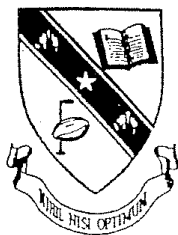


Amuri Area School



*Kia Kitea Toikaka
Nothing But The Best*

Raising Achievement, Encouraging Excellence

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NEWSLETTER NO 31

Week Ending 16th October 2009

Kia ora Parents and Guardians

The final term is now upon us and it's a rapid run to Prize-giving in a nine week term punctuated with Labour Day, Show Day and a Teacher Only Day. As always there is a lot of preparation for next year taking place this term and please keep an eye on the newsletter for our thoughts where we seek your views. Currently we are 'discussing' with the Ministry our projected roll for 2010 – they have indicated they think we will have 253 but we believe we will have 283 with the breakdown of class numbers as follows:

Year 1	11	Year 2	11
Year 3	11	Year 4	14
Year 5	14	Year 6	21
Year 7	36	Year 8	31
Year 9	34	Year 10	29
Year 11	32	Year 12	30
Year 13	9		

Clearly the drop in our Year 1 - 6 roll continues next year and there appears to be few pre-schoolers in the Culverden area which will see the decline continue. At the same time though, our senior school is growing and so while our roll is stable, we are experiencing a redistribution of numbers. I hope to put forward proposals for classes in 2010 starting next week.

We've welcomed a number of new students this week and Charlie Cunningham started in Room 2 on Monday with a big smile, Bruce Diamond started in Year 12 and sister Gloria joined the Year 10's while Ronja Kraft, an AFS

student from Germany has joined us for the next 12 months in Year 12. We look forward to their achievements and contributions to our school in the days to come.

Casafest was the highlight of the last week of last term and our students were a credit to take and be with. Nicole Eastmond won a Student Fair Play award and I was thrilled to get a phone call from one of the host families commending Ryan Hubbard, Hayden Gillespie, Ethan Wadley and Hamish Earl on their manners, personality and behaviour while staying with them.

Congratulations to

- Henrietta Steele who won the Primary Speech competition held on the last day of last term
- Sam Croker who was judged the Most Promising speaker
- Fergus McIntosh who was placed 3rd in the Year 7 & 8 event at the South Island Secondary Schools Mountain Biking Championships at Blenheim where he went to support Alex
- The 8 students who sang in the Christchurch Primary Schools Music Festival last night and helped to create an amazing sound

This term sees the need to take protection from the sun seriously and a reminder that all primary students should be wearing a legionnaire or bucket hat with at least a 6cm brim – caps are not acceptable – when

outside. We have been awarded Sunsmart Accreditation recognising our procedure for this and the Cancer Society are coming to present the Award at a future assembly. They have also donated two trees which will one day provide shade for students!

We hope to plant these trees along with over 200 or so shrubs/bushes around the pond area this Saturday as we try to present one of the schools features positively – if you have an hour or two spare there is a working bee at 10.30 at the pond and any assistance would be appreciated from students, staff or parents - just bring a spade or shovel if you have one.

On the curriculum front, we have now compiled a draft curriculum document that contains the following sections:

- Our vision, values and principles
- The key competencies and how we will develop them at Amuri
- How we teach
- What we teach
- Assessment
- Staff training and development

If you would like to have a look at this document it is at the office or a copy can be sent home – please contact the office for one to be sent. Your views are important and please feel free to discuss the contents with me or any staff member so that we can take any thoughts to the Board at their next meeting on November 4th where they will confirm the Amuri Curriculum.

Apologies to the Year 1 – 6 students who were all set for their Talent Quest on the last day of term - unfortunately the administration block was burgled on Thursday night and the CD's the students had given me were all taken. We intend now holding this event next Friday where with 11 entries we will use primary assembly time as well as lunchtime. This week it is Lipsync and just advance notice that the popular and creative Wearable Arts Awards will be held on Friday October 30th at second break.

Next week it's best wishes to

- Our Year 8 campers who have four days on their Amazing Camp in Christchurch. All details are secret at

present but I know Ms Davy is excited about the trip and thanks in advance to those parents assisting her with the 46 students

- The 100 or so students competing in the HPSSA Triathlon at Hanmer on Tuesday under Mr Hagan's guidance and again, thanks to parents for helping get bikes and runners and swimmers there!
- The six Year 9 students and two Year 7 students who are competing in the BP Technology Challenge with Miss den Haring also on Tuesday
- The 16 students from Years 4 – 10 competing in the News Cruise event next Thursday at the Hagley Netball Centre

Next Friday will be a mufti day with all proceeds going to support the Samoa tragedy – a gold coin donation or better is asked for.

