



Silverdale Normal School
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Dear Parents

Message from the New Zealand Police

This week I have been visited by one of the community constables for the city. His job was to visit schools and check that everyone is feeling safe and supported after the incident in Christchurch recently. He wanted me to pass on some information to our school community. As part of the Police's response, they have increased their regular patrols around schools - you may have noticed an increased police presence lately. This will continue for the next 6 - 8 weeks. Police have also asked that if you hear or see anything that concerns you around messages of hate, exclusion or racism, to please give them a call and report it. School Lockdown procedures are also being reviewed across the country. We have been examining ours in the light of how schools responded in the Christchurch area and an updated procedure will be available for you to read shortly.

Assembly last week

Last week we had a special Assembly that coincided with National Unity Day - a time to celebrate the different cultures that make up our beautiful nation. We also observed the 1 minute silence at 1.40pm, joining in with the Colour Your Day initiative put on by the Christchurch City Council and 24-7 YouthWork. Thank you for your kindness and support both in dressing your children in bright colours for the day and if you contributed any donations. Highlights from the Assembly included a response of support to the people of Christchurch from one of the learners in Room 10, a prayer shared in Arabic by Aseel and Abdullahi and Mrs Moffat presenting our school with our new flag. The flag includes images of flags from all over the world, celebrating all the different nationalities that we have represented at our school. It is now flying proudly from our flag pole.



Church Car Park update

I have been working both with the council and the Church next door to improve our use of the car park to help make pick up and drop off times safer and more efficient. To help with traffic flow, the council will paint in and out arrows to indicate which are entrances and exits. We have also identified that the car parks on the street directly outside the church severely impacts driver vision when leaving. The council are now following process in talking with the neighbouring homes; these parks will be removed.

The church has agreed to re-paint lines and marking more clearly the no-parking areas. They will also create several new parks, and mark off the area directly beside the church to create a safe walking path.

Thank you for your patience with our car park. As I have mentioned in the past, we are incredibly lucky to have this to use at no cost to the school. Please help us and follow the markings painted and be kind and respectful to one another.

PTG News



Disco!

This Friday - 29th March, from 5.00 to 7.00pm.
 Cash only. Adults must stay and supervise their children.
 Friends and family welcome.
 Model train will be running if the weather permits.
 Shoes needed for train rides, preferably covered shoes.
 Disco will be under the canopy if wet,
 and outside Rooms 11 and 12 if dry.

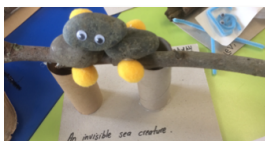
- ▶ Tupperware Fundraiser - last chance to order this week. Please return drink bottle order form to the office or email Kelly: kelly@kellystupperware.info. 10% of your purchase goes to our school.
- ▶ End of Term Lunch - Friday 12th April. We will be selling hotdogs. Order form accompanies this newsletter. Orders must be in by Wednesday, 10th April please. Please place orders into the PTG box beside the children's counter in the office.
- ▶ Want to get in touch with us? Please email ptg@silverdale.school.nz or join our facebook group "Friends of the PTG - SNS".

Classroom Item - Room 4

The Room 4 children have been exploring a decaying piece of tree trunk.

We asked questions about **what we could see, what we thought had happened** and some "I wonder" questions.

We used a variety of litter from the forest floor and recycled material to create creatures. Some lived on the forest floor, some lived in the sea and some inside our houses.



"Making a Positive Difference"

A journey of rich learning through play.



Loose Parts: Empowering creativity.

Outside Rooms 6/7 and 8 there is an outdoor space that has a collection of what the teachers call "Loose Parts". When the children have their uninterrupted time to concentrate on playing, they have a variety of materials to choose from. There are tyres, and sandpit toys, there are sound makers and little bricks. There are large spools as big as they are, as well as planks of wood and pipes and watering cans.

Loose parts must be open ended- there must be countless ways to use and interact with them. They inspire creativity and imagination and can be used by children in ways that interest them. Some might transport them, line them up, combine them, take them apart or throw them.



Children choose creative loose parts over toys - how many times have you bought a fancy toy and all they want to do is climb in the box?

The children in this learning journey decided that they would use Loose Parts and a tree to create a tree house. Creating a treehouse was the idea of three boys but soon a much larger group was inspired to expand on their ideas. All of a sudden a leader emerged, who organised the collaborations of the children. The children worked together to solve countless design problems to get it just the way they liked it.

This interaction was observed by their teachers on the first day. The next day, a teacher added some materials that the children might find useful, but it was up to the children to notice them and to use them to improve their treehouse.

In the classroom, books about treehouses began to appear. The children were curious to read about these stories and read these stories with their teachers and each other. As their curiosity grew, their teachers found examples of real life treehouses around the world that other cultures use. The children became very excited about this. They wanted to find out more, they had questions they wanted answers to.

In the outdoor space, some tensions were starting to appear, so the teachers helped the children create a treehouse treaty of agreed ways of treating each other and using the treehouse.

Materials resembling some of those used in treehouses around the world were introduced to indoor tables. Children started to recreate and explore ways these materials could be used.

Language was gifted to children as they discussed materials, techniques, cultures and treehouses. The children started to write about these things to share with each other and display.

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Waikato School of Art Holiday Programme

It is that time of the year again, we are looking forward to a fun and art filled time during the Easter holidays. Our classes are suitable for children 5 -12 years old and run from Monday to Thursday, 9am to 12pm.

Fees are \$35 per session

Please see <http://www.wsa.org.nz/school.aspx> for details or email artschool@wsa.org.nz and we will send you an enrolment form.

Michael Harrop - Principal

Community Notices

Fonterra Site open day - Saturday 6th April 2019.

There will be a tour of the site from the tanker to what we produce here at Te Rapa, which is Butter, Milk Powder, Cream Cheese and Frozen Cream. Our new tankers will be onsite to jump into! One of our 700s will be there which is one of only 6 in NZ. An Ice-cream Sundae station will be setup, along with milking a cow, cheese tastings for Mum and Dad to name a few things to do at Site day.



YMCA

Special Invitation To

Holiday Programme

EXERCISE • FUN • FOOD • MUSIC • PLAY

Join us this holidays for a fun and engaging Easter Holiday programme. Explore wacky science, have a go at icing easter biscuits, create some crazy crafts and join in the YMCA Olympics!

Check out our website for a full brochure and to find a location near you!

www.ymcahamilton.org.nz

Special Dance and Gymnastics days available

See You Soon