



HEBRON CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

To Know Him, To Love Him, To Serve Him

www.hebron.ac.nz

Newsletter No.15
Friday 27th May, 2011

Dear Parents

I have noticed when I walk parents around the school who are enrolling children from state schools that they often comment on how quiet the classrooms are. We often walk into classrooms that are completely silent but full of children working at their desks. The reason for this is simple; we train and expect children to work quietly or silently in their classrooms because it promotes a good work ethic and allows children to learn more successfully. There are other reasons too such as giving the teacher greater opportunity to manage the class more efficiently, be heard without the need to raise one's voice, etc. In stating this, there are other times when group work, etc produces "noise" or something funny produces laughter, etc. but this is allowed by the teacher and is not ongoing.

This practice of promoting quiet or silent work times is not encouraged in many of today's schools for some rather odd reasons. I well remember as a young teacher being told by a senior teacher to allow a "busy buzz" in my classroom as it demonstrated a happy, hard-working classroom. I was well aware that bees need to buzz in order to work but couldn't see why children needed to "buzz" while doing their maths or reading a book. It appeared more like time-wasting, distracting social gossip! Even an Education Review Office official thought our classrooms were too quiet.



SOUND RESEARCH: Auckland University's James Whitlock in an anechoic, or non-echo, chamber where he will carry out experiments with 20 primary school students. Photo: FIONA GOODALL

A big noise in classroom design

By ANNABEL SCAIFE

James Whitlock has his ear to the ground when it comes to finding a gap in the field of acoustic research.

The Auckland University acoustic engineer is challenging conventional classroom design following international concerns primary school rooms are ill suited to listening.

"If children can't hear and understand their teacher, they can't learn," Mr Whitlock says.

The 23-year-old physics graduate is building on a

study by a New Zealand team that found most children are hard of hearing in a normal classroom environment, making noise a major contributor to educational failure.

Factors such as echoes, background noise from air-conditioning, street traffic, and a tendency for teachers to move around the room while talking, all make for a complex acoustic environment.

He says another big problem is that students themselves create a lot of noise, talking over each other to get heard.

*According to the Oticon

Report, 38 per cent of the time children are doing group work, creating the "café effect" where people raise their voices.

Mr Whitlock is investigating how children relate to sound before embarking on an affordable and practical solution to classroom design.

"It appears that until now classrooms have been designed to be cheap and simple at the expense of children's learning."

He says classrooms need to be redesigned to encourage people to speak quietly and teachers may also need to reconsider

their teaching methods.

"Obviously, we don't want to tell people how to teach, but we can recommend better practices."

Mr Whitlock's interest in studying noise stemmed from a love of music, having played drums, percussion and violin.

"I always wanted to be a musician. Performing is hard to make an income from, so I decided to study the science of sound instead."

Mr Whitlock has been awarded a \$5000 AMP scholarship to further his research.

It was most interesting therefore to see the article above printed in the NZ Herald entitled "A Big Noise In Classroom Design" explaining the work of James Whitlock, an Auckland University acoustics engineer. He is researching the effect of noise in New Zealand classrooms and the effect it has on learning. The 23-year old physics graduate is building on a study by a New Zealand team that found most children are hard of hearing in a normal classroom environment, making noise a major contributor to educational failure. He says, "...that students themselves create a lot of noise, talking over each other in order to be heard". According to the Oticon Report, 38% of the time children are doing group work, they create the "café effect" where people talk louder in order to be heard.

So, rest assured, Hebron's teaching practices are in line with sound "modern" thinking and do produce good results!

HEBRON HAPPENINGS

Sewing Mentor

Hebron staff are always keen to receive help from parents in their classrooms. Our Food & Soft Materials Technology teacher, Mrs Hart, is very keen to have mums (and dads) help out with her programme. Mrs Lisa Wong, our "Uniform Shop" lady gives her time freely on Thursdays to assist with the sewing classes, particularly extending the more proficient sewers (not the smelly kind) with more advanced sewing projects. The photo shows Juliet Douglas getting assistance with her dress. (The Year 7 programme on Thursday afternoons needs an adult helper for this term. Can YOU help?)