Whew – a busy start to a busy term!

Neil Wilkinson
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Oct 19th	Year 8 Camp returning 22 nd October
20th	HPSSA Triathlon
20th	BP Technology Challenge
22nd	Y4-10 News Cruise Event
23rd	Mufti Day
26th	LABOUR DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
28th	School Athletics
Looking Ahead	
Nov 12th	Teacher Only Day– SCHOOL
13th	CLOSED

Senior School News

Year 8 Camp

The final stages of planning and preparation are nearing completion for the 2009 'Amazing Camp'. Organising an activity like this requires both time and attention to detail and we wish Ms Davey, Mr Herschel, Ms Alleway, parent helpers and the students all the best for what will be a great urban experience next week. I have no doubt the students will have much to share with their Year 7 classmates on their return.

Year 10 - 12 Course Selection for 2010

This week 'The Press' ran an article highlighting the challenges associated with NCEA course selections. In a nutshell NCEA allows students to achieve success with either academic and vocational subjects or pathways; the danger being in choosing a course which may not lead to university entrance. Ideally a student should be selecting a programme of study that does not 'close doors' to tertiary study options too early. The employment market is very competitive and tertiary qualifications of some kind are essential for many jobs and highly desirable in others. It is very important for parents of all students to be very aware of what NCEA is all about as without a clear understanding of the different pathways and implications you will be unable to assist your child make a well informed course choice. We place an emphasis on trying to give students wise advice and I am always willing and indeed welcome the opportunity to talk through any queries or concerns with parents. A child's secondary schooling is a critical phase of their life and preparation for the future; therefore like all investments it needs careful, consistent and vigilant managing.

NCEA Countdown

The seniors only have four and a half weeks of teaching left before exams. It is an expectation that none of this time available for instruction or revision is wasted. There will be 'zero tolerance' of any behaviour that compromises this expectation and students are aware of this. This is a pressure period for staff and students so it is important that we are 100% focussed on the work and study that needs to be done both at school and at home.

Penny Mossman
Deputy Principal

Y8 CAMP RAFFLE WINNERS

The winners of the raffle are as follows:

- 1st - A nights' accommodation for two at the Heritage Hanmer Springs - 150 Jesse Gillespie
- 2nd - Free House Carpet Clean - 435 Jane McIntosh
- 3rd - Garden Voucher from Loch Leven Nursery - 253 Thelma
- 4th - Dressed Leg of Lamb - 355 "Uncle"
- 5th - Paper Plus Voucher - 316 Ashleigh Thomas

Fundraiser for the victims of the Tsunami

Andrew Murdoch is going to play 100 holes of golf on Labour Weekend to fundraise for the Tsunami Disaster in Samoa. Andrew is hoping to get people to sponsor him for playing 100 holes of golf and all the profits are going to go the Westpac Fund to help these people in rebuilding their lives.

This is going to be held at the Amuri Golf Course on Labour Weekend and Andrew needs you to sponsor him so he can get funds for these communities.

Anyone wanting to come and play a couple of holes with Andrew are most welcome. To sponsor Andrew fill out a sponsorship form at Brenda's on Lyndon, Waiau Hotel, Amuri Library or Ross Forbes Motors.

Phone: 315 6306 or Email:
murdochtribe@xtra.co.nz

Andrew would appreciate your support.

AMURI AREA SCHOOL PTA ANNUAL TRAIL RIDE

Sunday November 8th 2009
Sign-on and Safety Check from 9.30 a.m.

NEW VENUE

Kaiora Downs, Mandamus Downs,
Culverden Homestead, & Montrose Station
Sign posted from Main Road, Culverden

FANTASTIC VIEWS TRACKS

Main Loop. Superb rolling downs over 4 farms with some
enduro deviations.

2nd Loop. Easy country, suitable for families

Mini. Peewee circuit near car park
(parental supervision required)

Suitable

2 & 4 Wheelers

Cost

\$40 per rider

\$55 Family (parents with children 15 years and under)

Compulsory

Helmet, Boots & Spark Arrestor Muffler

LUNCH PROVIDED FROM 11.30am to 2.00pm
SPONSORED BY FULTON HOGAN



Enquiries to:

Ritchie Morgan (03) 315 6404
Louise Pickering 027 229 3006
Information line on day 03 315 8150

