



## **MUST READ**

### **COMING EVENTS**

**Friday, 9 December**  
**REPORTS HOME**

**Tuesday, 13 December**  
**End of Year Celebration and**  
**Year 6 Farewell—6pm Start Time**

**Wednesday, 14 December**  
**WHOLE SCHOOL TO THE MOVIES**

We are off to see **"The Smurfs"**  
Get your permission slip back to school  
as soon as possible with \$5

**Thursday, 15 December**  
**LAST DAY OF THE YEAR**  
Finish time—1.20pm

Greetings • Tena Koutou • Talofa Lava • Malo e Lelei • Namaste • Ni sa bula • Noaia'e mauri  
• Fakalofa lahi atu • Kia Orana • Asalam Alykum • Ni Hao • An Nyung Ha Sai Yo • Nay Ho

The countdown is on. A week to go. I have spent the last few months embroiled in evaluating and assessing and reporting and at the end of it all I can safely say with confidence that we have done a very good job this year. The teachers through their assessments and the talks we have had over the last few weeks have demonstrated clearly that all of your children, every single one of them, is progressing. Many of them are progressing extremely well and above expectation. Some are struggling and we have them, in mind for next year and some are in the middle cruising, not many, I have to say because as we find them we start to up the 'anti' on them too. We are pleased with the results we have achieved and I need to thank the excellent team of teachers and to thank you all for the support you are giving your children at home. We hope they are coming home every day with good stories to tell about what they have learned because we are working very hard to help them understand what they are learning and why and to feedback to us about whether they are learning it. We're trying not to assume anything and this is the way education in New Zealand is going... including the student's voice in their learning is proven in research to accelerate gains made. Some things to watch out for in the new year.

We hope to be on **FACEBOOK** and **Twitter** very shortly so we need all of your cell phone contacts updated regularly.

I am working hard with Taz our BOT chair to get the website up and running. Content is being amassed and pictures gathered and sent up. We should launch with a fanfare because it will be good and there is a lot of work going into it and work will be an on-going part of keeping it useful. Your children will be able to access it from home for work and study. You will be able to interact with us through it.

- Our Administration Block should be refurbished in the new year.
- Our Information Centre will be set up in term two. This will be an innovative area for all.
- We have a 'George Parkyn One day Gifted and Talented school', onsite from term one next year.
- We have our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Reunion Year next year.
- We return in the New Year with a whole host of interesting Inquiries for your children's learning.
- We look forward to you all coming back and being a strong part of our growth and changes in 2012.
- We finish next Thursday and unless something extremely important comes up we will not have a newsletter next week.

The pool will be open over summer. Those people who have reserved a key will need to pay the balance now. We are currently working out a roster for maintaining chemicals etc while Serge, the caretaker, is away over the break. We may be contacting some of you who volunteered to do this in the next little while for training. The balance of the money will need to be paid by **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Can I remind you again that the pool is an excellent asset and we expect anyone using the pool to comply with the rules of this use so that the pool can be available for many years to come. The contract you sign when receiving the key will ask who the key works for and only family members are eligible for this pool use. The key cannot be shared amongst families. Please respect this.

***A big thank you to all students and parents for supporting "Jandal Day" last Friday. We raised \$210 to help the Surf Life Saving Association keep us all safe at our beaches this summer.***

### **BOT**

The BOT is involved in all the big decisions of the school moving through the year. If you have views to share you can send them to the BOT chair, [chairperson@fruitvale.school.nz](mailto:chairperson@fruitvale.school.nz) and or any of the BOT members. Our next meeting is on Monday the 12th December.

*"Take Part to Take Heart"*

Na mihi nui

Donal McLean—Principal

## Our Marae Visit

At the Marae I might hear people singing Maori songs. At the Marae I might hear people snoring at night time. At the Marae I might hear people talking about the food.  
By Twinkle—Room 14

Yesterday at the Marae we did some activities. The first activity was pois. We swung the pois around. The second activity was weaving. We folded the flax until it made flowers. The last activity was the haka using the Rakau.  
By Sarah—Room 14



Yesterday at the Marae we did activities. The first activity was some pois and we had to stamp our feet. The second activity was making beautiful, gorgeous flowers. The third activity was practising the Rakau by doing the haka. After the activity we had lunch.

By Tayla—Room 14






### School Holiday Fun at Paradise ~ Learn to Ice Skate or Play Ice Hockey

Learn new skating skills,  
Enjoy the fun games & activities during the Public Session  
Classes for Beginner to Advanced skaters from 6 years +

**HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 9am-12noon ~ 1 hour Instruction & 2 hour Supervised Public Session**

**December: Ice Skating Lessons ~ Monday 19 Dec - Friday 23 Dec = Option of 3 to 5 mornings**

**January: Wk1: Ice Skating Lessons ~ Mon 16 Jan - Fri 20 Jan = 5 mornings**

**Wk2: Ice Skating Lessons or Learn to Play Ice Hockey ~ Mon 23 Jan - Fri 27 Jan = 5 mornings**



All Fees include Admission, Equipment Hire and Tuition, for more info or to enrol contact *Paradice*.  
**ENROLMENTS now open for 2012 CLASSES** starting from 31<sup>st</sup> January after school on Tues & Thurs Sat & Sun mornings + Hockey School Sat mornings. *Classes also available for Adults! Tues 10am & Weds 7pm*  
136 Lansford Cres, Avondale; Ph: 828 3800 ext 6; Fax: 828 4048; [avondale@paradice.co.nz](mailto:avondale@paradice.co.nz)  
[www.paradice.co.nz](http://www.paradice.co.nz)

## You're their lifeguard - Keep your Child safe at the pool this summer!



Over the Summer School holidays many families will be enjoying all the fun and excitement local swimming pools have to offer.

Water Safety NZ and NZ Recreation Association would like to remind families about the Pool Alone policy that public pools in New Zealand are required to adhere to:

**Children under 8 must be actively supervised by a caregiver 16 years or over.**

**Actively supervised means watching your child at all times; Able to provide immediate assistance\***

Lifeguards are an important safety feature, but they are not intended to replace the close supervision of parents or caregivers.

Tragically many drowning deaths occur in the few seconds that parents are distracted. The role of a lifeguard is to ensure people are safe in the water - they are not babysitters.

Remembering this when you take your family for a swim will help our pools to remain safe and fun places for everyone to enjoy.

\*Please note that some pools have a stricter policy than the one above

