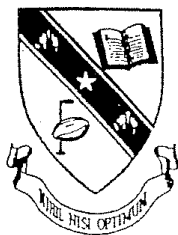


Amuri Area School



*Kia Kitea Toikaka
Nothing But The Best*

Raising Achievement, Encouraging Excellence

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NEWSLETTER NO 2

Week Ending 12th February 2010

Kia ora Parents and Guardians

The weather featured again this week with the postponement of our swimming sports on Wednesday but couldn't hold us out for ever and with great organisation from Mr Cate and Miss Gross, a full day of heats and finals was held. The Whanau leaders did a superb job rallying their house groups and while the results were not available at the time of print, close times in the heats promised some exciting finals – full details next week.

Thanks to the Year 7 parents who met with the Home Room teachers after the sports and we hope you found the sharing of information useful. While the timing didn't suit everybody, we tried to avoid asking our families from some distance away to travel twice to school in one week and it is hard to find a day that suits everybody.

Classes in the whole school have got off to a great start and there is a very positive atmosphere around the school at present created by dedicated teachers who are working hard for the students, responsible leaders and senior students who are supporting and encouraging other students of all ages and students who realise why they are at school - long may it continue.

Our Achiever of the Month at present is Nicole Eastmond who was our star NCEA performer. Accumulating a massive 175 credits at Level 1, Nicole earned a Merit Endorsement with 53 Merit credits and 24 Excellence credits. She also gained 97% of her external credits which was a fantastic and well deserved return for a student who puts her heart and soul into everything on offer.

Thanks to all who participated or marshalled or supported the Duathlon in one way last Sunday. We had 98 competitors which was on a par with previous years and were fortunate to get a perfect day for the event. The event is designed to provide local people

with a challenge that is achievable and it was lovely to see the smiles of satisfaction at the end of the course. While we are yet to confirm a 2011 event, if you didn't take part this year, do consider participation next year if it is on the calendar.

Currently all students in Years 4 – 13 are setting goals of their own for 2010 and we hope there is discussion at home about what might be appropriate. Goals are being set in aTTLe for Year 4 – 10 students and NCEA for Year 11 – 13 as well as in other areas. Once the goals are set, students are writing an action plan to achieve them and all will be reviewed at our first round of reporting on Monday March 29th when form teachers will be available to conference with students and parents. At that time, we will also table term 1 test results that all Year 4 – 10 students will be sitting in the next three weeks.

Next week sees STAR testing – a reading test for all Year 4 – 9 students, the first week of participation in the Christchurch Schools competitions in volleyball, indoor soccer, cricket and indoor netball, a Milo Cup cricket match against Waipara on Tuesday here at school, a PTA meeting on Tuesday night, the Canterbury Country High Schools swimming event on Wednesday, a Year 12 Biology trip to Lincoln on Thursday and our Rural Skills students learn about Chainsaw Safety on Thursday and Friday. Something for almost everyone!

Neil Wilkinson
Principal

Required for the Art Room please:

-  Newspapers
-  Material Scraps for Rags -old towels/sheets etc

If you have any of the above you are able to spare please drop into the school office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16 th	PTA
17 th	CCHS Swimming
20 th	Hurunui Races
23 rd	CSS Swimming Prelims
23 rd -26 th	Year 9 Camp – Windy Point
Mar 1 st	ERO arrives
2 nd	HPSSA Swimming
3 rd	CCHS Athletics
6 th	Amuri Show Day
8 th	Crash Bash
9 th	CSS Athletics Prelims
10 th -12 th	Year 7 Camp
13 th	CSS Athletics

2010 ICAS Exams

The 2010 ICAS Exams this year are on the dates below. If you would like your child to sit one or more of the exams, please pick up a form from Chrystal in the office and return it with the correct money by 12th March.

Computer Skills	25 May	\$7.50	Years 4-11
Science	9 June	\$7.50	Years 4-13
Spelling	22 June	\$9.50	Years 4-8
Writing	22 June	\$17.50	Years 4-13
English	3 August	\$7.50	Years 4-13
Maths	17 August	\$7.50	Years 4-13

Requests for using School Buses

Our bus drivers operate a "goodwill system" when requests come in for students to use a different bus.

However, they require any requests to come in the day before so that they can check with their loadings. Requests can be declined if students have previously misbehaved, are rude to the driver, forget to thank etc or if the bus is full.

Please keep our drivers happy by sending a note to school the previous day requesting use of the bus and making sure students are thanking the drivers when they get off.

Elizabeth Teulon - Bus Controller

Procedures for review

We continue with our ongoing programme of review of school procedures and a reminder that you can view the proposed procedures listed here by contacting the office. Suggestions received will be considered, procedures amended where appropriate and re-listed before they go to the Board for approval who will be advised of any feedback provided by parents, students and/or staff.

