

April 30, 2010 - Special Flyer

"The Chelsea Express" Train Trip to Mystery Creek

As mentioned at the Meet the Teacher evening in February, our school wide intensive this year will be the train trip to Hamilton and on to the 'Ag Heritage" village at Mystery Creek. This is to fit in with our Big Question this year, in regard to how people in the 'olden days' managed, as opposed to all the mod cons that the children are brought up with and take for granted today.

We do the train trip once every 6 years, so that all children get to have the experience once in their time at Chelsea.

On this trip, we take as many parents as we can get carriages for. It is such a great experience for the children.

In past trips, we have had a 9 carriage train - too big to fit into Britomart! As far as I know at this stage, we will be leaving from Platform 4 at the bottom of Parnell, where you will drop your excited children at 7.20am and pick up happily weary children again at 5.20pm.

This is the third time we have done the train trip. The first time we did it we attempted to get buses from school to the station, but the timing clashes with the early morning commuter and school runs for the buses and we are unable to secure enough buses. It would also raise the cost considerably. Even for the City wakes, we had to have vacated the buses by 6.30am, so that they could begin the above runs.

Platform 4 is at the bottom of the Strand in Parnell, not in the middle of the CBD and has its own car park right at the platform.

The children get a big kick out of being waved off by parents, but car pooling between friends is an option for you to pursue if it makes your particular situation easier.

This year, we can only access 4 carriages - the rolling stock is wearing out and isn't, to date, being replaced it would seem.

So, we will be taking half the school on September 16 and the other half on September 17.

However, inflation is ever present, and we hope to subsidise the trip through sausage sizzles and the Great Art Auction, towards which all the children contribute. We are hopeful of being able to take between 80-90 parents with us over the two days.

The cost for parents will be \$60. We will take parents on a first paid, first to go basis. You may bring in the money from now on. The cost for the children will be known at the beginning of next term, after we take off what subsidy we have managed to raise.

There will be much more about the trip next term; this is just the advance information.

Parent Meeting - Thursday May 13 at 7pm

In two weeks, we will be holding a parent meeting to go over our curriculum approach to te reo and tikanga Maori and to explain the National Standards assessments.

This meeting, in the hall, will be worth attending. We will go over with you how the assessments are made, what information we use and how it will be reported to you.

This year we will have two written reports and one parent interview. At the end of Term 2, you will receive a brief interim report showing progress towards required standards, followed by the parent interviews in Week 2 of Term 3. In this way, you will be fully informed prior to your interview.

