

NEWSLETTER NO 7

Thursday 14th May 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers

As you'll be aware the weather has been very cold and wet recently. Despite this, students are still turning up at school without coats and are spending the day in wet uniform. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, this is detrimental to their health and learning. Could you please make sure they wear a coat to school and please ignore any comments such as "it doesn't look cool to wear a coat" or "nobody else is wearing one".

New Curriculum

Vision and Values statements

Attached to this newsletter are our school's vision and values statement. As part of implementing the revised school curriculum, schools have been asked to identify their values (deeply held beliefs about what is important or desirable) and establish a vision. Our vision identifies what we want our students to know, be and feel. These statements were put together by the staff after a lot of discussion. The statements have gone to the Board of Trustees for their approval and it is very important that we receive our community's approval as well. Could you please read them and if you have any comments could you please record them on the space provided and return it to the school office.

As you'll be aware the Ministry of Education has given schools greater flexibility in delivering a curriculum that meets the needs of its students and community. During the next few weeks

staff members will be revising learning programmes which will reflect our vision and values statements. Helen Jackman from Victoria University will be providing us with some guidance in this area on our Curriculum Day which is mentioned later on in this newsletter.

Another very important aspect of implementing the new curriculum is the key competencies which I talked about in Newsletter No 3, 12th March. Hopefully your child will have brought home to you a sheet identifying the key competencies he/she is working on. Our student report form has been changed to accommodate a new section where students are assessed against these key competencies.

New Buildings



During the Christmas holidays Rooms 24 and 25 were removed to make space for the new Technology Block which we are all very excited about. A draft plan for the new block has been drawn up by our architect and the Technology teachers are checking it out to ensure that the plan for their room contains everything they need to provide a programme in line with new curriculum requirements. Plans for Kimi Ora School (which is to be built on the College field) are also being finalised. As well as the above, a regional dental clinic is planned to replace the existing one and will run parallel to the road between our school and Naenae College.

School Prospectus 2010

Our 2010 school prospectus has been printed and next week, accompanied by some Year 7s, I will be dropping them off at our main contributing schools. If you have a son or daughter who is **not** at Avalon, Naenae, Rata Street, Dyer Street, Belmont, Epuni or Kelson Schools and you would like a prospectus, then please pick one up from our school office.

Curriculum Day

Parents are asked to keep their children at home on Wednesday 27th May. As mentioned earlier in the Newsletter staff will be working with Helen Jackman from Victoria University on implementation of the new curriculum.

Saturday Netball



The Saturday morning netball competition has been running for two weeks now. We have eight teams and I would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for volunteering to coach and/or manage a team.

- Team 1: Jo Cullen
- Team 2: Terry Perkins/Yvonne Manuel
- Team 3: Nui Harrison/Tarsh Lajpold
- Team 4: Margaret Walker/Jenny Flynn
- Team 5: Hank Elliott
- Team 6: Rebecca Hill
- Team 7: Wendy Thompson
- Team 8: Tilla Kopu

All the very best for the season.

Venture Class

You may have heard that the Venture Class teacher and long serving staff member Vicki Adam is resigning this year. Vicki will be teaching students enrolled in the Gifted Kids Programme at Rata Street School. As you can imagine we are all very sorry to see Vicki go, but know that she will do a wonderful job in her new position which starts at the beginning of Term 3.

However, there is some good news! Vicki has agreed to continue working with us on Wednesdays during Term 3 as co - director of our Production. We are very grateful to the Gifted Kids Programme for releasing Vicki to do this. We are currently attempting to find a suitably qualified teacher to replace Vicki for Term 4 Venture Class.

Head Lice

This is the time of year when we often see cases of head lice. Unfortunately, head lice spread readily from head to head regardless of whether the hair is clean or not. Could you please regularly check your child for head lice and if they have them please purchase one of several remedies available from the Chemist. A cheap alternative offered by our Public Health Nurse Lee Thoms, is to rub conditioner into dry hair then rinse it off in the shower while combing the hair with a fine toothed comb. Repeat this treatment daily for five days.

St Bernard's College Open Day

St Bernard's College will be holding an open day on Saturday 23rd May from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Prospective students and their parents are invited to visit during these hours to find out more about St Bernard's College and what it can provide. St Bernard's is a Year 7 - 13 Catholic boy's college.

'It is not the biggest, the brightest or the best that will survive, but those who adapt the quickest.' Charles Darwin

Thank you

Steve Black
(Principal)