



CUST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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School's bank account number is 03 1592 0074218 00



Friday, August 10, 2018 - Week Three —Term 3

"CHANGE MATTERS"

"Effort and Attitude Determines My Abilities"



CUST SCHOOL PTA QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY, 25 AUGUST

7PM

CUST COMMUNITY CENTRE



TEAMS OF UP TO 6 - \$10 PER PERSON – BYO DRINK AND GLASSES

SUPPER PROVIDED

PRIZES – 1ST, 2ND, 3RD AND SPOT PRIZES AND RAFFLE

TICKETS AT OFFICE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Student Achievement:

This week I spoke to the Board about our mid-year student achievement, which the staff has discussed thoroughly – investigated, prioritised actions and how to evaluate the impact.

Our children continue to achieve well overall, and where there are pockets of concern, we have put in place a number of interventions that will attempt to accelerate the learning.

To make a difference home / parent support is needed.

If your child is not achieving at the expected levels (see mid- year reports), then talk to the classroom teacher to see how you can help.

Based on our standardised testing (one off test / sample administered at mid-year)

Reading: 90% at or above expected level

Maths: 88% at or above expected level

Writing: Surface Features – 90% at or above expected level

Deeper Features – 93% at or above expected level

This week I had to send in our attendance information to the Ministry as part of a national attendance survey. This is a timely reminder to ensure parents know Ministry and school expectations.

ATTENDANCE:

The Education Act, 1989, requires that all children six years old and over must attend school. We are accountable to the Ministry of Education for the daily attendance of all students and to monitor this.

Parents/Caregivers

Contact the school before 9.15am to report your child's absence that day and send a note/email to the teacher when the child returns to school.

Please advise of any changes to contact phone numbers.

School:

If there are any 'unknown' absences we will attempt to ring up to two contact numbers. If contact is not made, the calls will be logged and process is complete.

If children are regularly late and/or have an **unacceptable level of absence (10 half days per term)** then follow up will be made with the family.

Student sign-in/out:

Students who are required to leave school during the school day sign out at the school office using the VisTab tablet before leaving the school grounds. When/if the student returns later in the day, the parent/caregiver reports to the school office and signs the student in using the VisTab tablet. Office staff issue the student with a pass to present to the class teacher. This enables justified absences to be recorded in eTap.

Reasons for Absence:

Justified Absences occur when the explanation for a student's absence is considered by the school to be a reasonable, acceptable and defensible reason for the student to be missing out on schooling.

For example – sporting representation, sickness, overseas (with permission), bereavement, force of nature, exceptional family circumstances, and appointments.

Unjustified – occur when the explanation for a student's absence is unexplained or not considered by the school to be a reasonable, acceptable and defensible reason for the student to be missing out on schooling.

For example – no explanation (truant), sleeping in, recovery from weekend, taking pet to vet.

SPEECHES: Change is...

We are in the 'dreaded' speech competition time frame. I know teachers have explained to the children and have communicated to parents, through the newsletter or email, the topic and expectations. **Please support your child through this process so they can do their best.** It is a great skill to have i.e. being able to stand up and speak in front of an audience. It is the number one fear for adults! If there are any questions please ask the classroom teacher.

Cust School speech competition, is to be held in the Multipurpose Room on Thursday 23 August at 7.00pm - all welcome

Robert

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 10 August

Movie Night

Wednesday 15 August

Possible Teachers Strike / Industrial Action – School closed

Wednesday 22 August

Cantamaths CHCH

Thursday 23 August

Canterbury Winter Tournament

Saturday 25 August

Cust School Speech Competition

Tuesday, 11 September

PTA Quiz Night

Wednesday, 19 September

Cust Choir Festival Rehearsal

Thursday, 27 September

BOT Meeting 7.30pm

Friday 28 September

Cust Kapa Haka Performance at Ohoka

Term 3 Ends

**CUST SCHOOL SKI TEAM 2018: PORTERS LOCAL SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS:
LOCAL PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS DERBY
SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

I have attached information regarding this event.

If your child is a competent, competitive ski racer and interested in being part of a Cust Ski Team, could you please let me know by Wednesday 22 August.

Cost is \$45 per child - paid to the school.

**TEACHER'S INDUSTRIAL ACTION
WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST – FULL DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

We have carefully considered the availability of teaching staff and unfortunately decided that we can't provide normal teaching services.

This is the current state of affairs as I write this newsletter. As we know with negotiations there might be a new offer on the table, which means the industrial action does not go ahead. I will keep you informed as the process occurs.

