

# NEWSLETTER

## 2009 Term 1

*Letter 2: News for parents and Friends of Hill Top School*



On Wednesday this week we travelled into the city and drove up to the summit of Mt. Eden. From the top we could see that Auckland is a city almost completely surrounded by water. The two oceans nearly meet either side of the isthmus, which is the main part of our city. Mt Eden, as one of the many volcanic

cones, was interesting from a geological perspective too.

After the 'overview' we went down to the Museum and saw the excellent display on volcanoes as well as 'Sue', the *T.rex*, and the memorial to Auckland's soldiers who had died in WWI.

It was a full and worthwhile day for the famous 'class of four'!

### The Nature Table

The world around us is a magical one; full of wonder and with the potential for awe. School science needs to return something of this wonder to the classroom. It is natural to the child's world and education ought not unwittingly dull that sense of amazement.

With this in mind we have established a new nature table in the class for the children to display what they have found in the natural world. We have fish, pine cones, shells, leaves, and of course, the butterflies! Thanks to the team of helpers.

MJB



### EDUCATION REFLECTIONS...

It is important to be able to follow the unexpected. Often in the process of learning, something unexpected appears; a question from a child, an unusual result in an experiment, a surprising observation and so on. It is a great 'teaching moment' for teachers and parents alike. There is a brief window of opportunity for some really fresh understanding to emerge. When we can capture that moment and

'tease it out' for all to see, then the lesson is easy and attractive. Learning takes a leap.

Of course the daily routine of planned lessons also needs to be followed; without this those special opportunities may not arise. But the freedom to pick up a fresh idea and follow it is vital. Our science lesson this week uncovered such a 'wow' moment; heavy sand!

Mark Broadwith.



NEWS & ACTIVITIES

**Names of soldiers from Auckland province, killed in action**



It was a sobering reminder to see the memorial on the museum's top floor. We searched for the names of our own families and found several.

ANZAC Day falls during the School holidays this year, but it would be important for the children to notice something about the occasion when it comes; a time to reflect.

**Packing up**

With the expectation of moving off this site at some stage this year, several of the parents have been starting to pack up resources and equipment from throughout the School. This is a huge task and any assistance would be most welcome. The intention at this stage is just to gather and sort items ready for sale or relocation as needed. Any offers of help to the Office or to Bobby Dempsey, please.

**Mrs Hadley is leaving...**

After much good service to the School, Michelle is moving on from Hill Top. We wish her every good fortune and Michelle leaves with all our best wishes and gratitude for helping to hold the fort during tough times. She is moving into full time work with a training institute and will be sorely missed at Hill Top.

There will be a **farewell afternoon tea** after school on **Friday 27th of March**. All are welcome.

**Calendar 2009**

**Friday 27th March**

Farewell to Michelle; 3pm

**Wednesday 8th April**

Outing TBA

**Thursday April 9th**

1.30pm: Concert

3pm: Term Ends

**Monday April 27th**

Start of Term 2

**Maunday 1st June**

Queens Birthday Weekend

**Thursday 18th June**

Founder's Day: Events TBA

**Friday 26th June**

End of Term

**Outlook**

**END OF TERM CONCERT**

Parents and friends are warmly invited to a short concert to celebrate the terms work and activities together.

The 'concert' will include an exhibition of works and speech by the children. We will start the presentation at 1.45 pm

**END OF TERM TRIP**

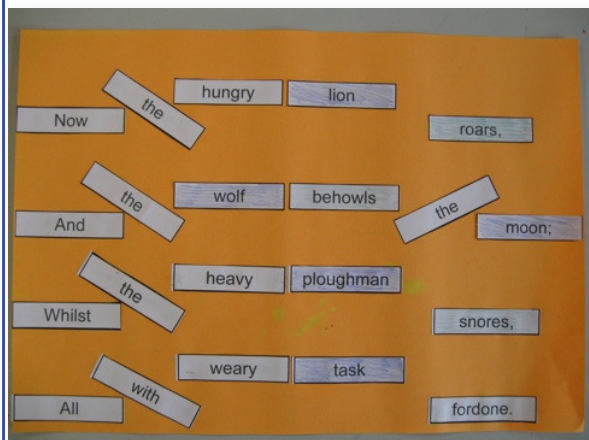
We would like to take the children on a day trip in the last week of term. We will go somewhere interesting... Ideas and offers of help are welcome.

**TERM TWO**

Mark and Elise Broadwith are pleased to accept the Board and Parent's invitation to continue with Hill Top School throughout Term Two. This will be an important term in the school's history, as we prepare for a new future.

**Shakespeare**

The children have been introduced to Shakespeare this week, using some of his simple, fun sentences. The rich vocabulary (in small measure!) brilliant rhythm and beautifully efficient structure set a high standard for written language. The children will pick up a little of the genius of our greatest playwright. This can inspire a love of language and speech.



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