



PARNELL DISTRICT SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 12

9th August 2017

Kia Ora All

As Term Three races by, there are a lot of exciting events coming up this term. I have tried to ensure the main school events coming up are all in one place for you for the term ahead. You will notice that the name of our upcoming focus week has changed from *SMaT* to *STEM*. This reflects the change from a *Science, Math and Technology* focus, to *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*. We look forward to sharing what we have been learning in our **celebration of learning or exhibition of learning on the 5th of September**. As well as sharing our exploration over the STEM week, we will be able to show off what we've found so far in our inquiry into our question "Are we alone in the universe?".

Supporting Our School

We are so fortunate to have our wonderful, hard working PTA. They have already run successful events like our wine fund raiser, and the movie night. We have two major PTA events coming up this term. The first is our Adidas Fun Run. Weather permitting, this will be held on Friday the 11th of August. Chester and I have been training hard (more Chester than me), so we are looking forward to our run!

The next is our Big Night Out on the 15th of September. The big night out holds a special place in my heart, as the 2016 Big Night Out was held after my powhiri and was one of my first opportunities to meet with our Parnell District School community. There are three main ways you can support the Big Night Out. The first is through donating products or services to the silent auction. We always have a range of large and small items in the auction, and every donation is warmly received. Second, is participating in the silent auction (online) and bidding on the range of items our supporters have donated. The third is to attend the night. A fantastic night where we enjoy a fun quiz and our friends from Ray White run the live auction, it is a great opportunity to get together and have some fun while supporting our school. If you have any donations, please email: Parnellschoolpta@gmail.com

The PTA's key fund raising priority for 2017 is playground equipment, with our sports turf almost totally funded through their work to date, and the next focus of improved play equipment for the senior playground. We are committed to giving our students a vibrant and exciting environment for break time that enhances our students love of school and learning, while giving students a range of leisure activities to enjoy during break times and in the weekends.

Cohort Entry

In our most recent board meeting, the Parnell District School Board voted to adopt cohort entry from the start of 2018. I would like to thank the parents who took part in our consultation around this, and our Early Childhood providers who shared their support of this initiative. From Term One 2018, all new entrant students will begin on the first day of a term, possibly starting up to 8 weeks before their 5th Birthday. Parents still have a choice as to when they enrol their child to begin. We feel that cohort entry will benefit every child in year 0-1 for 2018, as we can ensure every new child receives a comprehensive induction both prior to enrolment and when they begin, while minimising

Important Dates for Term Three	
11 th August	School Cross Country
15 th August	Year 3-4 parent morning tea with the Principal 10:00- 11:00 am
24 th August	Mathex competition
27 – 31 st August	North Island Primary Ski competition
30 th August	Sibling Photos
28 th August – 1 st September	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) week
5 th September	Celebration of learning 9:00-11:00 am Exhibition of learning 5:00-6:00pm
7 th September	Portrait and Class Photos
15 th September	Big Night Out! PTA fundraiser
29 th September	Last day of term

the disruption to classes with new students starting. We will publish further information about this as we move towards the end of the year, however if you have any specific questions please feel free to contact me



Richard George

CLASSROOM NO. 4

Room 4 were VERY excited to see what was happening in the Apex after the school holidays. We brainstormed some key words and had a major focus on using language features to make our writing more colourful. Here are a few stories recording their thoughts . . .



The Apex

After the holidays, we came back to school. When I looked where the grass had been, it was no longer there. All that was there was just mud and a pile of stones. After a while, when we were doing our work, I had a look at the orange diggers. They were scraping and scooping up the stones. They were like foxes who had been stuck in a hole and hadn't eaten in years. Smoothing and shovelling the stones into a pile, they went on working all day long. "Broom. Broom," they went. My voice fought to get louder as the diggers were drowning me out.

By Leo Williams

Our new play area

I like to watch the construction workers and diggers build the new play area for the Juniors. It's a bit like watching a movie in the cinema because you're watching something –but you're actually in school. First of all they scraped the grass and made a big hole in the old rock wall so the digger could come through. The children liked it when the digger driver did a 'Beep Beep' sound.

