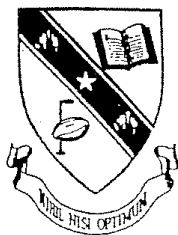


Amuri Area School



*Kia Kitea Toikaka
Nothing But The Best*

Raising Achievement, Encouraging Excellence

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NEWSLETTER NO 2

Week Ending 13th February 2009

Kia ora Parents and Guardians

We have lurched from one extreme to the other weather wise this week and I'm sure the rain while modest, has been welcomed by all. It has certainly interfered with our sport programme and cooled the pool down.

Thanks for the comments received on the proposed change to the swimming sports times. Because the comments were mixed in their nature, we have decided to leave the sports during the day but try to make them more inclusive for the whole school. This means that we will get underway next Wednesday with heats at 9.15am and go straight through til 3pm. At 12 noon, wherever we are at in the programme, the primary swimming display including widths, underwater and starfish events will run for however long it takes and we hope this will enable parents to plan to come and support your son/daughter. Bring your sun umbrella/gazebo if you have one!

Our 'Achiever of the Month' for February is Ben Parkinson who starred in the NCEA exams. Ben gained 147 credits of which 38 were at Merit level and 18 were at Excellence. In addition he gained achieved or better in 84% of his external assessments and like many others, is well on track to achieve highly at Level 2 this year.

The Culverden Duathlon run by the school again last Friday went extremely well and it has been wonderful to receive a number of e mails from entrants this week complimenting the marshals for their encouragement and support while indicating they will be back. We had 86 entrants which compares to 87 last year and the day was successful. Many thanks to all who assisted in one way or another and if you have any feedback on the event, please send it in to make next year's better (if it runs again!).

Last weeks Primary House Colours Day saw a great turnout of students dressed to support their whanau

and participate in a series of games/activities. This was the primary version of the inter-form challenge and was part of the raising of the awareness of whanau in the primary school.

Thanks to Ms Springett and her team along with the Year 7 parents who came on Wednesday night to meet the teachers and find out what programmes the students would be following this year. The evening took a different format this year and the turnout was pleasing as was the feedback on the content.

It's tremendous this year that we have two teachers delivering lessons by video-conferencing to students throughout New Zealand. To help prepare for this, Mr Alino (Level 3 Chemistry) and Mrs Beaven (Level 3 Agriculture/Horticulture) are away next week at Darfield learning all the technical ins and outs of this style of teaching. This is further recognition of the quality of teaching we offer here and I know both are excited about working with young learners from throughout the country.

Miss den Haring is also taking her Year 12 Biology class to Lincoln for a day on Thursday to focus on using microscopes and this is an exciting opportunity for our budding scientists.

Earlier this week, Miss Heaps and Miss den Haring brought a request from the Level 2 & 3 Geographers to travel to Thailand in term 2 to give a different flavour to an Achievement Standard that is part of their course. Again, this is a wonderful opportunity for the eight students and we can look forward to hearing more in the future as they seek funding for the trip.

Mr Cate and Miss Gross have also been arranging for sports teams to participate in the Christchurch competitions this week and it's good luck to volleyball, cricket, indoor netball and soccer teams who will be travelling down on Mondays or

Wednesdays to compete in the summer tournaments.

I look forward to seeing you at the swimming sports next Wednesday and hope the weather plays it's part.

Neil Wilkinson
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17 th	PTA Meeting 7.00pm BOT Meeting 7.30pm
18 th	Swimming Sports 9.15am
23 rd -26 th	Year 9 Camp – Windy Point
23 rd	St Andrews Music Concert
24 th	Y7 & 8 Milo Cup Cricket – Amuri
25 th	CCHS Swimming
Mar 3 rd	Hurunui HPSSA Swimming
4 th – 6 th	Year 7 Camp
7 th	Amuri Show Day
10 th	Canterbury Swimming Prelims
11 th	CCHS Athletics
12 th	Canterbury Swimming Finals
17 th	Canterbury Athletics Prelims
21 st	Canterbury Athletics Finals

School Text Book Amnesty

We would very much appreciate the swift return of any textbooks used in previous years to the school office. This would be of great benefit to students.

