

NEWSLETTER NO 4 THURSDAY 25th MARCH 2010

Venture Class Applications

Fifty-one students applied for forty available spaces for Venture Class. Students who have been selected for Venture Class in Term 2 will be informed tomorrow. Those who miss selection this Term will be eligible for selection next Term. Unfortunately, not all applications will be successful.

- The Year 8 boys relay team comprising Rangi Apiata, Johnny Karehana, Visal Bun, and Asafo Aumua finished in 1st place
- Macinta Tesimale 1st Year 8 Shotput
- Gabby Elliott 1st Year 8 Vortex
- Teufolau Feki 1st Year 7 Vortex, Shotput
- Ulaula Luaai 2nd Year 7 Shotput
- Teufolau Feki 1st Year 7 Shotput and Vortex

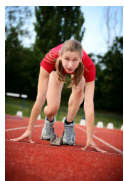
LOTE and Leisure Education



Our LOTE programme starts next week with Year 7 students being taught either Maori or French (they will do both languages throughout the year) and Year 8's being taught either Japanese or German. In addition to this, we have composite groups of students learning Mandarin, Spanish and Samoan. If your child has chosen to be in our cultural group they will not take part in the languages programme.

The Leisure Education programme started last week and students have opted into activities such as volleyball, computer graphics, quizzes, summer salads, athletics, wooden toys, hip hop, rugby 7s and Storming the Heights.

Inter - school Athletic Sports



On Tuesday our best athletes (minus those students attending Syndicate 1 camp) competed in the inter - intermediate school athletics competition. Our team finished a creditable fourth out of the thirteen schools taking part. Performances of note included:

A big thank you to Marcia Waikato for all her work in organising our own athletics sports and selecting our representative team.

Netball

Our netball organiser Marcia Waikato tells me that we could field seven teams in the Saturday competition starting early next Term. At present we only have three coaches and consequently we are looking for four more. If you would like to coach your daughter's team or know of someone who could undertake this task, please ring Marcia at school.

Cultural Activities

Large numbers of students have joined the Cultural Group and they will meet on Wednesday mornings during LOTE (Languages Other Than English) time. Our school choir will meet early next Term to prepare for Artsplash.

Our Music teacher, Jane Coles is taking extension keyboard lessons for students on Wednesday mornings.

Deputy Principal, Peter Papas is auditioning students for the school band who will be competing in the Battle of the Bands competition.

Keyboard, drum, trumpet and guitar lessons are being given by tutor Steve Wren and Caryl Stannard (at a cost) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students already receiving lessons will need to enrol for Term 2 by picking up an enrolment form from the office. There may be some places available for new applicants next Term. Please contact Jane Coles if you are interested.

Australasian Exams

Attached to this newsletter is an enrolment form for your child to sit the Computer, Science, Spelling, Writing, English and Mathematics tests. If you are interested, please return the form to the office no later than Thursday 1st April.

Sausage Sizzle



The canteen will be shut on the last day of Term. However, Mrs Twomey has organised a sausage sizzle. Order forms have gone out to classes and students need to return them to school by Monday at the latest. No late orders sorry.

Intermediate Education

In 2008 I wrote a series of articles on Intermediate education. For the benefit of our new parents I will repeat them in newsletters over the next few weeks.

Intermediate Schools were formed in the early 1930's to achieve four specific goals with Year 7 and 8 students. These four goals included then, (and are still relevant today) academic achievement, social development, sporting confidence and citizenship. During the next few weeks I would like to provide you with more information about these goals as they relate to our school.

Academic Achievement

Strong academic success adds motivation for students to come to school. Work that is at their individual level, that is challenging and exciting and from which they receive in-depth feedback and academic feed forward (next learning steps) adds to every student's enjoyment of school. Parental assistance by supporting our class programmes, helping with homework, in valuing the work that they

bring home and being involved in parent evenings will add to your child's success at Intermediate School. This year all students will undertake the STAR reading test and AsTTle reading and writing tests. Over recent years we have been involved in a Government initiative designed to raise achievement levels in maths. The Numeracy Project has an emphasis on making sense of numbers and learning different strategies to solve problems. Our main curriculum focus this year will be on writing and formative assessment (giving student's feedback on their ability to meet clearly defined success criteria). Staff will also be receiving some professional development on Numeracy. All students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of academic challenges over the two years they are with us - Group Problem Solving, extension maths and science, Australasian exams, literacy competitions, speech competitions, Science Fair and Venture Class. If you would like to discuss any of the above with me or your child's teacher, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
Dr Seuss

End of Term

School will close at the normal time next Thursday for the start of the holidays and reopen at 8.50am on Monday 19th April.

Thank you all for your support this Term. I hope your child is enjoying being at Naenae Intermediate and I wish you all a happy Easter.

Steve Black
Principal