A new machine came in which looked a bit like a bulldozer. It was smashing the concrete like an angry octopus trying to untangle its tentacles.

Next we saw the digger shovelling the concrete and the mud into a dump truck. Gnawww . . . gnawww went the diggers as smoke puffed out the top.

I am looking forward to the new play area which will look like real grass and if you put your ball on it, it won't get muddy.

By Oliver Hookway

The grass that disappeared.

One morning I arrived at school and guess what was happening outside? The grass had disappeared – instead of grass there was mud and stones all over the Apex and one orange digger was scooping the grass away. There were fences all around the Apex. They had to make a hole in the rough rock wall so the mighty machines could break through.

The children were gazing out the classroom windows, looking at the diggers scraping up piles of muddy mud. Finally it was brain food and everyone was chomping down their food. Then it was time to go to class and the scooping went on. Soon after it was time to do some learning as the workers dug up the grass. At last it was morning tea time because there had been some learning. I got very serious while I watched the activity outside our classroom for half an hour.

Finally the scooping got like this "Hum. . .Hum. . Hum!" It sounded like a swarm of bees buzzing.

By Billy Heard

CLASSROOM NO. 12

*Last term, **Room 12 students** identified a **BIG QUESTION** related to the Term's Inquiry Topic of '**What Secrets does the World Hold?**'*

The students were able to practice their research skills through the following activity:

*First, they randomly selected a 'mysterious or secretive' place somewhere in the world and created an artwork of it. Next, they used their research skills to identify the more closed questions starting with **Who**, **Where**, and **When**.*

*With this information, they then started to delve deeper by making use of the more open questions starting with **How**, **What**, and **Why**.*

Once all the information had been gathered, a summative statement was created to explain the significance of the artwork they had each created.

These statements were then peer reviewed, teacher-conferenced, and finally published for display.

These A2-sized artworks are currently located on the walls both outside and inside Room 12 – please feel free to pop in (either before or after school) to have a closer look.

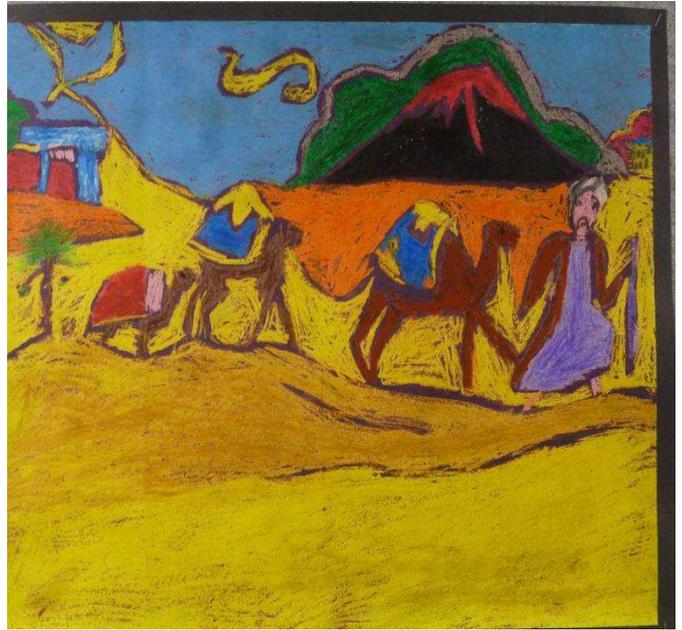
Here are a few examples . . .

**The Silk Road; A route between China and Europe
Central & Western Asia
By Lucy Vu**

The Silk Road, also known as The Silk Route, linked China with the West, allowing goods to be carried between the two great civilisations: Rome and China. Silk went west, while wool and metals went east.