Culverden Swimming Club

Club nights will be as follows:

Juniors: Monday & Wednesday 3.15pm – 3.45pm

Seniors: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 3.45pm – 4.45pm

Any queries please phone Tania Jones
315 8286 / 027 4442228

Please Note:

The pool will be closed to the public on Sunday 15th February from 12:00pm to 4:00pm for the local swimming carnival. Sorry for any inconvenience.



WANTED

Old magazines and newspapers for the Art room please.

Buses

Thank you all for your patience and forbearance. Hopefully the beginning of next year will be a lot easier. Some of the problems were due to the change of contractors and purchase of buses. Our buses are now all run by Hawarden Garage. The reason for their delay was that Hawarden Garage purchased buses from Tour and Charter, however the buses needed to go through rigorous testing before they entered Hawarden's school bus fleet. Hawarden assure us they can now cope with the loadings.

If you wish to use a bus this cannot always be guaranteed. Please make sure a note is sent the day before requesting the use of a bus so that we can check the loadings. It is the goodwill of the drivers that allows this to happen.

Bus Monitors are as follows. These students are trained by the police.

Cascade: Jo Murphy, Baden Petrie

Lowry Peaks: Jess Williams, Hayley Campbell

Leslie Hills: Sam Hooper, Nicole Eastmond

Balmoral: Eleanor Schwass, Ethan Vincent

Cheddar Valley: Richard Earl, Nadine Hendry

Hanmer Springs: Jaz Mathisen, Anna Duncan

Any problems/queries please phone me at school

Liz Teulon

Bus Controller

Culverden Rugby Registration

All Grades, rugby registration day

Culverden Rugby Club Grounds

Monday 16th February from 3.30pm

Cervical Cancer Vaccination for Girls

Most of you will have heard about the cervical cancer vaccine that is being offered to all girls aged 12 to 18 years. The vaccine can help protect them from the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) that is the main cause of cervical cancer.

In Canterbury this vaccine is being delivered FREE through General Practices rather than at schools. Your daughter will receive an invitation from your usual doctors surgery to come and have their vaccination, or you can ring and organize a time that suits.

Three injections in the upper arm over six months are required to complete the course.

If you have any questions please call the Practice Nurse at your General Practice. If you do not have a doctor you are welcome to go to any General Practice for this vaccination. For more information visit www.cervicalcancervaccine.govt.nz or call 0800 IMMUNE (466 863)

Senior School News

It has been a pleasure to welcome both familiar and new students to the new school year and if the first week is anything to go by we are all off to a positive and flying start. The Press headline on February the 1st "Thwarted job seekers fill schools" sends a very clear message that investing wisely in secondary education will more likely improve long term training/employment options. To this end it is critical as a school community of staff, students, and parents we never lose sight of the need to constantly be insisting on everyone giving nothing but their best. School is all about teaching and learning it is not a place to 'park' until the economy improves!

Goal Setting

All students have been involved in the process of goal setting and no doubt you will be seeing the goal sheets to sign very soon if you have not done so already. We place a lot of importance on this process and again insist that students have SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time framed goals. The year 11-13 students are for the first time completing a Learning and Career Plan which is a more comprehensive goal setting process. We are delighted at the way in which the students are showing a real level of maturity and consideration as they are completing the sheets. I would encourage all families to keep a copy of the goal sheets in a prominent place and join us in supporting and encouraging the students to keep on track throughout the year.

Courses

Students will now be settled into their courses, any changes from now on will only be made on staff recommendations which will be discussed with parents or a specific written request from parents. Obviously our staffing has been done on what students chose so movements between subjects will need very careful consideration. At NCEA level movement within a subject i.e. mathematics may happen from time to time.

School Values

No doubt you are all now familiar with the slight but significant changes that have been made to both the school vision and values. The values are expectations we have of each and everyone of us and to be true to our Mission Statement – raising achievement; encouraging excellence it is very important that all students should be insistent and consistent in modelling these values inside and outside of the classroom.

Interhouse Competitions

These are a highly competitive part of many of our school activities and the race for the House Cup honours has already begun!! We hope that all students have in their 'wardrobe' a top in their house colours which can be worn for the 'best dressed' house part of the various sports days. Roll on the swimming sports and Go Mitchell.....

Penny Mossman
Deputy Principal



Digital Photography Course

When: Saturday 21st February 2009

Where: Amberley Library- RSA Room

Time: 12 noon -4pm

Tutor: Bridgit Anderson – Canterbury University

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Participants need their own cameras.

