

# Amuri Area School



*Kia Kitea Toikaka  
Nothing But The Best*

***Raising Achievement, Encouraging Excellence***

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NEWSLETTER NO 17

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Week Ending 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Kia ora Parents and Guardians

As I write this newsletter on Wednesday, the sun is going down on Support Staff Day but the radiance these people bring to our school everyday, brings sunshine and warmth to us all! We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team of support staff who aspire daily to make Amuri a better place and thanks from all of us go to this group who are listed here alphabetically:

Dean Anink, Sue Boyd, Toby Brown, Jacqui Burke, Glenys Hendrickson, Helen James, Chrystal Lawson, Don Macgregor, Robyn Michaud, Gavin Morrison, Melanie Phillips, Marie Pitt, Silke Smekens, Sheila Smith, Diana Turner, Jennifer Woodley, Rex Youngman, Eleanor Youngman

A warm welcome this week goes to Sophie Jenkins and Kaio Brown who have both joined Room 2 to start their schooling journey – apologies to Kaio as he actually started 10 days ago.

The primary team of students and staff had an awesome day at Wigram on Wednesday and while none of us should be surprised, it was very rewarding to hear that the people in charge at the museum there, spoke to our staff and relayed the message that the volunteer helpers there were highly impressed with our students. Apparently this is high praise and many thanks to all the parents who assisted with the trip, the staff for making it happen but above all the students for showing pride in our school and maintaining our reputation.



This reputation was also enhanced in Hanmer on Tuesday when Mrs Mossman and Ms Burke took the Year 10 students there to see what careers are on offer in a town specialising in the hospitality industry. Again, it was very rewarding to hear of the students keenness to learn and good behaviour – thanks to all who made the day possible. We hope for the 'treble' today with the senior students who are away at the CPIT day, again with Mrs Mossman and Mrs Cunningham helping.

Following on from some 'unrealised absences' by some senior students recently, we intend extending the ringing home where students are not at school for

form time to ensure we all know where the students are. This procedure will start on Monday and if you have a Year 7 – 13 student who is sick or is going to be absent, please ring the office with a message before school to make it easier for all.

At the same time I have advised the senior students that in future, anyone who travels in a car with another student who does not have a full licence during school time, will be reported to the local police and this would of course include the driver. Again this follows more than one such occasion of this.

The current flu situation is causing some grief around the country and we have not been spared from dealing with the potential of H1N1. Any students who have been overseas are being treated on a case by case basis with dialogue between the school and the home and caution is the operative word in these conversations. It would be appreciated if you contact us if you are about to travel at any time in the future. There has been plenty of advice in the newspapers recently about preventing illness from spreading and the following advice from Crown Public Health applies to all strains of flu:

1. Any young person showing signs of illness eg a cold, diarrhoea, vomiting, coughing, should be kept at home til they recover
2. Maintain the washing and drying of hands thoroughly at all appropriate times
3. Always cover the mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing

Our 'Achiever of the Month' for the remainder of this term is Bryton Simpson from Room 5. Bryton has starred in the cross country events at school and at Huruni level recently and we wish him well for the Canterbury Primary Championship next Wednesday where he along with the others competing will give nothing but their personal best.

Congratulations also go to Richard Earl, one of our quiet achievers in Year 12, Richard was selected last week for the North Canterbury Under 18 rugby team who played Ellesmere on Wednesday night. After beating Rangiora High School in the Wednesday schools competition, 36 – 32 with his mates, Richard headed off to play the Ellesmere game!

The conference appointment times should have reached home by now but if you haven't seen it, you can phone us for confirmation of your time. Students and staff have prepared this week for these mid year progress reports and we are confident they will be another step in the pathway of students taking responsibility for their learning. Please remember that while for Year 7 – 13 students, these conferences are with the form teacher who may not teach your son/daughter, they do have an understanding of where their students are at and the conferences aim to get the students talking and not the teacher or the parent. (A reminder that there is an opportunity to meet the subject teachers on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> between 4pm and 6pm in the gym)

The new government has begun a process of consultation over the national standards and reporting to parents at Year 1 -8. In summary they

- aim to describe what students should be able to do at a given year level in reading, writing and maths
- outline ways of reporting progress to parents using 'easy to understand' language
- discuss next step learning and how both the school and parents can help the students progress
- outline the idea of having learning plans for all students

Details will be on display in the primary foyer next week and you are invited to have a look and give the Ministry some feedback on what they propose. If you prefer, you can go to [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz) and click on National Standards Consultation where feedback can be given electronically. I would be interested to hear your thoughts so please take the time for a look when you're in.

