Rms1 & 2 to Riccarton Bush Rm 9 Visit to St Peters Board of Trustees Meeting
Mon 26 Mar	Parent/teacher interviews
Tue 27 Mar	Parent/teacher interviews
Thur 5 Apr	End of Term One
Fri 6 Apr	Good Friday
Mon 23 Apr	Term Two starts



**Rm 11 students having fun at Purau Bay**



## **The Green Paper for Vulnerable Children:**

**Norm Hewitt asks us to “Say something and change children’s lives.”**

Like me, as parents I’m sure you feel angry and sad another every time another child is deliberately hurt – or worse – by their caregiver. Each year, around 10 of our children – our own tamariki – are killed by the very people they are supposed to rely on for protection, while at least 160,000 children are living in conditions that mean they are unlikely to reach their potential. We know the factors that make these children vulnerable – the big question is how can we fix them? What needs to change to make New Zealand a great, safe place to bring up kids?

These are the types of questions the Government’s Green Paper for Vulnerable Children asks. Released in July last year, this discussion document is asking what we think should be changed to ensure all children reach their full potential. We need as many New Zealanders as possible to answer – it doesn't matter what you say; you just need to say something. We aren’t powerless to stop child abuse – this is something we can all do to help.

Please take the time to go to [www.saysomething.org.nz](http://www.saysomething.org.nz) and have your say. You can also mail in a submission, or post comments on Facebook or Twitter. After the submissions are read, a Children’s Action Plan will be developed and released during 2012. As parents, you know what it’s like to raise a child in New Zealand; you are the experts. So, please, do your part to become part of this critical conversation.

Submissions close on February 28.

Nāku noa, nā  
Norm Hewitt Champion.  
Green Paper for Vulnerable Children



## **Welcome to Term 1 2012**

### **Feedback on Enhancing Resiliency Among Students Experiencing Stress (ERASE-STRESS NZ)**

I was recently invited to be part of a group of 30 Christchurch counsellors, trainers and psychologists who attended the above training programme. It was run and facilitated by Dr Rony Berger, an Israeli Psychologist, who travels the world and works with traumatised youth in the aftermath of bombings, terrorist attacks, tsunamis, nuclear melt downs and the like.

The programme focused on ‘resilience’, meaning: ‘the ability to recover quickly from illness, change or misfortune with a feeling of buoyancy’. Dr Rony led us with practical skills using relaxation and body awareness to cope with trauma, grief, strong feeling and reducing stress. Researchers suggest children who are exposed to a disaster have a higher incidence of behavioural problems, depression, fears, learning difficulties and health problems which may carry on long-term after the impact of the disaster has subsided. Therefore it is essential there is ongoing support that strengthens the natural resilience for ourselves and our youth.

Dr Rony suggests a substantial proportion of youth develop significant distress symptoms following a major disaster, which may adversely impact on their long-term development. His belief is the family provides the major emotional support; however in communities that are stressed and where devastation affects the entire community, the ‘professionals’ may not be capable of identifying youth in need or provide them with adequate support.

As children spend a majority of their day in an educational setting, schools and the classroom are the ideal venue for providing normalcy, reducing stress reactions and providing interventions where pupils can become supportive peers. These peers enable the practice of new coping skills, reinforce the healing process and provide support at home and in the community.

The goals of the programme include:

- providing students with a framework to understand and normalise their stress and reactions,
- strengthen their natural coping resources through specific stress related coping skills and resiliency strategies,
- improve body awareness and control,
- assist individuals to verbalise their feelings in a positive and optimistic way,
- improve pupils' social skills,
- enhance teachers' resiliency and strengthen coping strategies, and
- assisting in the identification of pupils who are at risk of developing stress-related disorders.

Over the next few newsletters I will provide further information about this programme so the techniques can be tried at home to relax the family. If you are interested in this, I have many additional references available. In the meantime, should you or your family require assistance, call for a 'one to one' appointment and leave a message at the office. Phone 348 7718 or email me on [chrystalwite@kirkwood.school.nz](mailto:chrystalwite@kirkwood.school.nz). I am generally at school on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and look forward to your feedback and comments. Remember this counselling is CONFIDENTIAL.



**There are a number of parents who have asked for short courses on:**

- 1 The walking argument;**
- 2 Argument City! vs The Art of Mediation; and**
- 3 any other topics that are important to you and yours.**

**Let me know when you are available for small group meetings either during the day or evening.**

### **Girls' Self Defence Courses (GSD) 2012:**

This year KIS has won three Ministry of Education contracts to run GSD courses during Terms 1 and 2. This is a **free** programme, **run in school time** for eight hours. Our trainer, Linda MainDonald, teaches the girls' self defence, confidence building and role-playing challenging situations. This is a very worthwhile course and I suggest you encourage your daughter to be involved.

