



CUST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Phone 3125-753; Fax 3125-723

e-mail: jennifer.thompson@cust.school.nz

www.cust.school.nz

School's bank account number is 03 1592 0074218 00



Friday, 17 March, 2017 - Week Seven —Term 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Do you know the "30-3-30" rule of newsletters?

Eighty percent of people will spend just 30 seconds reading it.

Nineteen percent will spend 3 minutes.

One percent will spend 30 minutes.

Which are you?

We use a variety of methods to engage and communicate with families at Cust School.

There are:

- Newsletters - each week a school newsletter will be emailed to each family. The school newsletter will contain information concerning what is going on in the school (with a section for each class to share their news)
- Letters from teachers each term
- Regular emails – related to specific events
- Parent evenings e.g. Meet the Teacher
- Cust School Website
- Invitations to attend BOT and PTA meetings.
- 3 Way Conferences
- Open Door Policy

These methods, which are efficient and effective communication strategies, help us inform and engage parents on matters related to the school. Current, clear, and consistent information helps staff, students, and parents feel connected and confident that they know how the school operates, and what is going on in the school.

Our primary goal is to create the best learning environment for the students of our school. We encourage open communication and we encourage parents to raise any questions or concerns with the school directly, so that any issues can be addressed and resolved for the whole school community, rather than discuss it in the community.

I understand some people feel worried or anxious at the thought or prospect of coming into school and discussing things. For whatever reason you feel this, it is better to front up and talk to us directly, than discuss it in the community. There are always different perspectives on events and to get the whole story is really important. There might be times we need to listen, take our time to investigate and then get back to you, there will be times when we act immediately and there will be times that we don't act at all (listening is good enough).

As part of our annual communication of policies, I have included, in this newsletter, the Cust School Complaints Policy.

Children also feel worried or anxious when meeting new situations. But they can also feel excited and nervous. An example of this was at the Rakahuri Swimming Championships. These emotions can lead to improved performances! We had a team of 21 children compete at this and our children did exceptionally well. They yet again proved what training and desire to win can achieve. From the results below we have approximately 10 children going to the Canterbury Champs on Thursday, 6 April. Great effort and support – BE YOUR BEST!

Results – Rakahuri Swim Championships (Top 3) –

10 Year Relay 3rd

11 Year Relay 1st

12 Year Relay 3rd

Freestyle:

9 Year Harper McDonald 1st

10 Year Libby Thompson 1st

11 Year Quade McLachlan 1st

12 Year Harriet Thompson 2nd

Archie Prain 2nd

Ashleigh Lawler 3rd

Backstroke:

9 Year Hannah Lawler 1st

11 Year George Riley 3rd

Ashleigh Lawler 3rd

Breaststroke:

9 Year Billie McLachlan 2nd

10 Year Libby Thompson 2nd

11 Year Quade McLachlan 1st

11 Year Tinesha Benson 2nd

Harper McDonald 3rd

Emma Stephenson 3rd

George Riley 2nd

Butterfly

Open Girls Harriet Thompson 2nd

Note: Top 2 in each individual and 1st relay team go to Canterbury.

Cust Yearrs 7/8 Touch Team - Good luck to our Cust Touch team who next week are playing in the North Canterbury Touch Finals. A great effort.

Robert

SCHOOL DONATION AND ACTIVITY INVOICES

You will be receiving by separate email, and also a hard copy via your child, the 2017 School Donation and Activity Fee invoice. The Board of Trustees, at their last meeting, approved for this to remain at the same rate as 2016. An explanation of how this is used is included with the invoice.

We do ask that you pay your donation and activity fee by the 31 March either by cheque or through internet banking – Cust Board of Trustees ref School Donation 03 1592 0074218 00. Tax deductible!

If payment of any school activity is an issue, you are welcome to pay it off in smaller payments. Parents/caregivers are welcome to contact me for a private discussion on how we can help.

Complaints Policy:

The purpose of our complaints policy is to provide clear guidelines for the school community in raising and resolving concerns and complaints.

We have procedures in place that we follow to ensure that complaints are handled appropriately. Our procedures enable us to:

- maintain the best learning environment for our students
- resolve matters of concern early, if possible
- respond to feedback and concerns constructively
- deal with complaints fairly, effectively, and promptly
- take into account individual circumstances
- maintain confidentiality
- preserve school/community relationships and communication
- monitor and record complaints and concerns about student safety.

