

NEWSLETTER NO 6 THURSDAY 6th MAY

Dear Parents / Caregivers

With the cooler, winter weather approaching, students are still arriving at school wearing shorts and polo tops. Please encourage them to wear their sweat tops to school and a coat (not a cotton hoodie) if it is raining. Track pants and polar fleeces are available at the school office.

Union Meeting



All staff members who are members of the teachers union (NZEI) will be attending a meeting to discuss their pay and conditions at Avalon Intermediate on Thursday 13th May. As this meeting will start at 2.30pm, **school will close at 2.00pm**. If you would like your child to remain at school until 2.50pm could you please let the office know and we will arrange for them to be supervised at school.

Board of Trustees Elections

We were very pleased to receive five nominations for parent representatives on the Board of Trustees. This now means that we will not require an election and therefore all nominees are duly elected. Congratulations to returning Board members Paul Alcock, Graeme Ross, Shane Tapara and Shirelle Moeau. Congratulations and welcome to new Board member Gareth Marshall. Long serving member Sonny Kuti decided to not seek re-election this year. Thank you Sonny for your undying support of our school and community over many years.

Ballroom Dancing



As part of physical education and social development programmes students have been learning formal dances in preparation for the mid winter ball. I have been really impressed with the mature, sensible

approach the students have taken to learning these dances and I'm sure they are looking forward to the ball on Wednesday 1st September. This is an absolutely wonderful occasion and one of the highlights of our two year non curricular programme.

Netball Coaches

The Saturday netball season started last week and we are very pleased to report that all teams have coaches. All the very best for a successful season to our coaches (and managers) listed below and a huge thank you for your support.

- Team 1 - Rhian Williams/Wendy Thompson
- Team 2 - Margaret Walker/Jenny Flynn
- Team 3 - Roxanne Taggart
- Team 4 - Lizzie Kepa-Henry
- Team 5 - Ingrid Bishop/Megan McKeefry
- Team 6 - Emma Page
- Team 7 - Tammy Murphy

Cross Country



This will be held at school next Wednesday starting at 11.00am. Parents are most welcome. All students will be expected to take part. However, if they are unable to run could you please provide them with a note excusing them from the event?

Year 7/8 Vision Screening Programme

The Vision and Hearing Technician will be visiting Naenae Intermediate on Thursday 20th May for the Year 8 Vision catch-up. On Friday 21st May the Technician will be seeing all Year 7 students. Students, who wear glasses and/or are under professional care and have regular checks, will not require a vision check. Please notify the school office if you **DO NOT** agree to your child being screened.

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.

Intermediate Education

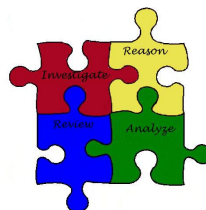


Intermediate Schools are entrusted with four main areas of emerging adolescent development. In newsletter number four I discussed academic development, and in the last newsletter, social development. The third area is that of sport and personal health. These years, 10 to 13 years of age, cover the second greatest growth spurt during the cycle of human development. Emerging adolescents undergo a wide range of hormonal, physical and maturational developments in this very short period of time. Interestingly, they do not all undergo these changes at the same time or at the same rate. Some suffer through these years and others glide through them. A key aspect of intermediate education is to assist our students with these changes. Among the ways we do this is through:

- A daily fitness programme.
- Regular PE lessons in skills development.
- Sports coaching for all major competitions.
- Regular competitive sports opportunities against students in this school and other schools.
- Saturday netball competitions.
- After school hockey, waterpolo and basketball competitions.
- An active health curriculum targeting the specific needs of this age group.
- Life Education programmes.
- Understanding Changes at Puberty.

Intermediate schools have the advantage of having all their resources and staff targeting the one age group so that our students are limited only by their own willingness to take part in the many opportunities offered to them.

Inquiry Learning



From the beginning of last year the school adopted a new approach to teaching 'topic work'. Topic work involved units of study in social studies and science and students were directed by the teacher in terms of what they had to learn. Inquiry learning incorporates science, social studies and technology. Students develop their own inquiry. The process starts off with a motivating activity designed to capture student interest and provide them with knowledge. This is followed by a brainstorming session from which the students develop their own area of study within the overarching theme. They then develop an action plan and the teacher provides them with the resources they require. These resources include access to the internet, book resources, visiting speakers, trips etc. The process concludes with students presenting the outcomes of their study to their class. For this Term, themes include - water, the brain, tourism, Pacific cultures, our heritage, and chemical changes.

I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living; it's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope. Which is what I do, and that enables you to laugh at life's realities.

Dr. Seuss

Steve Black
(Principal)