I will be going around various classes and handing out permission slips. Please sign and return promptly, as each class has limited numbers. The first two classes will focus on Year 7 girls (the first group starting in Week 7) and the other classes in Term 2 will be for the rest of the Year 7 and Year 8 girls who wish to repeat or have not attended the class before.

In the mean time if you have questions or wish to talk about a situation please contact me.

Warm wishes

Chrystal

Counsellor

## Community Notices

*ASB School Banking is available at Kirkwood – pick up a pack from the office*

*50 prizes of \$20 to be won every*

**ASB**

creating futures™

*week during Term 1 – come and pick up a pack from the school office.*

### Attitude Programmes for Schools in conjunction with Vodafone presents **‘Connected’ – a Parents’ Guide to Teens and Technology.**

**Thursday 1 March 7.30pm – 9pm  
at Riccarton High School.**

**Free entry.**

**For more information ph 348 5073  
ko@riccarton.school.nz**

**A full range of Adult and Community Education classes** is on offer at Risingholme Community Centre, Shirley Boys’ High, Riccarton High School and Christchurch Girls’ High. Full details for Term 1 programme on [www.risingholme.org.nz](http://www.risingholme.org.nz) or email [info@risingholme.org.nz](mailto:info@risingholme.org.nz).

**\*K-StarZ\* Hiphop/Street Dance Classes** - Held in the Kirkwood Intermediate School Hall, Fridays from 3.25pm onwards until 7pm, Classes for all ages, boys and girls. Low cost. Awesome performance opportunities. We definitely want to hear from any BOYS over 10 that think they would like to be in a dance crew. Classes are filling up fast so if you would like to enrol or need more information please text or phone Kate on 0273552153

**Riccarton Rugby League** - All 5–14 year olds are invited to our Junior registration day on Sunday 19 Feb, 11am–1pm being held in our clubrooms at

Crosbie Park.

**Want to Make Movies?** – join the Video Club – contact Tom on 981 5239. [www.chchvideo.org.nz](http://www.chchvideo.org.nz)

**Gifted Child?** Try out One Day School, New Zealand’s longest running programme for gifted learners. Ring Andrea on 021646963 or email [andrea.wong@giftededucation.org.nz](mailto:andrea.wong@giftededucation.org.nz)

**Halswell Rugby League Netball Club registration & trial dates** – see Student Notice Board

**Burnside Rugby Football Club registration** – see Student Notice Board

**Ashgrove Junior Badminton Club** – see Student Notice Board

**SURFKIDS - Kids surfing programme** - all equipment provided and professional instruction from Aaron Lock and team. 8 -14 years; Sun 10am-12pm; \$28 per day or \$125 for five. Bookings essential. Venue :Scarborough Beach, Sumner, cnr Stoke St and Esplanade. 0800 80 SURF (7873) or [www.surfcoach.co.nz](http://www.surfcoach.co.nz)

**The School for Young Writers seeks talented writers** who want extra time for their writing. Come along and expand your skills, enjoy mixing with other writers, and get your work published.

**Sat 10.00 - 12.00 based at Hagley Community College.** Suitable for Yr 4 - Yr 8. \$150 per term (eight 2-hour Sessions).

**Also available: after school classes and a correspondence study option.** Fees for these options may vary. Enrol online at

[www.schoolforyoungwriters.org](http://www.schoolforyoungwriters.org)

To discuss further, contact Dr Glyn Strange phone 355-3588 or email

[young.writers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:young.writers@xtra.co.nz)



# Australasian Schools' Competition

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It is again possible for your child to participate in the Australian Schools Science, Computer Skills, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics competitions. These tests are provided by the University of New South Wales and detailed results are provided for each child.

These competitions take place on the following dates

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| ❖ Computer Skills | Tuesday 22 May 2012 |
| ❖ Science         | Wednesday 6 June    |
| ❖ Writing         | Tuesday 18 June     |
| ❖ Spelling        | Tuesday 19 June     |
| ❖ English         | Tuesday 31 July     |
| ❖ Mathematics     | Tuesday 14 August   |

These tests are by no means compulsory and may suit the more able pupil.

**If you wish to have your child enter, please return the slip together with payment to the school office by the Friday 2 March.** If you require further information, please contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Peter Aitken  
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

.....

## AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS:

Student Name: ..... Room.....

Would like to take part in the following: (please tick the appropriate box)

Subject		✓
Computer Skills	\$7.50	
Science	\$7.50	
Writing	\$17.50	
Spelling	\$9.50	
English	\$7.50	
Mathematics	\$7.50	
TOTAL to be paid		\$

Payment of \$ ..... for ..... subjects is enclosed

**Please note – payment must be by cash or cheque to the school office.**

**No payment via Internet banking please.**

Signature of Parent/Caregiver: .....