Indoor Cricket

Indoor Cricket team manager, Mr Malcolm Davidson, writes:

Knowing this was our last grading game and wanting to do well, we were a little concerned when posted the name of the team we would be facing (Death Eaters) and became aware they were a university side. On the day, however, we discovered 75% of their team were woman, which led one or two of our players to underestimate their potential, as they had a number of good batters and bowlers amongst their players. They did have one very obvious male weak link which we exploited to the full. As a result, we restricted them to 78 runs while taking 19 wickets in the process. Again our fielding proved to be our strength, but we did have a small mid-match lapse which enabled them to put more runs on the board than they should have been allowed to. Against a bowling attack that lacked depth we scored 210 for the loss of 11 wickets, with our top partnership amassing 74 runs. It was a comfortable win by 132 runs but there is a major area of concern we need to tighten up on. At the moment some of our bowlers are far too wayward and wides, no balls etc., are punished heavily. In an innings the bowlers can give away a maximum of 288 extras and we leaked a total of 74. This is too high a figure and means the bowlers have to take more wickets and the batsmen score more runs to offset such a high deficit. We will struggle to do that against a number of the stronger teams we are now set to face. As a result of winning all our grading games we have been placed in the 16 to 17 year old league (the average age of the team is 15 yrs. and 9 mths.).



Last year's indoor cricket team

The team plays alternately on a Friday night at 8pm and then the next week on Sunday at 2pm. We would welcome anyone from Hebron who came to support the side or wanted to learn about this action packed form of the game. The venue details are as follows: **Action Indoor Sports Stadium, 911 Dominion Road, Mount Roskill** (next to the large Tai Ping market). The season now officially starts this Friday, 27th May, and we face the Invi 8 side at 8pm.

HEBRON HAPPENINGS

Life Education Trust Visit

Our school is receiving a visit from the Life Education Trust Mobile Classroom **next week** from 30th May – 3rd June. Our New Entrant to Year 8 classes will visit the classroom twice during the week with Rooms 11 & 12 visiting three times. There is a subsidised cost of **\$4** for Primary children and **\$5.75** for Intermediate children. Families of children attending will have this charge debited to their family account unless otherwise notified.

Life Education is a health based education resource teaching children the wonders of their bodies and what good substances are needed for a healthy lifestyle and the need to make good choices in life. The aim of this year's visit is to provide children from 5 – 13 years with an awareness and understanding of differences within each other and the need to make good choices in inter-personal relationships.



Parents are invited to a session on **Wednesday 2:30pm-3:00pm** (pre-schoolers/babies welcome).

Secondary Exams

Secondary (Year 9 – Year 13) students have their mid-year exams next week and we know how keen they are for this to happen (joke). They do know, however, that exams give them an opportunity to display the work and skills they have learnt and helps prepare them for the end-of-year external exams one faces at NCEA levels. Parents are asked to encourage their secondary children to study hard for these exams, forgo

worldly pleasures (TV, computer games, Facebook, extended sleeping, planking, day dreaming, etc) and not stay home on the day of the exams with newly discovered diseases and impairments!

Speech Extension Classes

This speech class parallels adult Toastmaster club procedure, with some obvious exceptions, e.g. usually only the teacher will be a practised speaker.

Children rotate the various tasks and responsibilities. After the teacher input, the Chairman will introduce the "Round Robin", when each child will speak for just 15 seconds on a given topic. During this, the Timekeeper will enforce time limits by ringing a bell at the 15 second limit. The speaker will then sit down and the next speaker will stand. During these speeches, the Grammarian will note those who use TempORIZERS such as Umm and Arrr.

When the prepared speeches are given, the two Evaluators, sharing the load between them, will look for 3 commendations for each speaker, and two recommendations.

At the conclusion of these Prepared speeches, the Evaluators will share their comments. The Grammarian then reads out who used TempORIZERS most often, and who chose interesting words. The Timekeeper gives a report on the length of the speeches, and the time taken by all previous evaluators.

Finally, the teacher, acting as General Evaluator, gives commendations and recommendations to all those who have not yet been evaluated: the Evaluators, the Chairman, the Grammarian and the Timekeeper.

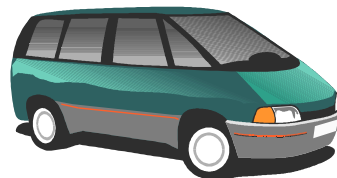
Later in the year, Year 6, 7 and 8 children will have the same opportunity to join a Speech class.



