



**BETHLEHEM  
COLLEGE**

# Primary School Newsletter

22 September 2009

Issue 08 30 October 2009



## Diary Dates Term 4

30 October  
**Gala and  
Fireworks Night**

6 November  
**Mufti Day**

17 November  
**Year 3&4  
Athletics Day**  
(pp 19 Nov)

18 November  
**Year 5&6  
Athletics Day**  
(pp 20 Nov)

24 November  
**Kindergarten,  
Yr 1&2  
Athletics Day**  
(pp 26 Nov)

4 December  
**All library books  
returned**

14 December  
**Primary  
Celebration**

15 December  
**Last day of term**

**2 February 2010**  
Primary Students  
return to school for  
the start of Term 1

## From the Principal's Desk

### Dear Parents

#### Primary Talent Contest

Didn't the children do well with their individual and group items in the primary talent contest last Monday evening? Given the age of the children, I was most impressed with the absolute unquestionable quality of various performances. Congratulations also to all the children who practised, had a go and tried out but didn't quite get to the finals on the Monday evening. Apparently more children than ever presented items to Heather and Ruth. We applaud the courage of the children and their desire to perform, entertain as well as express and develop their God given talents. Well done to everyone, and special acknowledgment to families for the individual encouragement and assistance you provided for the children taking part.

#### Team Leaders' Retreat

Last Friday the Primary Management Team had an exciting planning and development day in preparation for 2010. As well as evaluating, consolidating and improving a number of areas where changes have been made this year we also focused on identifying school-wide learning themes for the four terms. This will provide powerful learning opportunities for students within a meaningful context. An excellent model is being developed that will integrate the curriculum. It will include our character and life skill development emphasis and our commitment to scripture. This will tie in our school's holistic approach to student development by linking our devotions and scripture memorisation component with our BC Student character and life skill emphasis. Each will be under the umbrella of a common meaningful theme that will drive the bulk of our curriculum.

This integrated approach will operate from Term 1, 2010. During the latter half of this term teaching teams will develop topics and planning around the school-wide theme for Term 1 next year. We will communicate more about these developments in a few weeks time.

#### Class Placements for 2010

Our year-group teaching teams are starting the process of prayerfully and carefully considering the needs of individual students and which class and teacher would be most suitable for each child in 2010.

This process tends to take several meetings for each syndicate as there are a number of dynamics for our teachers to consider. These include the make up of groups within classes, friendships, matching teachers with learning styles and how to best meet individual student needs. This is a task that I assign to our year-group teachers who know their students well and are able to make their professional decisions based on their experience of each child in a class setting.

I would ask you to trust us as professionals in the matter of choosing the most appropriate class for your child(ren). The exception to this would be if you have information that your child's teacher is not presently aware of.

#### Interesting Interviews

Yesterday I had the pleasure of interviewing a family of 4. The dad was a foundation member of Bethlehem College from 1988 and has been right through the whole school. He is now married with two children, one of whom will be starting in Year 1 early next year. When asked why he wished Bethlehem College to be entrusted with his son's education he replied to this effect, 'Having gone through the school myself and benefitting

# SCHOOL NEWS

so much from it, I wouldn't ever consider my children going anywhere else." I appreciated hearing his confidence in the quality of our school after having so many years at the coal face of student involvement.

I also very much enjoyed the enthusiasm and excitement of another young family I interviewed this week. This highly educated couple from Papamoa had done their research on a number of schools before being absolutely settled and convinced that Bethlehem College was the place for their growing family.

It was lovely hearing them verbalise their excitement and appreciation as we talked, answered questions and toured them through some classes at work.

A trend of human nature is that familiarity with anything (even something or someone special) can cause our appreciation of it to wane. The interviews above reminded me of my strong appreciation for what we have going here at BC and the privilege of being involved.

Warm regards

*Shane Beckett*

**ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL AND HEAD OF PRIMARY**

## Primary Production Videos

We had hoped to have DVD's of the production for parents to purchase but, unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the machine that was used malfunctioned and we are not able to have a DVD available of this year's production. We are all very disappointed by this. However, the Primary Production was a fantastic success with our students loving every minute of their involvement. We were most impressed with the level of talent that was showcased and are very appreciative of our wonderful parent body who gave so willingly of their time, expertise and skills to assist our team of dedicated teachers in putting on this show. Our sincere and grateful thanks to you all.

## Requesting Leave for your Child

If you plan to withdraw your child from the school for a period of time exceeding 3 days, you need to give the Principal notice. You do not need to request permission to do so as he cannot grant it, being required to ensure that all young people between the ages of 6 and 16 are present at school when the school is open for instruction. You may however, as a parent, choose to withdraw them for family reasons such as travel overseas etc. All we ask is that you give the Principal notice that your child will be absent for that time.

All other absences should be notified to the class teacher or by email to [Absence@beth.school.nz](mailto:Absence@beth.school.nz) by phone on the morning of the absence by ringing 07 576 6769. The Principal's email address is [p.nash@beth.school.nz](mailto:p.nash@beth.school.nz).

***PHILLIP NASH***  
***Principal***

  
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## BC Web Page

Please see the BC webpage  
[www.beth.school.nz](http://www.beth.school.nz)  
for 2010 term dates, calendar  
dates of events and copies of  
the Primary and Secondary  
newsletters.

## School Closed

A number of parents were inconvenienced as a result of the limited notice given to parents advising of the TOD during last term. We do apologise most sincerely for the inconvenience this oversight caused.

