

NEWSLETTER NO 17 29th October 2009

Dear Parents and Caregivers



In last week's newsletter I reported back on the tasks, activities, and programmes undertaken at Naenae Intermediate that parents felt were the most important. We received a clear message from you that it was important for us to focus our teaching on **reading, writing and maths** as well as developing the **key competencies** of social skills, tolerance, respect for others, and work and study habits. We were pleased with this response as it supports the work we have been doing in recent years. As well as the above, and in line with the **new curriculum**, an **inquiry approach** will be used for social studies and science and students with **special learning needs** (at both ends of the academic scale) will continue to be supported and extended. Our **Technology and Arts programme** will continue to be an important part of the curriculum as well as providing lots of **extra curricular activities** for students of this age group to grow socially and emotionally. We believe that **physical education**, understanding changes at puberty and Life Education will continue to be essential programmes for our students and attached to this newsletter is an opportunity for you to indicate the level of importance you place on our health programmes.

Comments from the Community Survey



On the back page of the community survey parents were asked to list up to three things they liked about our school and also up to three things they would like changed or improved. On the positive side, the staff featured the most often followed by the variety of opportunities, communication between school and home, Technicraft, cultural diversity, the Principal, office staff, extension programmes, Production, Cultural Group, Canteen etc.

Items that parents would like to see changed or improved included: more homework, change girls uniform, more parent/teacher meetings, fundraising for camp, greater focus on basics, more healthy options in canteen, make a raincoat part of uniform, more wet weather activities, more information in newsletters about academic achievement, work with Naenae College concerning transition to Year 9, purchase goal posts for lunchtime soccer, provide more opportunities for parent help, more science etc etc.

Thank you for this feedback. As a staff and Board of Trustees we will use this information when we review our programmes and procedures at the end of the year.

Health Survey

Attached to this newsletter is a health survey where we ask you to prioritise from most important to least important, the key learning areas covered in the curriculum. Could you please return these to the school office.

Gifted Kids Programme Chess Tournament



Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the Inter-Unit Chess Tournament on Monday 16th November:

Sinead Anthony-Battock, Shannon Eijgenraam, Bob Campbell, Bjorn van Beusekom, Brock Stobbs, Stephen Yee-Hughes, Dalje Baker-Chantung, John Hamer and Rebekah Ward.

Good luck to you all!

Otago Problem Challenge

Members of our extension maths class recently sat the Otago Problem Challenge. This is a national competition with students from all over New Zealand taking part. Congratulations to:

Mack Mullany, Jonti Cullen, James Lynch, Shannon Eijgenraam and Franz van Beusekom for finishing in the top 24% of students nationwide and receiving a merit award.

A very special mention also to Emma Standeven, Bob Campbell, Joshua Hurst and Bailey Angus for finishing in the top 11% and receiving excellence awards.

Australasian Maths Test

This is another nationwide test sat by students across New Zealand and Australia. Jonti Cullen 98% and Bob Campbell 96% did extremely well and were awarded distinction certificates while Tom Basire, Martin Chau, Brock

Stobbs, Katie Martelli, Mack Mullany and Franz van Beusekom received marks between 70% and 80% and received merit certificates.

Basketball



Congratulations to our girls' basketball team who won the final of their competition last Wednesday at the Walter Nash Stadium. The team beat St Oran's 26 - 19 and Coach Marcia Waikato named Geyne Elliott as the Most Valuable Player. Well done girls.

Year 6 Visits

Our Year 6 orientation programme began on Tuesday with visits from Belmont and Epuni Schools. Next Monday Rata Street, Naenae and Avalon Schools will be visiting us followed by Dyer Street and Kelson on Tuesday. If you are a parent of a Year 6 student who hasn't enrolled yet could you please do so as soon as possible.

Cultural Evening

Please make sure you put aside time to attend our Cultural Evening on Thursday 12th November at 7.00pm in the school hall. Come along and see a dance item from the Production, tunes from our fantastic rock band, a bracket of songs/dances from the amazing Cultural Group and several other items showcasing the talent of Naenae Intermediate students. Although we won't be selling tickets to the concert we will be encouraging parents to come forward and make a contribution towards the **Samoan Tsunami Relief Fund**.

Thank you

Steve Black
(Principal)