TRAFFIC & PARKING

For the benefit of new families, I would bring to your attention traffic and parking arrangements that **must be observed in and around the school**. **The Auckland City Council requires these rules be followed:**

- Endeavour to drop off and pick up your child(ren) **outside** the school grounds
- **Only** park on the **SCHOOL SIDE** of **McLean St and Allendale Rd**. The Council does NOT permit Hebron families to park on the other side of the road during dropoff and pickup time.
- New Entrant families should park on Allendale Rd and use the perimeter gate beside the New Entrant room, thus avoiding using the back carpark
- If using the front entrance in McLean St, **do not park your car and leave it**, but drop off or pick up your child(ren) and leave the carpark immediately. Cars can only be parked for a **maximum of 5mins** in the front carpark – this is an Auckland City requirement in allowing us extra pupils on the site.
- Do not **block cars in the front or back driveways**. The staff and service vehicles need to use this driveway between the hours of 7.00am to 10.00pm.



WET MORNINGS

Children are not permitted to enter the school buildings before 8:35am as staff are involved in staff meetings/devotions at this time. However, during **wet, cold and rainy mornings** children can enter Room 15 via the carpark landing from 8:15am onwards and sit there playing quiet games, talk, read, etc. Once the 8:35am bell is rung, they can go to their home rooms. Senior secondary students will supervise the room.



AFRICA MISSION

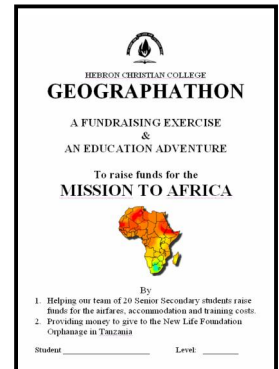


An Entertainment Book has been given to each Hebron family to buy or sell to a friend or neighbour. Once sold, please have your eldest child bring the **\$65 to the office**, not his/her classroom teacher. A receipt will be given when the money is handed over. If you don't buy the book or cannot sell it, can you return it to the school office so it can be passed onto another family wanting it or returned to the company. Again, a receipt will be given when the book is returned. **Please endeavour to buy/sell your book this weekend and bring the money to the school office otherwise return the unsold book. Many thanks**

Geographathon Launch

There is just **1 week to GO** before the primary children (and teachers) are tested on their Geographathon knowledge (Friday 3rd June) and just **over 1 week to GO** before the secondary students are tested (Tuesday 7th June) so we encourage all the children to...learn up all their country names and capital cities AND get as many sponsors as they can in order gain as much support for our bi-annual mission to the New life Foundation orphanage and school.

Thank you parents for helping your children learn these age-appropriate places and assisting in the gathering of donations and sponsorship...the orphans of Africa will be the better off for your sacrifices and hard work.



Vege & Fruit Co-op

The fruit and vegetable boxes now contain MORE produce and are a brilliant buy.

- Three different size boxes are available:
 1. small family box **\$30**;
 2. large family box **\$40**;
 3. fruit box **\$30** and
 4. potatoes (10 kg bag) **\$15**.
- Pay for ten weeks and get 5% discount.
- Three methods of ordering...
 1. Dropping form into box in school foyer (available in the foyer or click "Newsletters" on the school website) or
 2. Phoning Kathy 0211132090 or Donna 0211833876 or
 3. Emailing kathyb@maxnet.co.nz.
- Payment on collection of order or before preferably. Cheques, cash acceptable or eftpos available on Wednesday.



MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted...Old Cellphones

The "Phones for Rewards" programme enables students to play a valuable role in a nationwide fundraising campaign for Starship's Air Ambulance Service, while also increasing their awareness of environmental issues, community giving and having some fun along the way. The good news is that our school gets to benefit too.



Homestays Wanted

Two homestays are wanted for two international students:

1. A Hebron family is needed from the beginning of Term 3 to homestay an 11 year old Chinese boy studying at our school. The boy speaks good English and has a delightful personality.
2. A Hebron family is needed to homestay a 16 year old Japanese boy for 4 weeks while studying in our school. The boy has limited English and will arrive in NZ just before the start of Term 3.

Homestay families are paid approx \$200/week. Contact me for more details or to register your interest.

Have a blessed weekend.

Geoff Matthews

Principal