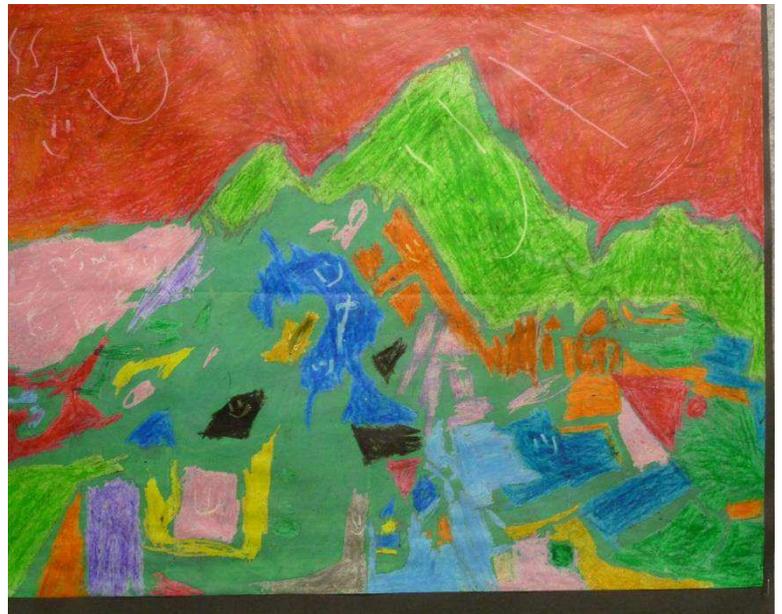
The route got its name in 1877 by Baron Ferdinand Von Richthofen, a German traveller, geographer, and scientist.

This ancient route not only helped circulate goods but also helped exchange the cultures of China, India, Persia, Arabia, Greece, and Rome.



**Machu Picchu; The (Lost) City of the Incas
Sacred Valley, Peru
By Nidal Vengalath**

The Lost City of Machu Picchu is a mysterious wonder; built in the 15th century at the peak of the Inca Empire. It was abandoned about one hundred years later because of the arrival of the Spanish, who never found it. For centuries, Machu Picchu remained hidden to the world. Hiram Bingham, a United States citizen and leader of the Yale-Peruvian Expedition set off in search of the last capital of the Incas, which he officially 'rediscovered' on July 24th 1911. The Incas were sun worshippers, so the whole city is orientated to catch the rays of the rising sun.



'The Eagle has landed'
Sea of Tranquillity, The Moon
By Apphia Ghebremichael

On July 20th 1969, The Apollo 11 spaceflight landed its lunar module, Eagle on the Moon's surface. Mission Commander Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the moon stating . . . "That's one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind." He was joined by Buzz Aldrin, and together they gathered moonrocks and set up scientific instruments on the lunar surface to run tests.

A plaque was also unveiled on the ladder of the Eagle, which read, "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot on the Moon, July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all of mankind."

The last humans to walk on the Moon (to date) were from the Apollo 17 Mission on 14th December 1972, almost 45 years ago!



Svalbard Global Seed Vault
Spitsbergen Island, Norway
By Ludivine Jordan

A secure seed bank on the Norwegian Island of Spitsbergen, about 1,300km from the North Pole. The seed bank is 120m inside a sandstone mountain with strong security. Officially opened in 2008, it now contains approximately 1.5 million distinct seed samples with a potential capacity of 4.5 million.

The site was chosen because of no tectonic (earthquake) activity and had permafrost (all year-round ice), to help with preservation. Seeds are packaged in special 3-ply foil packets, heat sealed to exclude moisture, and stored at -18° Celsius.



Moai; Carved stone heads
Rapanui (Easter Island), Eastern Pacific
By Adhya Devireddy

Moai are giant monolithic (single upright stone) human figures carved by the people of Rapanui (Easter Island) in Eastern Polynesia, between 1250 and 1500 A.D. The Moai represent the faces of chiefly ancestors who have since died. The transportation of hundreds of Moai across the island from the main quarry on the slopes of volcanic Rano Raraku are considered remarkable, creative, and physical feats, as the average statue weighs about 80 tonnes. The Moai truly are one of the world's great mysteries!



Maralinga; Atomic bomb test-site
South Australia
By Alexandra Irvine

Between 1956 and 1963, the British government performed seven nuclear tests, in the Woomera Prohibited Area, about 800km west of Adelaide. The site was contaminated with radioactive materials which required several 'clean-ups' costing millions of dollars. The Maralinga tests were done under extreme secrecy up until the 1970s but today tourists can now visit the area. However, there is still one small restricted area which has to remain off-limits for at least the next 25,000 years!



