

GREEN BAY SCHOOL

www.greenbay.school.nz

22nd September

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S LAPTOP

Kia ora, greetings to all

GREATER NEED FOR BOOST TO MORALE

Only one time before in NZ's history has morale been so low amongst teachers and that was between 1878 when National Standards were first introduced, and 1936, when they were abolished for a host of reasons including lowering child and teacher creativity. Yet here they are again and the same patterns are re-emerging. Our profession is concerned that the future of our ranking of fourth in the OECD student achievement and our world-class status of having the best curriculum in the world are in jeopardy.

The NZ Curriculum sets out a broad range of subjects, a focus on individual learning needs and recognises the differences in the way and the pace at which children learn. This puts it at odds with National Standards which are "a standardising system that have a very narrow focus on reading, writing and maths, and assume all children are the same and learn the same way." (Peter Simpson, NZ Principals Federation President). Any parent comparing how different each of their own children is understands that not one size fits all.

We all want our children to be literate and numerate. What our educational experts are saying is that children who underachieve need a broader not a narrower curriculum. Children need different ways to get motivated about learning which is available through our wider curriculum such as technology, sport, arts, history, health, science, etc. Once children are interested, reading, writing and maths become more relevant and children want to use these as tools to find out more about what interests them.

Five or six years ago, our Green Bay community was asked what it valued in education and the answer was strongly 'a holistic curriculum'. I wonder now whether people have started to believe the rhetoric and want to narrow the curriculum down to the 3R's. If we fall into this trap, we risk losing all the benefits of our world-class curriculum – and the very essence of what our children love about being at school and the areas they may find their greatest life-long passion and career path.

No one understands this tension more than teachers grappling to accommodate it into their work. This period of adapting to National Standards is proving to be a very big strain on teachers and we need the support of our community. Positive, forward-looking, optimistic, happy teachers who are secure in the knowledge that their community values them will keep working super hard and keep striving to be the best teachers they can be. This spirit of optimism will then rub off on our children. Teachers are becoming demoralised by 'media bashing.' Please show your teachers that you value them.

Have a great week everyone... Go the All Blacks!

Jude



SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

During this term Kowhai, Totara and Pohutakawa Syndicates have been working towards the Westpac Chopper Challenge, which finished on Monday with a Helicopter ride for some lucky students.

We have all been training for the Challenge Day which was on September 5 and all classes did their best to complete the challenge successfully. Each student had the opportunity to raise money for the Auckland Regional Helicopter Trust and the 8 highest fundraisers won a ride in the helicopter. These students were Levi Room 8, Faith Room 8, Niamh Room 8, Sammy Room 7, Noah Room 7, Michael Room 7, Patrick Room 6 and Bryn Room 24. Bryn raised the most amount of money! Well done Bryn.

The lucky draw prizes of a ride in the helicopter went to Annabelle Room 7 and Jasmine Room 18.

Viviene
Chopper Challenge
Organiser



Reminders:

All unsold seeds should now be returned to the office.

The Dental clinic is open and taking enrolments for pre-schoolers.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Friday 7th October—Last day of Term—School finishes at 2pm

Monday 24th October—Labour Day

Tuesday 25th October 1st day of Term 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

23rd Sept Junior Disco, 5.30—7pm

28th Sept Board Meeting—staffroom 6.30pm

30th Sept Car Boot Sale—Postponed until Term 4

SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

The Westpac Chopper

I won a ride on the Westpac Rescue Chopper because I was the best at doing the chopper challenge. I also got a backpack, a cap, drink bottle and a Westpac bank account with \$25 dollars in it.

Today I went on the Westpac Rescue Chopper. The helicopter was red and yellow, and when it came in for landing on the field it had its lights on. We had to stay on the asphalt until the rotor blades had stopped spinning.

I went out onto the field with the other people that were going on the chopper to have photos taken. Then all the classes lined up and went to have a look at the chopper, everyone got muddy shoes.

After the classes had a look at the chopper I put on a lifejacket and then I got into the chopper. Then I got buckled in and Mum took a photo of me through the back doors.