- ◆ School Self Review
- ◆ Student Search
- ◆ Visitors
- ◆ Alcohol and Advertising
- ◆ Non Custodial Parent

Senior School News

The academic year has got off to a very positive start and apart from a few course changes all students should now be thinking about the self and time management skills they will need to be successful. The increase in numbers has required additional classes and courses to enable us to best meet the individual needs of our students so now it is up to the individuals to make the most of the opportunities they have. The teachers at all levels have spent a huge number of hours preparing courses and visually exciting classrooms to inspire the students so it is now time to let the learning begin.

Courses

Now course selection is finalised any student wishing to change course can only do so with approval from the teachers concerned and/or written request from parents. Movement can affect the viability of a course so be aware that the final decision will rest with the school. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Detentions

The detention system underwent review last year by a committee of staff and students. As a result the detention system has been modified. Some of the key points for change were:

- The written detention for all misdemeanours sometimes had little or no impact on the behaviour.
- The 'punishment' should relate to the offence.
- Detentions are a next step after a discussion about a misdemeanour is ineffective.

After discussion and consultation the following changes were formalised:

- Where possible the task should relate to the offence
- The person who gives the detention sets, supervises (or arranges alternative supervision) and signs off the task.
- Detentions are still recorded and five detentions in a term will still result in an after school detention.
- Refusal to complete a task is treated as defiance and dealt with by the DP.
- Written detentions are still an option but the writing must relate to the offence.
- The use of a 'thinking place' where students are apart from their peers at break times.
- For uniform irregularities students will spend break times apart from the rest of the student body.

The challenge for us as teachers and parents is to find ways to make consequences fair and related to the inappropriate or wrong behaviour. Research tells us that 'students will accept rules (they may not like them) if they are viewed as fair and necessary and similarly they will accept penalties if they are perceived to be authentic and logical consequences of their behaviour'.

Penny Mossman
Deputy Principal

One on one tuition available on Tuesday mornings for children with learning disabilities. I'm a qualified teacher and I have done additional courses through Seabrook McKenzie Centre. Please feel free to ring Ursula Fricker, 03 3144314, if you have any questions regarding my services.



For all 12-18 year olds from the Hurunui District

Bronze Medallion Award-Training Programme

The Internationally recognised Lifesaving Society's Bronze Medallion Award aims to develop the level of knowledge, judgement, technique and physical ability required to carry out safe water rescues.

The Hurunui Youth Programme is pleased to be able to offer a two day award training program for 12-18 year olds which focuses on survival, rescue and basic first aid skills enabling participants to make the right survival decisions that could ultimately save their own life or the life of another person.

Training days:

9-5pm Saturdays 20 and 27 February

Amberley Swimming Pool Fee \$20

Participants who successfully complete the training programme to a proficient level may then be invited to be assessed to achieve the Bronze Medallion Award.

This assessment would be held at a later date (to be advised) and at an additional cost (approximately \$25) - although this may be reduced if sponsorship can be obtained.

Places are strictly limited. To register please contact Sam, 027 427 1087 or sam.lynn@hurunui.govt.nz

Pool Party

Culverden Swimming Pool

Friday 12th February 2010

4.30-7pm

\$3 entry

Music-BBQ-Spot Prizes



Also coming up on March 26th – SOCIAL



BROWNIE/GUIDE REGISTRATION NIGHT:

For current and any new girls that may be interested, Friday Feb 19th 6pm at Kathy Moss's home, 5 Kellaway Tce, Waikari. BYO BBQ food (meat, salad etc), plates, utensils, drinks etc. Any enquiries please ph Collette Macgregor 315 8272 or Belinda Buckland 03 314 2015

Rugby Club Registrations – 2010 – JAB

This year we hope to register teams in all grades Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.5, 13, 14.5, 16, 18

Waiau Registration Night –

11 February 5pm

Hanmer Springs Registration Night –

17 February 5pm

Culverden Registration Night –

26 February 3.30pm

Anyone keen to play in the above teams please attend registration nights or contact you club person listed below.

Culverden	Emlyn Francis 315 8208
Hanmer Springs	Steve Wadley 315 7540
	Kathryn Duncan 315 7372
Waiau	Tim 315 6635
	Michelle 315 6219

Team entries must be in by 1st March

Hurunui Div 2	James Hyde 314 3338
	Karl Roberts 315 7262
Div 3	Hamish Galletly 315 6470

YOUR LOCAL CLUB NEEDS YOU!!

Youth Club Meeting

Friday 19th February
Amuri Community Centre – Culverden

Toby Brown is planning to have Youth Activities every Friday after school. If you are interested and want to know more, come along, bring your great ideas and have a say.

Everyone welcome, including parents and volunteers. We will need adult supervision for this to go ahead.

For more information call Toby 315 6172