SCHOOL NOTICES

PHOTOLIFE PHOTOS

Photolife are booked in to take your **sibling** photos on Wednesday 30th August. Sibling Forms are available on **request from the Office**. These must be returned to school before Photo day.

Shoot Keys and Manual Ordering envelopes will be sent out to you **after** Photo Day for you to order.

LIBRARY

Term 3 Library News

Thanks to all those families that hunted out your overdue library books during the holidays. If you have already paid to replace lost books and then subsequently have found them, please email me or the office your bank account details and we will reimburse you.

If you know that you will be leaving the school, we would really appreciate you making sure that all library books are returned.

Parnell Readers' Club.

I could really use some extra help in the morning listening to learner readers. At the moment there is just one dad, Jim Andrew, who comes on a Tuesday morning. If you could spare 20- 30 minutes any morning Tuesday to Friday, it would be great to see you. Just turn up to the library and you'll be very welcome. Don't worry if you can only commit for a short time, it would still be appreciated. If you are new to the school and particularly if your child is an English as a second language student, the reading club is a good way to give them more practice in reading.

Any Volunteers?

I could also use some help with shelf tidying. This is an ongoing job. If you come early to collect your child and would be willing to spend half an hour in the library, I would really appreciate your help. It's not a hard job and the library is a warm cosy place to wait.

Hells' Pizza Challenge

Quite a few students have taken up this reading challenge and have already earned their first free pizza. It has been most successful with the morning reading club and year 3 and 4 students.

If your child still has a pizza wheel, they can redeem it when complete right up until Dec 31st. There are no more pizza wheels left; I gave out 200.

Linda Gray Brett

Teacher Librarian

lindab@parnell.school.nz

SPORTS NEWS

Sports blog

All sports notices in full and photographs of PDS week of sport are now found on the school sports blog <http://parnellsport.blogspot.co.nz/>

PDS Sports uniform must be worn at Eastern Zones and Bay Suburbs sporting events

Bay Suburbs and Eastern Zones Term 3 Sports calendar

NIPS Ski training at Snow Planet-	Friday 11th and 25th August
Remuera Zones Gymnastics Competition	Thursday 10th August
PDS Adidas Cross Country	Friday 11th August Cancellation date- Friday 18th August at Bloodworth Park
Bay Suburbs Netball Tournament	Wednesday 16th August Save day Friday 18th August
Intermediate Ski Champs	Week 5 21-24 August
NIPs Ski Champs	Week 6 28-31 August
Bay Suburbs/Eastern Zones Cross Country	Tuesday 29th August
Bay Suburbs Basketball	Tuesday 12th September- Boys Friday 15th September- Girls
Eastern Zones Basketball	Monday 18th September- Boys Thursday 21st September
Bay Suburbs Hockey	Thursday 28th September

26th September Year 3-8 Sports Assembly in school hall at 12:15pm

PDS Adidas Cross Country

The annual school cross country is this coming Friday at Bloodworth Park. ALL students are to wear their house colours running gear to school and bring along their school uniform in a named plastic bag to change into after the run. An announcement will be made by 8am on the school sports blog and school website if the race has been postponed to Friday 18th August. We look forward to seeing you all there to cheer the runners on.

PTA NEWS

Mufti Day & Sausage Sizzle:

Next Thursday, August 17th, there will be a mufti day and sausage sizzle at school. This means your child is allowed to come to school on this day in clothing other than their school uniform. We have two mufti days each school term and this is a PTA fundraising activity. The children pay a gold coin donation for this privilege. Barbecued sausages (including halal), drinks and muffins are for sale on mufti days for \$2 each

Quiz Night and Auction Fundraiser – Tickets on sale next week!!

The Parnell School annual parents' and community '**Big Night Out' Quiz Night and Auction** fundraiser is coming up, **Friday September 15 2017**. A big thank you to Ray White Remuera who are going to sponsor the event again! Their continued support helps us towards our fundraising target and makes a real difference to our school.

Tickets for **tables of 10 will be on sale from next week** so a reminder to get your tables organised and don't miss out! It is always a fantastic night and a great way to get to know more of our wonderful Parnell District School community.

Tickets are \$50 per person and will be available from the Friday café and school office from early next week.