Guidelines for Informal Complaints

Our primary goal is to create the best learning environment for the students of our school. We encourage open communication and prefer that parents come to us to talk through a problem rather than discuss it in the community.

These are recommended guidelines for parents making informal complaints.

1. Discuss the issue with the right person.

- If the matter is a **general issue**, discuss it with the person concerned or a member of the management team or the principal.
- If you have a **complaint about a staff member**, contact the person involved and discuss the matter. We ask that parents make this direct approach as soon as possible. Be prepared to make a time to discuss your complaint if the staff member is unable to talk with you straight away. Be open to listening to the other side of the story to avoid communication breakdowns.

If you do not wish to approach the person concerned, contact a member of the management team or the principal to resolve the matter. The principal or management team member may communicate with the staff member concerned.

- If you have a **complaint about one of our students**, contact the student's class teacher or the principal to discuss the matter.
- If the matter concerns the **principal** and you have not first resolved it by discussion, or you feel uncomfortable directly approaching the principal, contact the chairperson of the board of trustees.
- If the matter concerns a **board member**, contact the chairperson of the board of trustees, or board member if it concerns the board chair.

If you complain to a board member, you will be encouraged to resolve the issue with the guidelines above, and the board member will inform the principal and board chair.

2. Work towards a resolution.

- In most cases, constructive discussion will resolve the issue.
- If you are unhappy with the outcome of your initial meeting, contact the principal, a member of the management team, or the board chair to discuss further resolution. They will consider and respond to the complaint as appropriate.

If an informal meeting does not resolve your concern or complaint, you can make a formal complaint.

ROOM ONE

Another busy week in Room 1. We are enjoying being back in our classroom.

Pouakai has been the focus this week as we learn more about this very large bird. In Maths the children are learning about the numbers from 1-10 and addition and subtraction to 10 using equipment. In writing we have been learning to write some basic words and ensure our sentences have a capital letter and a full stop. Next week we are learning to write questions.

Have a lovely weekend,
Kennys

ROOM TWO

Oh the joys and challenges of wet day lunchtimes!! We had forgotten!!

Nevertheless, we have had a busy week in Room 2 working hard on basic facts and number in maths, trialling a new timetable which includes both daily handwriting, a choice of written activities to support our learning and a specific writing block each day after lunch. More on this after a week or two but do ask your children what they think!

We have also made a start on topic and you may have already had some questions/discussion around what Cust may have been like 150 years ago. Again, ask your children what we are doing- they should be able to communicate what's happening in the classroom.

Kara (Miss W) has joined us in Room 2 and over the next few weeks will be planning/taking lessons and managing the class as part of her College of Ed requirements.

Have a lovely weekend,
Ros

ROOM THREE

Kia ora koutou,

Last week the children worked in groups to melt coloured ice cubes in water. They recorded their observations of the process using descriptive language which we then shared as a class and put together to write this poem:

Ice cubes
Slippery,
Yellow, Red, Blue,
Sunny orange,
Dissolving,
Changing colour,
Melting, swirling,
Cracking, soaking,
Shrinking fast...
Gone.

It was a real team effort with everyone taking part and contributing their ideas. The children were excited to see their work put together to create one class poem. On Thursdays we will continue this idea with other language experiences where the children can learn from each other by working in groups.

In Maths we have continued with number and measurement. For our topic the children have been identifying groups they belong to and reading and spelling have continued as usual.

Thanks to those who have sent boxes of tissues along. They are much appreciated.

Nga mihi nui,
Carolyn and Kathryn.

ROOM FOUR

Kia ora

First good luck to Harper McDonald who is competing in the Hanmer 4 hour mountain bike event this weekend.

It has been another busy week in Room 4. We have continued our Number unit for maths. This week I have split the class into a couple of groups and we have been focusing on the four operations. In Writing the class have started their Myth and Legends unit. At the moment the class are learning the parts that make up a Myth and are practising writing each section.

With swimming stopping due to the poor weather we have started our topic for the term. We are looking at the pre-European history of North Canterbury. This week the class have been looking at place names in the area and translating them into Te Reo. We have also started our Grammar study unit and have been looking at proper and collective nouns.

Have a great weekend and remember pop in anytime for a chat about your child's learning.

Eddie

ROOM FIVE

We have begun our ALL programme and have started our Legend writing. The children have been learning about legends and the parts of a legend. They have begun work on their introduction, setting and character development. Some children will be given the option of using computers/ipads to support their writing during this programme. This complements the reading programme with the focus on character analysis and comprehension.