Why is this happening?

IT'S TIME YOUR CHILDREN HAD THE EDUCATION THEY DESERVE

You send your children to school to help set them up for life. Yet, schools are facing a teacher shortage crisis, with a 40% drop in people training to be teachers; and a growing number of school-aged children. Schools are struggling to find enough staff to teach our children.

There is also a desperate need for more support for children with additional learning needs. There just aren't enough teachers to give your kids the education they deserve.

WHAT WE ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR?

- * More teachers – so your kids can get more attention
- * More resources/staff to support children with additional learning needs
- * A pay jolt to salaries for teachers to address the teacher shortage – so that your children will have a teacher in the future

ROOM ONE

Another busy week in Room 1. We have been focussing on Persuasive Writing and speeches – Change is Fun! We are hoping to have them finished by today so that they can be typed up over the weekend and put on to card. Next week the speeches will be coming home each night for the children to practise in front of their whanau. We would appreciate it if they could come back to school each day so we can practise them at school too. On Monday 20th we will be presenting our speeches to Room 3. You are welcome to come and watch and we will let you know the time next week. On their speech will be a smiley face, this is to encourage them to look up at the audience and give them a smile.

Thank you for spending the time to help your child to learn their spelling words, sounds and sight words. It is much appreciated and reflected in their progress. We are also low on cardboard boxes if you have any empty ones at home.

Enjoy your weekend,
Margaret and Kennys

ROOMS TWO AND FOUR

Kia Ora,

This week we have started a reading contract based around our 'Change' topic on 'Flight' so over the next few weeks students will be completing a variety of choices and challenges including reading for meaning, using thinking skills, writing interviews and book related activities. This sits alongside our topic work where students are researching a chosen aspect of flight and how it has changed over time.

Speeches are also underway. Students will be working on these in class time but may bring them home to continue for homework. Our goal is to have these completed by early Week 4 in order to begin practising delivery and any assistance with typing up and creating cue cards nearer the time would be much appreciated. Should you have printing issues or any other concerns - please just email to our school addresses.

Mrs Falconer's Writing group are writing their speeches on Google docs and can share their work through this portal for further proof- reading upon completion.

Our re-jigged maths programme for Term 3 is up and running. Students go to their maths group for number (fractions) Monday - Wednesday, and are in their home class for both Basic facts on Thursday and Strand (Geometry) on Friday.

Today it was the last day of weekly sport. A massive thank you goes out to all the coaches who gave up their time to coach. The kids had a great time!

Kia pai tō mutunga wiki

(Have a great weekend)

Eddie, Linda, Ros and William

ROOM THREE

Tena koe Parents/Caregivers

As an observation in class I have noticed fantastic enthusiasm that the student's have been displaying while they have been reading to me. This is in part due to the support you have been providing at home, so thank you, it doesn't go unnoticed. As I explained in last week's newsletter, the reading programme has been adapted to involve more variety in reading activities. This week I have included the use of digital technology to include a listening post in the rotation system which the students have found very engaging.

As part of the students learning about change in relation to the sun and moon in topic, I will be glueing a moon diary sheet into the back of their homework books. If you could please remember to fill this out as best you can, everything you need to know will be provided on the sheet and the students will be reminded in class of what to do.

On Monday 20 August the students will present their speeches. The speeches will go home on Tuesday 14 August and I will be encouraging the students to practise at home and I would be very grateful if you could support them with this. The theme of the speeches is "Change Is..." with the topic being seasons. This is a very generic topic and was chosen for class manageability reasons and so naturally the speeches sound very similar so if you would like to spruce up your child's speech by all means go for it!

Have a fantastic weekend.

James

FISH AND CHIPS, AMERICAN HOT DOGS

Thursday, 16 August. Please have your orders in by 9am. Thank you.

SUSHI

Kia ora tatou! Just a quick note to let everyone know that we will have sushi for sale Thursday (23 August) at lunch time. 50c per slice from 12.30pm.

Thanks

Gina Taggart

ROOM FIVE

This week our main focus has been preparing children for their speech contest. There are a lot of motivated children who are enjoying the challenge of writing and delivering a speech on '**Change**'. For other children however, to deliver a succinct speech within three minutes can be a challenge but I believe with your assistance, they will get there and feel a great sense of achievement. The class run-offs will be on **Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 August**.

Our Mathematics topic on **Measurement** is coming to a close. To date, we have been looking at Perimeter, Area, and Volume. We have also been measuring and weighing items around the class. You might like to extend this at home. When we looked at height, we compared the height of the children to Steven Adams – there was a significant difference!

