

Primary School News

22nd April, 2008

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Whilst I sent a newsletter little more than a week ago, there are so many things happening that I feel it necessary to update you on various matters.

“Earth Week” - During this week, we are reminding our children of the need to appreciate and protect our environment. On Friday, we’ll have a **Civvy Day**, (please send \$2), with proceeds going to the National Trust and to our school landscaping/beautification efforts.

Peanut Allergy - In September, we shall be admitting to school a child who has a serious, potentially-fatal allergy to peanuts. Whilst it may be impossible to completely rid the school of all traces of peanut derivatives, we must take any steps we can to reduce this possibility. I was surprised to read how easily a person with such an allergy can be affected: for example, one child almost died after playing with a basketball that another child had left traces of peanut butter on; another child actually did die after eating a cheese sandwich that had been packed in the same bag as a peanut butter sandwich! Our catered lunches are already supposed to be “peanut-free”; our task now will be to ensure that snacks sold and lunches/snacks brought to school by children are peanut-free. One mother of a child suffering this allergy has stated, “I am asking parents to give up their children’s right to eat anything they want in school for my child’s right to live.” We have had children in our school with such allergies as this before and it is our obligation to do whatever we can to minimize the risk. Teachers and office staff will be advised as to necessary emergency procedures and we will explain to the children the need to keep peanut products out of school. Day-to-day activities of the children will **not** be affected in the slightest.

Cyclo-Prep - This annual fundraiser and enjoyable family event is just around the corner! It takes place on Saturday 10th May and I believe you should have already received all the relevant information about it, together with sponsor forms. Please encourage your children to participate and to collect sponsor money. One quick, painless way of doing this is to pass a form around your work place. Everyone will be happy to throw in a few dollars (especially if you are the boss!) There are some great prizes for those classes and individuals collecting the most sponsors and the most money; one which the children are excited about is the opportunity to “be Vice-Principal for a day”. I can go to the beach for a day and leave a “lucky” boy or girl in charge !

Roller Hockey - Last Friday, a team from our school challenged a C.I.S. squad to an inaugural inter-school game of roller hockey at King’s Sports Centre. Both schools took along lively contingents of student/parent supporters and I think the walls were shaking at times with the tremendous Cup Final atmosphere. Our players were regarded as “the underdogs”, but they played their hearts out and we had a very sweet victory by the score of 9-7. Special thanks to Nicola Agemian who spearheaded the idea, to King’s for great organization and to all our players and supporters for a tremendous team effort.

Hats / Uniforms - Hats are an important part of school uniform. **If** the hats are clearly-labelled and looked after, they will last throughout a child's primary school life. The hats we have are very durable and can easily withstand a regular wash/dry, so I suggest that you throw them in with your weekly wash. As with clothing, you can imagine that a hat which is worn daily in this climate can get pretty sweaty and dirty by the end of each week. We do have occasional outbreaks of headlice and it is important for every child to have his/her own hat cleaned on a regular basis.

Comments have been made recently about untidy and/or incorrect uniform. Please ensure that your child has the correct, specified items of uniform, including regulation P.E. kit, school shoes, school socks and belts for the boys.

Kindergarten Parents' Evening – Last Thursday evening, parents of Kindergarten Classes got together at the National Gallery for a most enjoyable social get-together. Delicious platters of finger-food and drinks were on hand and three “artists in residence” added an additional dimension to the good food and good conversation. I would like to thank the class representatives for all their hard work in putting together a memorable evening, with especial thanks to Nancy Kirkaldy-Barnard for so kindly making the facilities of the National Gallery available. If you missed this one, make sure you don't miss out on the next!

National Children's Festival Of The Arts - During the month of May, many of our talented children will be involved in this annual all-islands festival. Many aspects of the performing arts will be involved, including literary, art, dance and drama aspects. The many individual and group forms of music expression will be featured and this year a “Young Musician Of The Year” and a “Songwriter Of The Year” will be recognized for the first time. Final concerts will take place in early June and you will be advised of these dates in due course.

How much do you make??.....

Dinner guests were seated around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. “What can a kid learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?” He reminded the other guests “Those who can, do...those who can't, teach.” He turned to one of the guests, “ You're a teacher, Bonnie, tell them what you make.” Bonnie paused for a few seconds, then began her answer.

“You really want to know what I make? I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I can make a C+ feel like a Congressional Medal Of Honour winner.....I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I-Pod, Game Cube or Movie.....I make kids wonder.....I make kids question.....I make them apologize and mean it.....I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions..... I teach them to write, then I make them write (Keyboards aren't everything).....I make them read, read, read.....I make them show all their work in Math. They use their God-given brain, not the man-made calculator.....I make my students from other countries learn all they need to know about English while preserving their unique cultural identity....I make my classroom a place where all my students can feel safe.....I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life. You want to know what I make?

I make a difference. Now tell me, what do you make, Mr CEO?” The man's jaw dropped and he was silent.

Thanks for reading,
Brian M Wilson