

KIA ORA KOUTOU

Welcome to Olivia Sio, Harrison Dougherty, Riley MacGregor, Belinda Jackson, Ethan Mackie, Garrett Amyes (brother of Lennox), Kane Skelton (brother of Kayla), Hope McCormack, Aaron Tolley and their families.

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2012. School has been back for a few days now and teachers have been in and out of school right through January ensuring they are well prepared and ready to meet the challenge of our first term. We are very blessed with the calibre and dedication of teaching and support staff we have at Plateau and that is reflected in the achievement levels that children attain. Our National Standards data reflects this.

We are due to report to the Ministry of Education this year on levels of achievement and League tables will swiftly follow.

Whether this is necessary or right is not a debate to be conducted in the school newsletter, however I am pleased to report that we have very high levels of attainment in relation to National Standards, and at present based on our 2011 data have no children who would be classed as well below standard enrolled at Plateau. This is due to the outstanding teaching and support staff we have at our school, combined with the support these children receive at home. A true team effort!

Be Sunsmart! - We are all aware of the health risks of being in the sun in New Zealand. It is a shame but there is a big gamble when we spend extended periods in the sun, especially in the summer. To ensure your child being Sunsmart, please ensure they are bringing a sunhat to school (finding one that they can keep in their cubby hole is best; we have very reasonably priced Plateau School branded hats available to order from the office). We will shortly have our big shade sails up, but we have to adopt a very strict no hat- no play policy at playtimes to keep our tamariki safe. We allow the children to play only in the shady areas of the porches and under the shade sails without a hat.

Swimming - It has been great to see the pool being used well over the summer and we are grateful to the families that help with the maintenance of the school pool by purchasing a key. Many school pools have closed in New Zealand due to the cost of upkeep. That we are able to benefit from having our own school pool is due partly to the generosity of our community.

This term we have our annual swimming sports to look forward to later in the term.

Last week I had an interesting conversation with a parent who is involved in swimming instruction and she advised me of some good reasons why we should ensure children wear swimming hats in our school pool:

- Health- nits are known to be able to swim or skip across the surface of the water from head to head.
- Hair accumulation- balls of hair accumulate in the pool and are not pleasant to swim into. It also plays havoc with the pool filters.
- Hair stay dry- often children's hair can stay wet for hours after a swimming session which is unpleasant for them
- Pool chlorine will damage hair.

We have looked at providing hats for children, logistically this is too difficult and we are relying on parents purchasing hats for their children.

A brief search on the internet revealed the following website with some very good prices: <http://www.swimjoy.co.nz/>

- latex hats \$2.60 (usually \$4.30)
- silicone hats \$4.00- \$7.50 (usually \$11.00)

Silicone hats are longer lasting than latex and are usually more comfortable. There are YouTube videos that show you how to put on the hats with or without help. Please think seriously about purchasing a swim hat as the benefits are clear. I have ordered a limited stock of the \$4.00 silicone hats to be kept and sold from the school office.

Flickr Sets recently added to www.flickr.com/photos/plateauschool/ - Recently we have been adding lots of photos to our existing library of snaps from school events and activities on our Flickr site. The recent additions are:

School Christmas Disco: What a great night, with some amazing costumes!

Useful websites

Adults - On May 18th 2011, Stanford University professor Linda-Darling Hammond was awarded the Teacher's College medal for devoting her life to a long and dedicated career in education reform. Below is a transcript of her acceptance speech, as posted on the Nation. As you might expect, she's got some pretty powerful things to say. <http://bit.ly/x95qIM>

Kids - So how did you do over the holidays? If you spent a bit of time on Mathletics each week, no doubt your maths skills are up to standard! We are back into Mathletics again this term and my challenge is for you to gain a bronze certificate each week- that is 1000 points scored each week. Good Luck! If you manage it please let your buddies know about it on your USpace blog on Ultramet! www.mathletics.co.nz

This Week's Brain Teaser Challenge! See if you can work this picture puzzle out, write your answer at the bottom of the newsletter; put it in the green letter box and go in the drawer for the newsletter prize at assembly. Even if you are unsure, have a go. The answer to last newsletter's question was "Hammer the point home". Congratulations to those of you who got it right.



