14 April 2011 - Week Eleven - Term

Dear Friends and Families

Here we are at the end of a long but amazing term. We began with an extremely high number of enrolments, welcoming over 30 new students to our school. Other highlights have included:

* Our Wishing Tree and 10 year celebration as a full primary
* Cluster Swimming
* 3 Way Conferences
* Marton School and Cluster Athletics
* Fundraising for camp: hangi, disco, raffle, cake stall
* Year 7 & 8 Camp

Last week I attended the annual NZ Principals Federation Conference in Wellington with 750 other principals from around the country. Six international speakers presented on three main themes:

What are our standards as leaders?
What sort of world are we moving into? and
What does this mean for children?

We also had the opportunity to hear from the Minister of Education, Anne Tolley and the president of our federation, Peter Simpson.

ALL the speakers referred to our WORLD LEADING curriculum and the impact that National Standards has had overseas and could have in NZ. None of the six international speakers endorsed a system such as National Standards.

National Standards have been introduced to raise student achievement. Firstly NZ is already achieving well in relation to other countries measured in the OECD. Our students are not failing! Also, in every other country that has applied similar policy, it has failed. In fact countries such as USA and England have fallen in terms of their performance in OECD data. Many of these countries are now moving away from this so why would NZ be going into it?

One of the speakers referred to our children as "like pop corn". Some pop early and some pop later. If you think about this as a parent, your children may have started walking and talking at different ages. Our NZ curriculum allows children to develop at their own rate. The levels allow students to grasp concepts and make progress over a two year period but they are not all expected to reach one point at one given time. We still have high expectations for children's learning and progress but use more than one line to measure them against.

NZ and our school already has reliable assessments to demonstrate your child's progress and their achievement overall. It was very enlightening to hear renowned international speakers' messages which support the feeling of most educators in NZ.

Tomorrow is the end of term. I thank you for the support and encouragement you have given your child and our school. I hope you have a restful holiday and get to spend some quality family time together.

Year 7 & 8 Camp

Our Year 7 & 8's headed off on Monday morning well prepared for an exciting week at Vertical Horizons in Inglewood. Yesterday, I was lucky enough to join them on their day in New Plymouth. We had a great day and they are having a super camp!

Lunch in the park down by the waterfront.

All aboard Chaddy's Charters.

Netball

Here we are at Netball season again. Please note that with so many children wanting to play netball, we will be having trials this year. These will be taking place during the first week of Term 2. Notices will be sent home in regards to what day these trials are taking place early Week 1, Term 2. Children, you will need to remember to bring an appropriate change of clothing and footwear for this. Parents are reminded that the children cannot play netball in school shoes and due to association regulations, slip on shoes and bare feet are not allowed for the child's own safety. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate footwear for the season i.e. sandshoes/sneakers. Final reminder too for the permission forms due last Monday, they can still be handed into the office this week. These need to be handed in, in order for your child to play. Notification of fees and Code of Conduct forms will be sent home next term also.
Alana Schneider, Netball Co-ordinator 2011.

PLEASE NOTE: We require a notice if your child wishes to leave the school grounds for lunch or any other reason.

Attitude

"I don't have an ATTITUDE, I'm just REALLY good".

Regards Brya Dixon
www.marton.school.nz

"Caught Being Good"

Sian
Levi
Kian
Jonty
Jesse
Flynn
Charlie
Tairoa
Pritam
VJ
Bailey
Ned

Community News

Drama Lessons—Marton Players Youth Theatre Group

Lessons every Thursday during Terms 2 and 3
6-10 years and 10-18 years—approx $50 per term
Director: Glenn Cameron
To register visit the Theatre between 4-6pm on Thursday 14 April or contact Carla Taylor Ph: 327 4469.

Rangitikei YMCA Education Centre—Free Courses

Mothers and Pre-schoolers Programme (MAPS)
Gain unit standards towards NCES/NCEA
200 FREE hours of study
Transport available for surrounding areas
Building a future for you and your family.
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.
Sandy Leyland Ph: 027 496 0981 or 06 34 90 197.

Sabbatical

Next term I have the privilege of being on sabbatical leave for the first 10 weeks of the term. Seventy-five Principals are selected each year by the MOE to undertake projects and take some refreshment time. During this time I will be visiting schools in our local area, Auckland and Melbourne, researching current best practice and reading. I thank our Board of Trustees for supporting me.

Mrs Low will be Acting Principal during this time, with Miss Keyes supporting her as Acting DP. It is a wonderful opportunity for both these teachers to also develop their leadership skills and career pathways.

Marton School Stars

3 Blue Cards:
Memphyz, Phoenix, Sade, Fili, Tristan, Rawinia, Rhyanna and Mason.
Congratulations everyone.

Kiwi Can Top Team Day

Unfortunately, poor weather caused the cancellation of this day. We will work with Kiwi Can to try to offer it again later in the year.

IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES

* **Monday 11—Friday 15 April: Year 7 & 8 Camp**
* **Friday 15 April: End of Term 1**
* **Monday 2 May: Term 2 Starts**