In Maths one group are working in subtraction up to tens of thousands and others are consolidating their ability to rename in addition up to 1000. Please keep up that wonderful basic facts practise at home. The children's speed and accuracy is beginning to improve.

Our research on the Pouakai (Haast Eagle) is well underway and the children are working well with their learning buddies.

If you have any empty shoeboxes at home could you please send them along for use in classroom activities. Thanking you.

Warm regards
Linda & Hannah

ROOM SIX / SEVEN

This week Room 6&7 have been working hard at reading and writing poetry. We've been spotting examples of metaphors, similes, alliteration, personification and zoomorphism in poems, and including them in our own writing. We've been inspired by photos of abandoned places, and terrifying household objects that have strangely human characteristics - the stuff of nightmares! We look forward to sharing our poetry with you via Google, or on our classroom walls. Feel free to come and have a browse in your child's books for a closer look at our writing process.

We have also started our cross country training. It's always tough in the first few weeks as the children work on developing a positive mind-set to endurance, and push themselves through the 'it's too hard' phase. The process we follow, and the teaching we provide in this area is a proven, safe way to develop both physical and mental endurance and we appreciate your support in enabling your child to 'be their best' in this area. If your child has a medical reason why they are unable to participate on any given day, please come and speak to us in person or provide a note. Remember, it is in your child's best interest to be physically fit, and this is what we are promoting. Discuss with your child how they are going, their improvements, and their fitness goals, and celebrate their successes along the way - it's not about race placement!

Have a fabulous weekend,
Miriam Bell and AnnMaree

CERTIFICATES

- Room One: Great work awarded to Reuben who has a great attitude to learning and making great progress in reading. Well done.
Great work awarded to Jed who has a great attitude to learning and has made great progress in reading. Well done.
- Room Two: Great work awarded to Dion for excellent effort in handwriting. Next steps Dion – include this skill in all your work.
Great work awarded to Estelle for 'quick learning' in maths. Great thinking skills Estelle. Keep it up.
- Room Three: Excellence awarded to Anna for wonderful addition and subtraction skills.
Excellence awarded to Layce for wonderful addition and subtracting skills.
- Room Four: Great work awarded to Maisie for using her knowledge to solve problems in numeracy.
Excellence awarded to Nate for creative writing and using good proof reading skills.
- Room Five: Student of the week awarded to Kaitlin for writing a super Maui play and working hard in maths.
Student of the week awarded to Zavier for super progress in swimming and great understanding in his reading.
- Room Six: Student of the week awarded to Rebecca for fabulous use of personification and Zoomorphism in her poetry.
Student of the week awarded to Andre for using clever personification in his writing.
- Room Seven: Student of the week awarded to Ribh for being very organised in Room 7 and showing great focus in reading.
Great work awarded to Aedan for showing enthusiasm, focus and creativity in poetry writing.

STUDYLADDER HOME ACCESS

Some children are experiencing difficulty using Studyladder at home. We have emailed Studyladder and the reply we received was:

In 2016, we gave some schools the opportunity to trial Unlimited Homework access with their students. For 2017 we have changed Studyladder's out of school access to free student accounts. Students continue to have free unlimited access during school hours. At home, students with a free student account can do three activities each day for free, if they exceed three activities it stops them for the day. Parents have the option to upgrade their child's free account if they wish to have unlimited access from home.

PTA NEWS

First Aid Kits:

ORDERS need to be in by FRIDAY 24th MARCH. We need to order at least 20 kits so that the PTA doesn't have to pay freight. If you want to order or have bulk orders can you please get them in ASAP.

I will do another order at some stage.

Thanks, Deb

The PTA are selling First Aid kits as a fundraiser.

Handy for the house, car, bach, boat, as a gift or just as a spare.

Great value at \$39.95, with \$12 from each kit sold going to the PTA.

A sample kit can be viewed at the school office and orders can placed there or through custschoolpta@gmail.com or message us on the FB page.

Cust School's PTA is an active group of parents and teachers who meet monthly on a Tuesday evening (3rd Tuesday of the month)

All Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend these meetings. We would love some fresh ideas so please come along and share these.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 21 MARCH at 7:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room.

Pre-loved uniform sales are available for a gold coin donation.