School Stationery - Thank you to those parents who have purchased their child's stationery. We still have a few students who have not yet purchased their stationery. Please can you send the money for the stationery to school tomorrow, as the teachers are starting their programmes and the students require their books. We appreciate your support in this matter.

School Donation - Thanks also to those families who have paid their school donation. We rely on parent donations to purchase the extra resources that our Government Grant doesn't cover. We are a fortunate school with regard to parent support and appreciate all donations received. We have not increased our donation amount this year and therefore the recommended amounts are: 1 child = \$90.00 (per annum), 2 children = \$120 and 3 or more children (in the same family) = \$150.00. As a thank you to those who pay their donation, we will be holding a draw at the end of term one (5th April). All families who have paid their donation in full by this date will go in the draw to win a weekend for 2 in an executive studio room with a luxurious two person spa bath courtesy of Bluewater Hotel in Napier.

Scholastic Book Club - Issue 1 for 2012 is out this week. If you would like to order any books from this issue, please have payment (by credit card or cheque made out to Scholastic Ltd please), back to school by Wednesday 15th February. (If you would like books to be held at the office for you, please mark clearly on the order form).

From the Library - Please ensure Summer Reading books are returned as soon as possible! Thank you very much ☺.

Banking - School banking will start again this Friday (receipts will come home on Mondays). If your child banks at Westpac, they may do their school banking through school. Alternatively, if you would like to open an account for your child, please call in to the office for an application form.

Students Arriving Late / Leaving Early - If your child is going to be late, please notify the school office as soon as possible. When they arrive at school, they are to report to the school office and sign in. Also if you are collecting your child early from school, they now need to be signed out at the office. Thanks.

Plastic Bags - We are an enviroschool, and therefore support the re-use and recycle plan. When you send money to school, ie lunch money, trip money, etc, we would like you to use a sealable plastic bag (like the Glad bags) and write your child's name and room on it. We will then send this back home for you to reuse.

Year 5 Camp - Fees for camp need to be paid in full by this Friday, 10th February please. A note will come home to those who still owe money this week, letting you know the balance outstanding. A gear list has been sent home today. Please keep this in a safe place, and ensure you have everything on the list ready for camp, which is on Tuesday 21st February.

Sausages/Subway - Attached are lunch order forms for sausage sizzle / fish finger fizzle (each Friday) and subway (each Thursday). If your child is ordering lunch, please ensure you fill in an order form (one for each child) and put in the green letterbox outside the office **before school**. If you require more order forms, please call in to the school office.

Ice Blocks / Cookies - We will continue to sell these each lunchtime. (Cookies will not be available until Tuesday next week). These cost \$1.00 each and can be purchased from the hall kitchen.

Urgently Needed - Help with Senior Sport - Can you spare ¼ hour each Thursday afternoon to take a group of students for senior sport. We start at 2.15pm through to 3pm. If you can help, please either let Pauline Roberts or the school office know. Thanks.

Drums - Mark Bisson will continue with drum lessons this term (\$10 per lesson). These are held on Friday mornings at school. Mark will contact the continuing students, but if you would like your child to take part, please send a written note to the office giving them permission.

Chess - This will continue this term. For those that took part last year, please confirm that you are happy for your child to continue (\$50 per term), and new members are welcome, please let us know in writing if you are happy for your child to take part.

Sun Hats & T.Shirts - We will place an order for sun hats and T.Shirts (with our school logo on) on Friday 17th February. Sun hats are \$15.00, T.Shirts are \$13.00 and polo shirts are \$33.00 each. If you would like to order one, please fill in the form below and return to school with the money by 17th February. Thanks.

Pithy Quote - Whatever you are, be a good one. *Abraham Lincoln*

Ka Kite;

**Nigel Frater
PRINCIPAL**



ROAD SAFETY SPOT: Did you know? - That children will copy your example, good or bad? Set a good example by always using safe crossing areas.



