

Quick Guide to
What's Happening
@
Howick Intermediate



Howick Intermediate Newsletter

The informed parents guide

2nd /3rd September
– Uxbridge Exhibition

5th to 9th September
– Sports Camp

8th September
– SEZ Table Tennis

28th September
– SEZ Boys Volleyball

28th September
– APPA Speech Competition

30th September
– Singing Bee Competition

6th October
– Skip Off

7th October
– Spelling Bee

7th October
– Last day Term 3



Flower Power

A welcoming site are the flower beds in front of the school that have been planted with pansies in the school colours; red and yellow.

Over 1500 seedlings were planted to create a spectacular display.



By: Renee Page Room 18

During most of this year we have refrained from commenting on the continuing debate about National Standards. This is not because we think the issue has become less important but rather out of respect for the fact that there is a range of opinion on the subject, and not everyone shares the same view. However, the issue is again heating up with between 20% and 25% of schools submitting Charters this year that do not include national standards. Even many of the schools who have complied, claim they do not believe in what they are doing but have felt bullied and coerced. This is not the basis for a healthy and collaborative system.

There is a large amount of advocacy occurring as various groups seek to push their view. Unfortunately, these views can take on the appearance of fact or knowledge when in fact, they are not.

Many schools remain opposed to the introduction of National Standards because they are not research based, they have not been trialled, they have not been moderated across the country and in most places around the world where they have been tried, they are being rejected as a failure.

Most programmes or procedures that are introduced into schools are research or evidence-based and teachers are encouraged to make decisions based on sound data. Unfortunately, in the case of National Standards, for whatever reason, that requirement has been ignored. As a consequence, schools are being asked to make decisions on student progress without the benefit of sound reference points, resulting in different decisions being made in each school. Students are being judged in a manner that could be different from school to school. This has the potential to seriously disadvantage many students and lead to spurious misleading comparisons and assumptions.

At our school, we are coming under increasing pressure from the Ministry to conform. It seems that sound education theory and practice established over many years has been thrown out the window in the pursuit of some power position and a linked ideology.

This is worrying as our educational system is not failing as some would claim. New Zealand continues to sit near the top on many OECD rankings for educational achievement. There is not a crisis in our schools that some would claim exists.

Like all countries, there are some students not achieving as they might but overseas experience appears to have been that the proposals currently being forced upon us have not achieved what the advocates claimed would result, and in some cases, only produced confusion and harm.

It is interesting that recently ERO said that there were many good things happening at our school yet we are being asked to put all of that success and achievement at risk in pursuit of an untried ideology.

All students do not progress at the same rate which has nothing to do with ability or capacity. It has much to do with the fact that each student has their own developmental clock. To suggest that all students should reach the same level at the same point in time ignores much of what we know about the uniqueness of each individual, and potentially undermines the positive self-esteem and encouragement that many students respond to.

We need informed dialogue and the application of evidence, not ideology and dogma to impose a discredited approach upon our educational system that is still viewed favourably overseas. Why are we trying to destroy it from within?

John McAleese
Principal

Please note that we endeavour to publish the school Newsletter on a fortnightly basis. If you have any notices that you would like included, please email them to crisib@howickint.school.nz. Space is at a premium and we may not always be able to satisfy your request.

Five quick questions asked to students about an issue.

This week's we interviewed
our Korean visitors...

- Q1-How has your time been in New Zealand?
- Q2-How different is it in New Zealand compared to Korea?
- Q3-If you wanted to, would you stay in New Zealand?
- Q4-What do you like about our school?
- Q5-How different is our school from your Korean school?

We interviewed some of the Korean exchange students and this is what they had to say:

Cheol

- 1. I like it here.
- 2. Here we sleep early and wake up earlier.
- 3. No because my family is there.
- 4. I like the teachers here.
- 5. There is no fighting here everyone gets on well.



Su Hyun

- 1. I am having a fun time.
- 2. It is colder and the air is fresh.
- 3. Yes, I like the food.
- 4. I like morning tea and lunch because I like to eat.
- 5. The finishing time—we stay longer at school in Korea.



Henry

- 1. **It's been fun!**
- 2. The weather, the food and the money.
- 3. Yes, it is fun here.
- 4. The school is large.
- 5. The whiteboard is different .



Jae Han

- 1. Fun, I like playing games.
- 2. In New Zealand we speak English and in Korea we speak Korean.
- 3. Yes, it has nice views, its beautiful, fantastic, etc.
- 4. This school is large.
- 5. There is no grass or morning tea in Korean schools.



Kathy

- 1. It has been good.
- 2. We have no tea time.
- 3. **Yes, it's better than** Korea.
- 4. The school students are kind.
- 5. I like the freedom.



By Jacinta Hanscamp Rm 18 and Taylor Rm 10



The Primary and Intermediate School Choir Festivals Gala concert was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, 9 August 2011.

Mrs. Chang, the music teacher had this to say, "Thank you very much for all of your support. All students did well and sounded very good. As a result we were awarded with a bronze award and hopefully we will do even better next time."

It was a great evening with schools from all over Auckland being represented.



The Choir practicing in the Town Hall

FROM NURSE LIZ

MEASLES UPDATE

The measles outbreaks in Auckland and Waikato are mainly affecting unimmunised school children.

As of the 8th of August, 175 measles cases had been reported this year, including 19 who needed hospital treatment.

Measles is a highly infectious illness and is more serious than people realise.