Parents are encouraged to view the school calendar on the Bethlehem College web page, where information is added as it comes to hand. But, in future, we will ensure a notice goes home to parents at the start of the term advising if the school is going to be closed.

# SCHOOLNEWS

## Parent Helpers Morning Tea



**Date:** **Thursday 10 December 2009 – 10.00am**

**Venue:** **Bay Trust Foyer – Performing Arts Centre**

We will be honouring parents who have helped at Bethlehem College this year. Please mark your diary with this date now. If you would like to join us for this special occasion, please email your name and address to: [j.finn@beth.school.nz](mailto:j.finn@beth.school.nz) or phone 576-6769 – Extension 7807. We look forward to the pleasure of your company.

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## From the Registrar

**Is your son or daughter leaving Bethlehem College at the end of this year?** If so, you should have already notified the Principal. If you have not, please do so urgently by emailing [p.nash@beth.school.nz](mailto:p.nash@beth.school.nz) or posting a letter to The Principal, Bethlehem College, Private Bag 12003, Tauranga 3143.

**JENNI TURKINGTON**

*Registrar*

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## Promotions Office

### **BETHLEHEM COLLEGE ART EXHIBITION**

Many have enquired as to the amount raised by our annual Art Exhibition. We are now able to advise that total profits raised from the Art Exhibition are \$24,067.59. This amount will go towards the costs of fitting out the Performing Arts Centre. Once again, our sincere thanks to the many parents who helped make our Art Exhibition such a success.

### **PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**

We wish to say a very big thankyou to those parents who have continued to sponsor seats for the Performing Arts Centre. To date at least 150 seats have been donated and we wish to thank all those who have so generously contributed to this fund. In appreciation of your generosity, a plaque carrying your name will be placed on the back of a seat.

If you have not already done so, please consider supporting the school. It is not too late to donate a seat and help furnish this wonderful new facility. Each \$500 donation will be recorded with a plaque. If you wish to donate a seat, please see our website for details: <http://www.beth.school.nz/linkdocuments/DonateASeat.pdf>

**JEANETTE KNUDSEN**

*Promotions Officer*

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## COMMUNITYNOTICES

Te Puna Tennis Club, Tangitu Rd Te Puna,

Join us for an exciting and fun season of tennis, aided by our professional tennis coach, **Peter O'Dea**. Students will work in age groups to receive skill and game tuition. Club fees for this season will be the same as last year - \$75, for 2 terms or \$40 per term payable at the start of the season or term. If you have any queries please contact Lauraine or Richard Rennie on 552 6176 or email us at [lcomms@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lcomms@xtra.co.nz)

Trailride / Funride—Fundraiser for Paergaroa School.

To be held on the 8th November from 10am to 3pm at Pirini Motocross Park, 935 Bush Road, Pongakawa. Registration is on the day from 8am. Food and drink available.

### **Lost Property**

Black Volcom hoodie, size 10.(skeleton picture on front) was left in the Jnr playground after school in Week 1. Named—Keanu Turner (tag inside) . Please phone 543 3495 or return hoodie to the school office. Thank you.

Dear Parent/ Guardian

### **STATIONERY 2010**

To make life easier for you for 'Back to School', we have teamed up with School Supplies Direct so that you can buy all your school stationery needs over the Internet or by mail order.

The stationery will be delivered to your home or a designated address by courier. This system will mean that ordering is quick and easy, stationery lists will not be lost and products will be of high quality. Payment is by credit card (on-line) or cheque/credit card (mail order).

**Goods are couriered to you free of charge for orders over \$45 placed on-line.**

It is recommended that you **purchase all your stationery by mid January** to ensure delivery before school starts and to give you time to cover books if necessary.

#### **Ordering On-line:**

1. Go to [www.myschool.co.nz](http://www.myschool.co.nz) and enter the school name: Bethlehem College
2. Select the preferred method of shopping 'Order using Quick & Easy grid'
3. Select Subject/Year levels required
4. If you want to view what you have ordered then click the 'Save and Continue Button'. It is advisable not to remove items unless you are sure you already have these items e.g. Casio Calculator
5. At this point you can also order additional items you require e.g. book covering
6. When you have finished ordering your items click 'Add these items to Cart'
7. You can check your purchases by clicking 'View Cart', then 'Continue to Checkout' & follow instructions
8. If some items are unavailable when you place your order then these items will be put on backorder and delivered to you as they arrive. It will be indicated on your delivery docket.

Print a copy of your order and retain it for your records. Note the order number. This is required in case you need to return items (e.g. a course change following NCEA results)

**Mail Order:** Download the order form from the website. Complete it and post to School Supplies Direct, Free-post 17019. PO Box 16670, Christchurch with your cheque enclosed if not paying by credit card.

**In-Store:** Take your downloaded list to your nearest OfficeMax Store (sister organisation to School Supplies Direct) – Tauranga: cnr. Elizabeth & Durham Sts – Rotorua: 1135 Fenton St.

If you are asked for a participating school reference number it is: 4082681

#### **Conditions:**

Allow up to 10 working days for delivery, order early & select a delivery window to suit

Any problems call School Supplies Direct on 0800 724 440, not the school

Incorrect items can only be returned through first contacting the customer service team. Returned items must be in good condition. You will need to quote your order number. Returned goods will not be accepted more than 3 months after purchase.

We trust that this system will make the start of the year simple and efficient.



PRINCIPAL