For more information/contact details:

Website: www.cust.school.nz (School Info Tab)

Facebook: Cust School Parent Teacher Association Email: custschoolpta@gmail.com

Cust School PTA Bank Account: 03 1783 0502131 03

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Brochures have been sent home today. If you would like to place an order please return with your cheque made out to Scholastic NZ by Monday, 27 March or alternatively you can place an order on line using the LOOP link.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 23 March	North Canterbury Swim Champs
Monday, 27 March	Canterbury Duathlon Ruapuna
Wednesday, 5 April	Board of Trustee Meeting
Thursday, 6 April	Canterbury Swim Competition
Friday, 7 April	Mufti Day
Thursday, 13 April	End of Term One

LUNCH TIME BIBLE IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The lunch time Bible in School programme will run again this year, beginning next Thursday 23 March for years 5-8, and Friday 24 March for years 1-4.

If you would like your child or children to come to a half hour once a week lunch time Bible in School programme, kindly fill in the form below and return it to the school office.

The junior group will be held on a Friday from 12.30pm to 1pm. The senior group will continue the activity based programme making sushi for sale for school lunches. The funds raised go to help disadvantaged Eastern European children through the Mission Without Borders initiative. The senior programme alternates between this project and a Bible story/lesson every other week.

Please return to School Office

I give _____ from year

_____ permission to attend the Bible in School programme for half an hour, once a week, during lunch time.

Name _____ Signed _____

Date _____

COMMUNITY NOTICES

GIRL GUIDE BISCUITS

These will be for sale Monday 20 March, before and after school, outside the school office.
Plain, chocolate and choc minis - \$3.50 a packet – cash or cheque.

LOCAL HOMEBASED CHILDCARE

I'm Rebecca and I'm offering both part and full time care for your pre-schooler from my 10 acre, modern family home. My rates are affordable with subsidies (WINZ, 20 hour ECE) available. Lots of fun learning through play, with documented learning stories, with our animal friends!
Please phone me on 020 40228795 for a chat. (*Rebecca Drury – Kirah's Mum*)
Stems from Home

OXFORD A&P SHOW – SATURDAY, 1 APRIL

Gates open at 7am. Adults - \$15, children (15 years and under) – FREE. Vehicles and parking – FREE. Arts & crafts, carnival, animals, grand parade. Bringing town and country together on day a year to experience some country hospitality. Featuring the Alex Mason Contracting Ltd Man v Beast v Machine Challenge.

VANTAGE BLACK STICKS WOMEN vs USA

Waimakariri Hockey Stadium Rangiora, Saturday 25 March & Sunday 26 March. Tickets from \$5 available now at hockeynz.co.nz

MOVIE AND AUTHENTIC FOOD NIGHT

Saturday, 25 March, Trousselot Park, Charles Street, Kaiapoi.

"Finding Dory" movie starts at 8pm (Gold coin donation).

Bring your blankets, come along early and enjoy authentic food stalls from 5.45 – 7.45pm.

Pre-movie music by "KNGDM" from 6pm.

An evening of fun and entertainment, including a FREE photobooth.

Proudly sponsored by Challenge Waimak Ltd. You Me We Us Kaiapoi (a local organisation that runs events and projects for the community).

For more information contact Linda Dunbar, **You Me We Us Kaiapoi Coordinator 027 781 3048.**

RUGBY BOOTS FOR SALE \$5/PAIR

Asics size US 8, 26cm, Euro 41.5

Asics size US 9

X Blade size UK 5

CCC size US 5

Adidas Size UK 5.5

Contact Sarah 0274964549

ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE OPEN DAYS

Secondary School – Wednesday, 5 April, 4.00 – 6.00pm

Boarding Houses – Wednesday, 5 April 3.00 – 4.00pm

Preparatory School and Pre-school – Thursday, 6 April 11.00am – 12.30pm.

For further information visit the website www.stac.school.nz

Or contact the Registrar Lynn Smith on 03 9402016 or email enroll@stac.school.nz

MAINLAND FOOTBALL

If you want to be a better teacher, a better junior coach, a better parent leader...

Mainland Football organise a **Junior level 1 coach education** on Saturday 18 March at English Park, 127 Cranford Street from 9am to 1pm. The aims of the JL1 course are:

- To be able to understand the Junior Football Framework.
- To be able to meet your player needs.
- To be able to transfer the principles of effective coaching and a player-centred philosophy to your own coaching.

If you want to be part of it, it's only \$65 and you can register by contacting

xavier.morin@mainlandfootball.co.nz 021 1735878 or 03 3754120