And, we'd always love help! This is our major fundraiser for the year and we need your help to make it a success!

We are looking for a wide range of prizes to be donated for our auction website. No matter how big or small, all items are gratefully received!

Here are some suggestions of fun prizes: Clothing, kid's stationery, toys, sports gear, food and wine, beauty treatments, babysitting vouchers, jewellery, gift vouchers and movie tickets... Suggestions for big ticket items: baches or holiday accommodation, restaurant meals, fishing trips, trampoline, artwork, outdoor furniture, bicycles, skateboards or scooters, boogie boards, SUP, hotel accommodation... Money can't buy experiences: In previous years, we have had a parent offer a behind-the-scenes tour at the museum, or, another parent offered art lessons, and two families donated fishing trips around Auckland Harbour. Tennis lessons? Get creative - think of things that you can offer!

The PTA are happy to contact any supplier on your behalf. If you know someone who might be helpful with this event, please email: parnellschoolpta@gmail.com

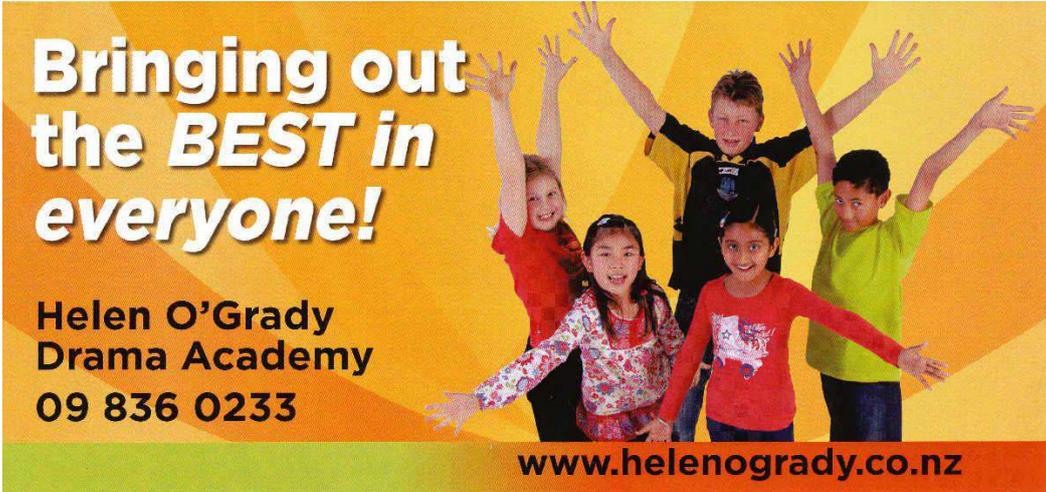
Rain date of Friday 18th August.

Next PTA Meeting:

The next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 9th at 7pm in the staffroom.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Please be aware that the school's acceptance of advertising in the school newsletter does not constitute approval and/ or

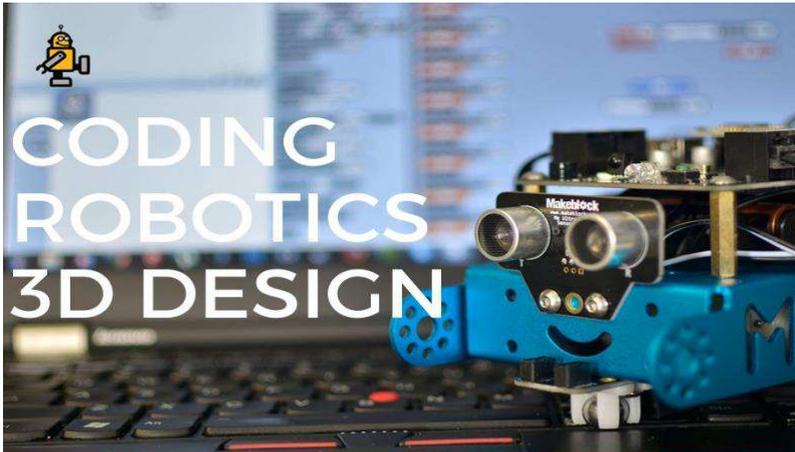


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