Symptoms include fever, cough, red eyes and a runny nose, and then a rash which develops after about 3 days. Complications can include middle ear infections, pneumonia, and, more rarely, encephalitis (brain inflammation). About one in ten people infected need to be hospitalised.

The best protection is the MMR vaccine which is free for all NZ children. This is given at age 15 months and again at 4 years. If your child has NOT received these 2 doses you should see your GP immediately and inform the school.

Any unimmunised students who have been in close contact with a measles case during the infectious stage, should stay away from school for 14 days from their last contact.

Liz Taylor
Registered Nurse

MATHEX

We had 60 students represent the school at the Interschool Mathex Competition.

We had two Year 7 and two Year 8 groups taking part. All the contestants were very quick and scored really high.

A big thank you to Mrs. Petherbridge for training our students to achieve and compete at this level. It was a great evening for all!



SCHOOL DONATIONS

Invest in your child's future

School donations now due
To claim a rebate with the IRD download the form on this link:

[http://www.ird.govt.nz/forms-guides/
keyword/rebates/ir526-form-claim-
rebate.html](http://www.ird.govt.nz/forms-guides/keyword/rebates/ir526-form-claim-rebate.html)



Assembly Awards

Room 5	Week 1 Week 2	Renee Donachie Isaac Harvey
Room 9	Week 1 Week 2	Vicky Chen Cole and Renee Beale
Room 10	Week 2	Carol Taka
Room 12	Week 1 Week 2	Luke Gardner
Room 13	Week 2	Melenia Kaitaeifo
Room 14	Week 2	Kurlyn Darlerbe
Room 15	Week 1 Week 2	T.B.A.G Jamie Walters
Room 16	Week 1 Week 2	Chao Xin Tasisah Khan
Room 17	Week 1 Week 2	Hannah Santos Malik Andrew Saipani
Room 18	Week 1 Week 2	Gursimran Sekhon Kathleen Samania
Room 19	Week 1 Week 2	Mak Rawiri Marco Tahi
Room 20	Week 1 Week 2	Akech Duot Deng Scott Nicholson
Room 21	Week 1 Week 2	Carleen Daw Yun-Yang Hsiao

Congratulations!

SPELLING BEE

Marlon Terrace, of Room 6 won the inter-school Spelling Bee competition on the last day of term.



Above: Congratulations to all three finalists:
1st place—Marlon Terrace (centre)
2nd place—Zeljko Labit, Room 15 (left)
3rd place— Kurt Kong, Room 7 (right)

The crowd cheered enthusiastically as representatives for all the classes were put through their paces.

It was a great way to end the term and students were beaming—what a way to end the term!



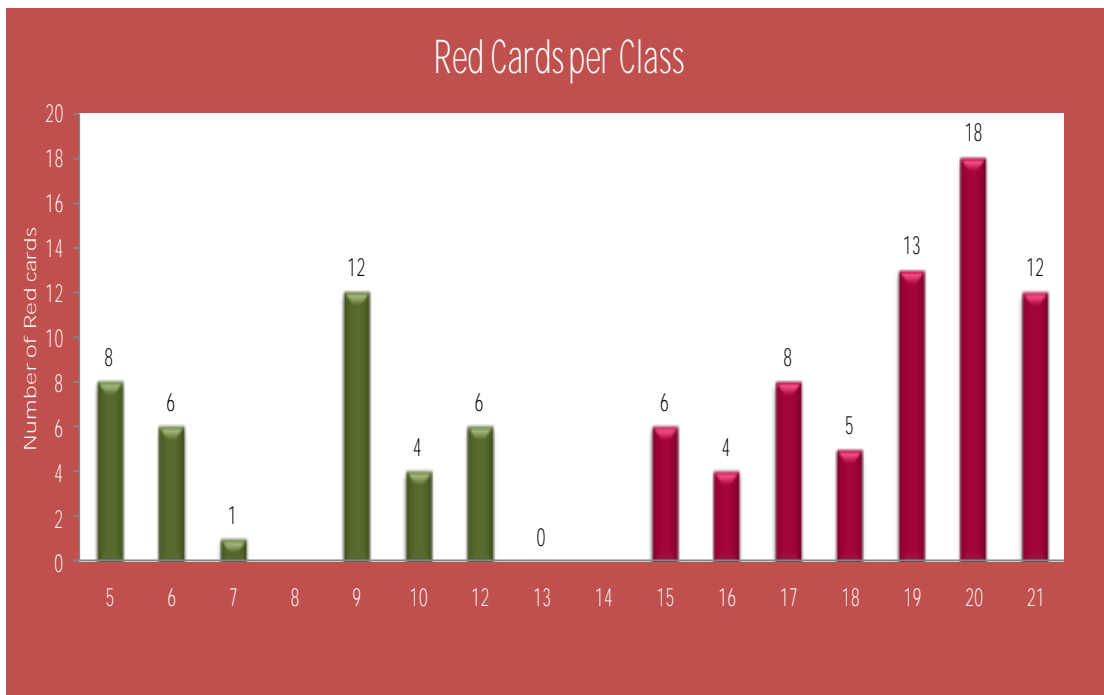
Above: Students supporting their whanau

RED CARD AWARDS

Red Cards are issued to students who are 'caught' doing something good. The class with the most red cards wins the Red Card Award for the week. Students who win a red card automatically go into the draw to win a giant cookie.



Congratulations to Room 20 for receiving the Red Card Shield.
Keep up the effort of being caught being good!



Red Card Awards per Class