Good luck to the Year 9 students taking part in the Outdoor Education day at Hanmer on Monday under the watchful eyes of Mr Anink and the instructors from the University of Canterbury and also to the senior students visiting the Art Gallery in Christchurch with Mrs Cunningham on the same day.

Neil Wilkinson  
Principal



### ROLL OF HONOUR

C = Caverhill  
H = Hamilton  
M = Mitchell

	House
Clayton Gardiner	M
Katie Abernethy	H

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The envelopes for ordering school photos have been distributed to all students today. Please have these orders returned to the school office no later than Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

### ART SUPPLIES WANTED

Over the next five weeks students in Year 9 Art are going to be looking at the effects of rubbish and the environment.

We are looking for donations of 'creative' rubbish. If you have any that you are willing to part with please drop it off or send it into the main office or art room at school.

'Creative' rubbish examples: fencing wire, pipes, cans, plastic wrapping, gumboots, plastic strapping, wooden boxes, etc.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 9 OE Day – Hanmer Springs Art Students to CHCH Art Gallery
15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	Conference Week
19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10-13 Quiz
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 7-13 Subject Night
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hurunui Primary 7 aside PTA Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup>	ICAS Spelling & Writing
26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1-6 Quiz
29 <sup>th</sup>	Work Experience Week
<b>JULY 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Term 2 Ends</b> Mufti Day – House Colours, House Songs SI Secondary Swimming
4 <sup>th</sup>	SI Secondary Swimming
5 <sup>th</sup>	SI Area Schools Tournament SI Netball Tournament
20 <sup>th</sup>	TERM 3 Begins
<b>Looking Ahead</b>	
<b>July 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Teacher Only Day–SCHOOL CLOSED
<b>November 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Teacher Only Day–SCHOOL CLOSED

### WANTED

Amuri Area School Kilt Size 30-32  
Please phone Jane Schwass 315 8140

### WANTED

We need more newspapers for Art please, if you have any you can spare please drop it into the school office.



**Movie Night!**  
Culverden Community Hall

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
6.30pm

\$3  
(Pop- Corn + Equipment Costs)

Bring your own seat (e.g. Cushion, beanbag etc)  
Fizzy drink and Chocolate for Sale!

For more information contact Sam on  
0274271087 or email sam.lynn@hurunui.govt.nz

**HIP HOP Classes:** These classes will begin on  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 3.30 pm in the Community  
Room.

### Polar Fleeces

There are a large number of polar fleeces in the primary school that are unnamed or the name is illegible/unreadable.

If your child has misplaced/lost a polar fleece please come into the primary school and have a look.

# Senior School News

## Year 11-13 NCEA Information

On Thursday every student was issued with copies of the information and application form for financial assistance for NCEA fees. Because I do not know who is and is not eligible it makes sense to send a copy to everyone so that we do not have any families missing out. If you do qualify for assistance please complete the form and return to me before the end of term so that your fee invoice will show the correct amount. Invoices will come out at the beginning of Term 3. Fees are charged by NZQA with the schools acting as collection agencies, if fees are not paid students will not have their results released by NZQA.

## Year 10 Careers Trip

It was a pleasure to take the year 10 students to Hanmer Springs on Tuesday both Jacqui Burke and I who accompanied the group were proud of both their behaviour and all round attitude on the day. Regardless of what future intentions the students have; the skills to ask the right questions and complete the required research is a necessity for wise decision making. The day was very well organised by Enterprise North Canterbury and the response from the Hanmer Springs Business Community was superb. A big thank you must go to the Heritage who hosted the day and provided a very comfortable meeting and eating area for all the participants. With a successful vocational course option in place for Amuri students, the range of work experience options available in Hanmer Springs is very advantageous to us.

## Year 7/8

One of the unique features of an Area School is the access to specialist facilities by younger students. It is interesting to call in and observe the Year 7/8 students enjoying subjects like Science, ICT, PE etc in the specialist environment, an experience that certainly enhances their learning. Year 7/8 is a very dynamic time in a students life and education with the challenges of adolescence very much part of the mix. As long as we are insistent and consistent with firm, clear boundaries and expectations the learning process will proceed without too many disruptions and distractions. The majority of student's manage these transition years well but at times some students make unwise decisions. Rest assured we will contact you if we have any concerns to discuss the best way forward likewise never hesitate to contact the school if you have concerns.

Penny Mossman  
Deputy Principal