Then I put on a headset so I could talk to other people in the chopper. Then we took off. Vivienne took a photo of me.

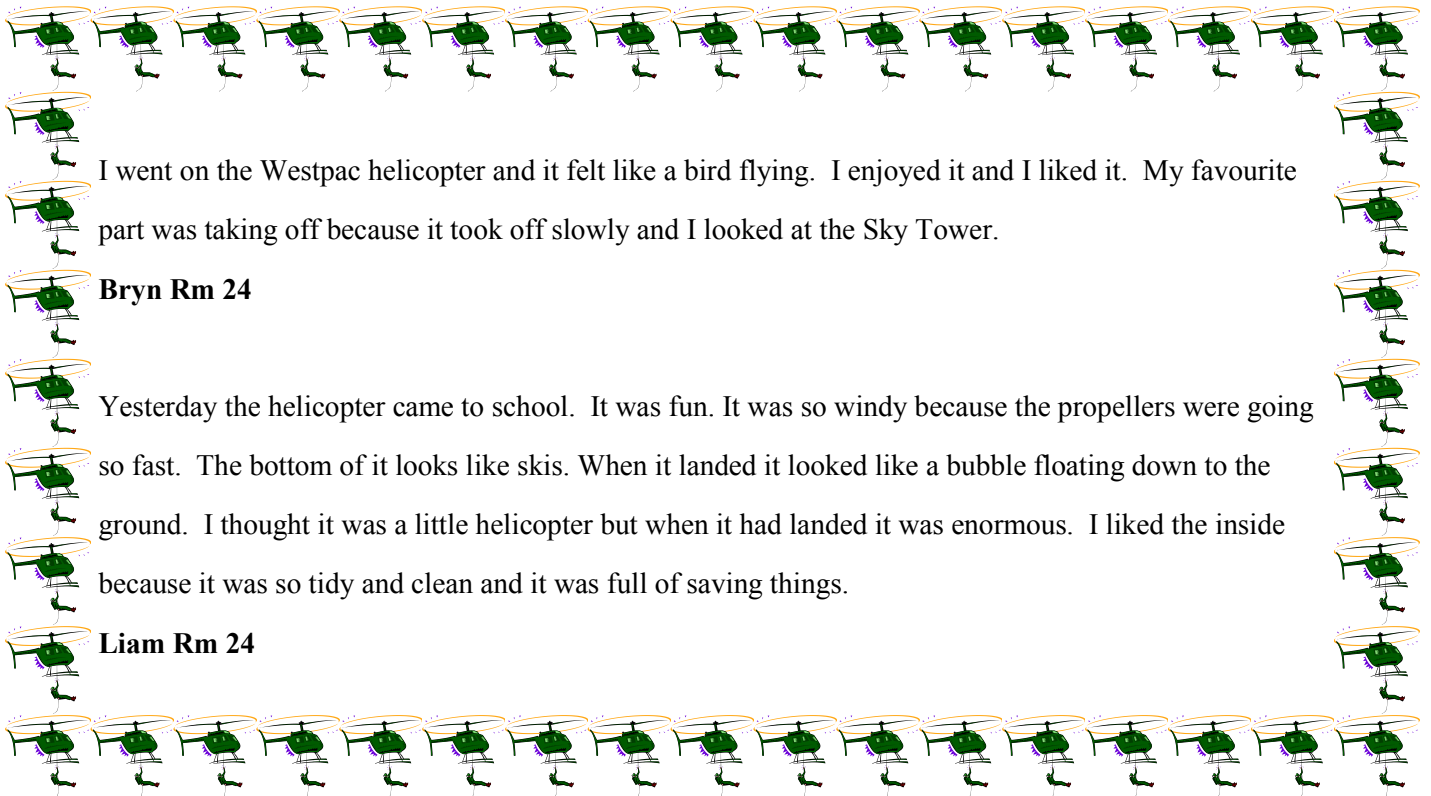
I flew over Eden Park and then the Sky Tower, the helicopter wobbled from side to side a little bit. I flew over the water then came in for landing at the heliport at Mechanics Bay where the Westpac Rescue is based.