GREEN SPOT - Tips for greener, cleaner living. Everyday ways for us to help make a healthier planet - Warm Yourself, Not the Environment - When you are cold, put some warmer clothes on.



PUSH PLAY! - Bake a cake.

Home & School News

Our Gala is coming up on Sunday 18th March, so keep that date free. Please see the attached notice with regard to items we need!!!

Community News

TIME BANKING - Are you interested in learning more about Time Bank Upper Hutt or becoming a member? Time banking is a way of trading skills in a community. It uses time, rather than money, as the measurement tool. Members of a time bank share their skills with other members within the community and are given time credits for the work they do. With the credits they gain, each member can 'buy' someone else's time, and get the service they need. Come to a public meeting on Saturday 18th February at 2pm in the Upper Hutt Library. For more information contact Virginia Francis on 527 8371 or Anne Ching at thechings1@gmail.com or Marilyn Olds on molds@clear.net.nz.

UPPER HUTT MUSIC CENTRE - Instrumental Music Class Tuition at Fergusson Intermediate School in Trentham. Registration day is Saturday 11th February, 9am to 11am and tuition begins on Saturday 18th February. Lessons are held every Saturday during school terms. \$30 per single student, \$30 hire charge for violin, viola and trumpet, \$60 hire charge for clarinet and flute (excluding fife, recorder, saxophone, guitar, and percussion/drums - to be supplied by student). For more information please contact Virginia Philip on 526 9643.

KIDS WHO LOVE TO SING! WE NEED YOU! - If you would like to sing a lot and learn cool songs, have fun with lots of other kids, have the opportunity to perform in a concert for your friends and family, come and find out what all the fuss is about! Information and registration on Sunday 12th February - 3pm at "The Spot" cnr Milton Street and Fergusson Drive. Any queries, please contact Joanne on 526 3091 or hvkidschoir@gmail.com. Parents welcome!

TARARUA SPORTS CLUB INC/UPPER HUTT CITY SOCCER - Registration Day 9th Feb at UH Clubrooms, Harcourt Park, Norbert St 6pm - 8pm or online at <https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v5/regofrm.cgi?aID=12787&formID=12329>. The club caters for players aged 7 - 14 as well as nursery grade for the younger ones. Fees for 2012 are \$60 nursery grade (under 7), \$70 for players aged 7 - 12 and \$75 for players aged 13 & 14. Ph 027 236 7023 for more information.

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School Wardrobe

I would like to purchase:

T.Shirt: Size _____ Quantity _____

Polo Shirt: Size _____ Quantity _____

Hats: Quantity _____

I enclose \$ _____ in payment / I have paid via internet banking.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Brain Teaser Challenge:

Answer: _____

I have read the newsletter dated 7th February 2012. Signed: _____

Child/ren's Name(s): _____

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7th February 2012

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216 Main Street, Upper Hutt Phone: 528 5715	Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm



INTRODUCING TUATARA ROOM 2012

I am Nicholas. I have a sister called Sophie in Kea room.

I am Abby and Wills is my brother. I am proud of Wills because he is doing well in class.

I am Ethan. I am moving to Kaitoke farm soon.

I am Rihanna. I live next to Plateau School. Dominic and Justin are my uncles.

I am Jahcynta and I live near my uncle Ratana. I have brown curly hair.

Hi. I am Lucy. I ride at Thompson's Riding School. My pony's name is Sheba.

Hi. I am Archie. I live in Palm Grove, Upper Hutt.

Hi. My name is Olivia and I am five and I am proud of my beautiful eyes.

I am Tane. I live in Akatarawa. Autumn is my sister's name.

Hello. I'm Caitlin. I am proud of my eyes. I have blue eyes. I live at Vista Crescent.

I am Zoe. I am 6. I have 2 brothers called Jack and Tyler.

I am Chrystelle. I love my family. I have a sister called Jessie.

I am Evangeline and I live in Mount Marua. I have a brother.

I am Jacob. Daniel is my brother.