

**NEWSLETTER NO 11
THURSDAY 29th JULY 2010**

Welcome Back

Welcome back to the start of Term 3. As well as a number of sporting fixtures planned for this Term, our major event is the Ball scheduled for Wednesday 1st September. Students are enjoying learning dances such as the Cha Cha, Ballin the Jack, Maxina, Circle Waltz, Gay Gordons, Macarana and Patty Cake Polka in preparation for the big night. Details of classroom programmes planned for your child's learning will be issued by Syndicate leaders shortly, if they have not already done so.

Opening of new Technology and Arts Centre

This function went extremely well last Monday. The students performed very well during the powhiri and enjoyed listening to ex-student Michael Hedges talk about his experiences at Naenae Intermediate and how these experiences contributed to a successful career in the movie industry. Mr Hedges then cut a ribbon to open the new Technology and Arts Centre and Kaumatua John Wharehinga performed a blessing of the new building. Teaching programmes began the next day and our Technology staff are absolutely delighted to be working in conditions which are so different from what they have been used to! If you would like to have a look at the new building, please come to our school office on any day except Wednesday.



Kaumatua John Wharehinga at the powhiri



Ex-student Michael Hedges opening the new Technology and Arts Centre



Joseph Lerm, Lily McKeefry and Tayla Taggart admiring Michael Hedges' Oscar Award for his work on Lord of the Rings

ERO Visit

We have been informed that we will be receiving a visit from the Education Review Office as part of the three year cycle of school reviews during the last week of this Term, 20th to the 24th September. The review team will be led by Ruth Pritchard. The focus of ERO reviews is on student achievement and progress. The team members will be looking closely at how effectively our school's curriculum promotes student learning.

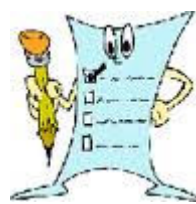
Involvement in your child's education

On Monday, the Wellington Intermediate Principals hosted a visit from Judith Baenen. Judith resides in America and is an ex Principal, author and expert in middle years (11 - 14 year olds) education. In the morning she spoke to Principals and Deputy Principals about how schools can involve parents in the education of their children. For most schools this means inviting parents to school for meetings, interviews, performances and involving them as much as possible in school life. Of course many parents can't make these activities due to work and family commitments. Judith informed us that all the research on this issue states that the most effective way a parent can involve themselves in their child's education is to show an interest in what their child is doing in school each day.

When your children get home from school and you ask them questions about what they did at school, you are showing your child that you are interested in what he/she is doing and that you **value education**. This is a very powerful message! As your child gets older you may get answers to your questions like "not much" "I don't know" etc. **Don't be put off - keep asking!!!**

Parent Survey

Since 1989 the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) has conducted national surveys of primary schools to track what is happening in education. Our school is part of the 2010 national survey. You may be one of the random sample of parents who gets a survey about your child's schooling. If you do, please fill it in! It's a great opportunity for us to get a useful picture of parent views about this school, as well as contribute to the national picture.



Holiday Programme

Mr Brightwell is running a holiday programme at school during the September holidays. Yesterday he distributed a Newsletter with all the details in order to gauge student interest. If this appeals to you, then please fill in the tear off section and return it to Mr Brightwell in Room 19. If you have any enquiries please contact him on 5642668.

McCain School Veggie Patches

We are planning to build a vegetable garden behind the new Technology Block. We have heard that McCain is giving away over \$500,000 worth of veggie patch equipment to primary schools during 2010. To access some of this funding we would be grateful if you could please collect barcodes from McCain frozen vegetable and McCain Purely Potato packs and return them to school so that we can redeem them for veggie patch equipment.

Thank you.

Steve Black
Principal