I was first off the chopper after the man, and the rotor blades were still spinning when I got off. I got a photo of the helicopter with the rotor blades spinning while the others were still inside it.

I got picked up by my Nana and Grandad and taken home.

I loved it, it was so fun.

By Noah Rm 7



I went on the Westpac helicopter and it felt like a bird flying. I enjoyed it and I liked it. My favourite part was taking off because it took off slowly and I looked at the Sky Tower.

Bryn Rm 24

Yesterday the helicopter came to school. It was fun. It was so windy because the propellers were going so fast. The bottom of it looks like skis. When it landed it looked like a bubble floating down to the ground. I thought it was a little helicopter but when it had landed it was enormous. I liked the inside because it was so tidy and clean and it was full of saving things.

Liam Rm 24

STUDENTS' CORNER



Green Bay School Outstanding Young Athletes

Our Intermediate students Sam and Linus cleaned up at the Bay Olympic Soccer awards prize giving last Saturday, both receiving the most coveted trophies - **Most Promising Player** (girl and boy respectively) for their grade. Linus also received an award for The Most Outstanding 12th Grade Boy. These trophies are what every player aims to achieve in their sport.

Sam has been the captain of the Girl Power team since its inception in 2007 and her team took the prestigious trophy for **Team of the Year** in their grade, which is an achievement in itself as no tournament team has ever been

recognized previously. This was a well deserved win as no team in the history of the club has ever won 3 tournaments in a row (they have not lost a tournament this year to date) and they don't intend breaking this when they go to Taupo in November to bring home the big one!

Linus has been selected for the AFF (Auckland Football Federation) talented performance pathway, which includes playing for Auckland and getting special training sessions and opportunities. He will represent Auckland at the Weir Rosebowl in October. Only 62 players from the 12th grade of all over Auckland made it in. This is really special because this programme links into the national level later on. Sam has retrialled for the girls' team and will find out soon if she is also representing Auckland.

We are proud of both these fine young athletes, as they have both proved what hard work and dedication can achieve.

On Saturday the 17th September 2011 the **Arthur Lydiard 5km, 10km, half marathon (21km) and marathon (42 km)** started and finished from Shadbolt Park. The organiser of this event sadly lost his limbs due to a gas explosion.

A few people from our school participated in this fun run, and had a great time! It was raining at times but that didn't stop anyone. The 5km run/walk went up Golf Road, up Stottholm along Godley Road (past our school), and to Shadbolt Park in our local community.

We are really proud of our achievement with a good time of 27 minutes and a placing of 1st and 2nd for the U 20 female category. We had lots of fun. We also got to 'hi five' the Auckland mayor Len Brown, who was there as well.

Jemma and Shae
Room 2

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Come on down to Titirangi Library these school holidays

We have a special storytime with local author Janet Martin of 'Louie the Tui' fame on Wednesday October 12th at 10.30am and a special kiwiana storytime on Wednesday October 19th also at 10.30am.

On Thursday October 20th at 6pm you can come to the library in your pyjamas for an 'Under the Sea' storytime with Patrick the starfish from Spongebob. Stories for all storytimes are suitable for 4-8 year olds but everyone is welcome.

We also have a very cool kiwiana scavenger hunt competition and some great rangoli designs for you to colour in and celebrate Diwali. It's all happening at the library!

Mums and Dads wanted for a brief positive parenting programme

The Triple P Research Group at the University of Auckland is seeking families with a 5- to 8-year-old child to participate in a research project. Participation will include attendance at parenting groups that teach about positive parenting and discipline strategies to constructively manage their child's behaviour, free of charge.

We are looking for parents to participate in the project who:

- have a child between the ages of 5 and 8 who is showing some difficulties with his or her behaviour and are interested in attending a brief discussion group based parenting programme.

Please contact Melanie Palmer on 09 623 8899 ext. 83042 or via email: ml.palmer@auckland.ac.nz for more information.

APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND HUMAN PARTICIPANTS ETHICS COMMITTEE on 29/07/2011 for 3 years. Reference 2011/360.