Places are filling fast, contact Sam Lynn a.s.a.p if you would like to participate in this course.

Photography Competition

Entries Close: 6th March 2009

Entries need to be submitted as a hard copy to the Amberley Library, by either dropping off or by posting them to:

-HYP Photo Competition, Hurunui District Library, 111 Carters Road, PO Box 13, Amberley 7441.

-Photos must be no bigger than 8" x 12" and must have the exhibitors name, age, phone number and email address on the back.



For any further information go to www.bebo.com/hurunuiyouth or contact Sam Lynn on 0274271087, or email sam.lynn@hurunui.govt.nz

We have a new dance tutor in Rotherham!!

Her name is Christina and she is at University but living in Amberley and tutoring at Amberley Dance. Christina has danced for 12 years and offers us her passion for dance and seeing young people enjoy themselves through dance.

Christina will instruct Jazz dancing on a Tuesday. The tentative plan is to have a movement to music type class for 3-5 year olds at 3.00pm, then start 5 year old group at 3.30 and moving on. As Christina finds out names/ages and abilities more definition around classes would be available.

Christina would plan to have a concert once a year - locally. While she does not offer exams she is prepared to support those parents/girls who do wish to pursue this. Lessons are planned to begin Tuesday 17th February.

Can you please contact Christina directly to register your interest.

Christina's email: abond@farmside.co.nz
phone 03-314-8569

BALCAIRN BALLET SCHOOL

Ballet Classes at Hawarden Tuesday afternoons
and at
Balcairn Hall, Mondays/Thursdays

For children aged 5 upwards.

Reasonable prices, family concessions
Please Phone Debbie Vink, (03) 3129 718
(d.vink@clear.net.nz) for more details.

PSIS CHILDREN'S DAY



Sunday 1st March 2009 - 11am - 4pm

Come along and celebrate Children's Day a FREE community event. Pack a picnic lunch and bring along family and friends. Over 40 fun filled activities that are all FREE. So come along and join in on the excitement at the Groyne Park on Johns Road.

For more information contact 941 8999 or check the Be There website:

<http://bethere.co.nz/community/2009/1235-psis-childrens-day>

PTA News

Welcome to a new year,

Please note change of time. Due to the Board of Trustees meeting at 7.30pm, the PTA will hold their first meeting for 2009 at 7pm on Tuesday 17th February.
All welcome to attend.

We meet on the third and eighth Tuesdays of each term, and are always ready to welcome any new members, we meet in the school staff room at 7.30pm. Most times there will be a reminder in the newsletter the week before.

The AGM will be held later this term, most of the jobs are already filled, so you can come along without fear of getting a job.

This year the PTA will again be doing the catering for Autumn school, and our annual trail ride, and lamb and calf schemes as our major fundraisers, if you see these advertised in our newsletters, please feel free to offer to help, as many hands will make light work.

We also run the 2nd hand uniform shop, any person wishing to buy or sell 2nd hand uniform please contact JJ on 315 8661.

Remember, your support, supports your child



Carters Kids Gone Fishin'

Sunday 22nd February
The Groynes
- at the fishing lake
9am - 12 noon

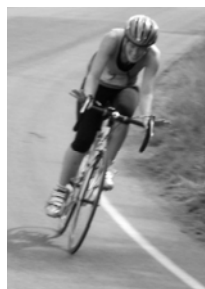
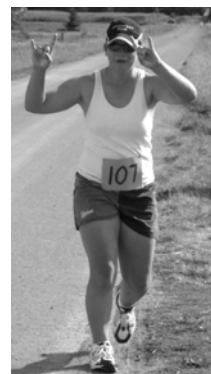
This is a great family morning out. Bring your parents along to the Groynes for a morning of fishing with Graeme Sinclair from the Carters Gone Fishin' TV show. Fish will be released into the lake especially for this event so come prepared with rod and bucket ready to catch that 'big' fish. Some rods will be available for use on the day. (Under 16 yrs covered for licensed fishing)

Free sausage sizzle

Bouncy Castle

Mr Whippy

Lots of prizes including the 'biggest' fish



Staff,
Students and
Parents
participating
in the
Culverden
Waitangi Day
Duathlon
2009.