Homework revolves around reading their novel or library book, spelling, learning their basic facts and for the next couple of weeks, learning their speech. For some children, we have made flash cards to take home to help increase their speed with their basic facts.

Rob

ROOMS SIX AND SEVEN

Kia ora koutou,

Room 6&7 have been learning about microbes, recently. We took samples from various spots around our school, and have created optimum 'gooblie party time' conditions in order to maximise their growth. We've been exploring the concept of fair testing to ensure that our results are valid. Quite disturbing to realise just how grubby Mrs Bell's computer trackpad is! We will now take care to dispose of these wee colonies safely, though most of them are probably completely harmless.

We've also been working on exploring hyperbole and atmosphere in our writing. The students have each published one favourite piece of writing from the week's workshops after re-crafting. There is great variety, imagination and creative thought happening; we are enjoying reading each other's ideas!

The children have been working hard all week writing their speeches at school. We will be presenting these to our senior classmates on Monday 20 August. They will need to be on cards (we have a supply here for use) by the end of the previous week. It is expected also, that our students take these home to share with you before they present to the class; to receive feedback, work on and refine. Spending time when they are finished reading aloud, building confidence, in preparation for presenting to their class. We really appreciate your help as parents/families - thank you.

Kia pai to mutunga wiki,
(Have a great weekend)
Miriam, Annmaree & Robert

PTA NEWS

Entertainment Books

Please return any unsold Entertainment books to the box just inside the door to the office ASAP. If you wish to purchase one, please place your money and paperwork in the mailbox at the Office.

If you would like to join the PTA Committee or become a Friend of the PTA email: custschoolpta@gmail.com

Pre-loved uniform sales are available for a gold coin donation. Available in the room across from the office.

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

CERTIFICATES

- Room One: Great work awarded to Levi for writing. Beginning to sound out words by himself.
Great work awarded to Hazel for progress in writing. Being able to sound out unknown words.
- Room Two: Student of the Week awarded to Jacob for showing great skill in his fraction work. Awesome Jacob!
Student of the Week awarded to Finlay for a great attitude to and wonderful effort in fractions.
- Room Three: Well done to Fleur for showing success in Piko's tips by helping other students in class. Well done Fleur!
Well done to Corbin for showing success in Piko's tips for following instructions carefully and including great ideas in your writing. Well done!
- Room Four: Excellence awarded to Luca for showing excellent focus in Room 4.
Excellence awarded to Lucy for excellence in attitude and effort across the curriculum.
- Room Five: Great work awarded to Caitlin for trying really hard with her maths and for showing a good understanding of measurement.
Great work awarded to Billie for trying really hard with her maths and for showing a good understanding of measurement.
- Room Six: Student of the Week awarded to Tinesha for demonstrating creativity and perseverance during her speech writing process.
Great Work awarded to Olivia for demonstrating great research skills and perseverance during speech writing.
- Room Seven: Excellence awarded to James for effort and willingness to learn new concepts in Science.
Amazing presentation of ideas.
Student of the Week awarded to Lucia for being organized, thinking ahead about what school work needs to be completed and showing great effort at home and school.

REPORT FROM THE BOT CHAIR:

Ka whangaia, ka tupu, ka puāwai

That which is nurtured grows, then blossoms

This week, the Cust School Board of Trustees held our August meeting. We started our meeting with an in-depth examination of the mid-year assessment data. This was reassuring to see and hear about on two levels:

1. Cust School Children, overall, continue to perform at very high levels across the board in reading, writing and maths.
2. The extra funding that the BOT has put into supporting programmes of learning for Priority Learning is paying dividend with many children showing improved results due to the high-quality teaching programme which is in place.
3. This data supports and strengthens the evidence which shows that children and whanau who work together on school work at home continue to achieve to a very high standard.

As a Board of Trustees, our role is the Governance of Cust School and the provision of a safe, secure and stable teaching environment. To that end, we have made the decision to close the school next Wednesday 15 of August because, due to the teacher strike, there will not be sufficient staff available to look after the children for the day. We hope for a speedy resolution to this impasse between the NZEI (Teachers Union) and the government.

Finally, we concluded our meeting by hearing a little bit more about the ongoing appraisal process of all teaching staff and management at Cust School. Just like we expect the students to self-reflect and strive to "Be Your Best", we expect the school staff to lead by example and continue to examine their practice to ensure the highest quality programme of teaching and learning at Cust School.

Tim Heidmann
BOT Chair