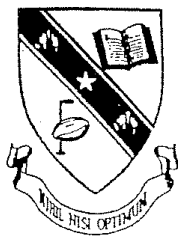


# Amuri Area School



*Kia Kitea Toikaka  
Nothing But The Best*

*Raising Achievement, Encouraging Excellence*

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NEWSLETTER NO 3

Week Ending 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Kia ora Parents and Guardians

In last weeks newsletter, I left with the hope the weather would play its part in the success of our annual swimming sports this week but hope turned to disappointment when the drizzle set in and the temperature didn't seem to get into double figures! Thankfully with excellent organisation from Mr Cate and Miss Gross, an enthusiastic and willing attitude from the students, continued support from parents and efficient officiating by the staff and parents who helped, the sports were successful and some top swimming was seen. Congratulations to all champions (listed elsewhere), new record setters, William Duncan – 75 yd Medley, 50 yd Backstroke, Madison Fleming – 50 yd Freestyle and Butterfly and Mairi Mackenzie 50 yd Backstroke and Breaststroke and well done Caverhill on cleaning up the whanau points on offer. It was disappointing we had to postpone the primary display and parents will be advised when this will take place once a date is found (and the weather comes right!)

Teams are now being selected to represent the school at the Hurunui Primary swimming sports along with the Canterbury Country High Schools swimming, athletics and tennis events that are coming up. In addition, after the Year 9 camp we will have groups participating in indoor netball, soccer, cricket and volleyball competitions and after a win against Hagley College on Monday night by the volleyballers, all others will be aiming for success through personal excellence.

Welcome this week to Avneet Singh and Ashnoor Kaur who have joined SST and Room 5 respectively – we hope you enjoy your time with us while offering us another cultural dimension within our community.

The Board met on Tuesday night and amongst other business, considered the analysis of variance which is required by the Ministry. This document looks at the goals and targets set in 2008 and our progress at

their achievement. In the following areas we saw achievement of the goals or targets set:

- ICT use in class
- Use of asTTLe in teaching programmes
- Approval for mid year conferences
- Curriculum implementation
- Acceptance of the vertical form structure
- Building and landscaping work
- Management of the finances

There was one area that stood out though and this was the attendance target. In 2008, a target of 'No student has more than 15 days absent from school' was set and it is very disappointing to report that 49% of our students had more than 15 days absent. In fact, if the level had been 20 days absent, we would still have had 31% of students not meeting the target. Attendance is vital to achievement and 20 days is five weeks – half a term, which is a lot of learning. Please consider this at all times when making appointments, planning holidays and generally considering taking your son/daughter off school for 'one-offs' so that we can improve attendance with its flow on effects.

Other points from the BOT meeting were:

- The re-election of Janet Murphy as Chair and Matt Gardner as Deputy
- The adoption of a budget that meets all requests from staff
- Approval for the school to be closed for the staff to work on the new curriculum on May 21, July 31 and November 12
- Approval for asTTLe testing to be conducted in November only
- Advice from Gavin Morrison, the Property Manager, that he intends retiring in October
- Advice from the Ministry of Education that we have been allocated funding to construct further staff accommodation

- Consideration of the NCEA results with general satisfaction at the success of our students

If you wish to discuss or would like further information on any of these points, please don't hesitate to contact a Board member or myself.

The PTA also met on Tuesday and reflected on a very successful year in 2008 while starting the planning for 2009 events. These will centre on catering for the CCHS Music Festival and the Autumn School this term, the calf and lamb scheme and the trail ride in November. If you were at the duathlon or the swimming sports, you would have seen the gazebo purchased recently with the funding for this shelter coming from the Cancer Society, the Culverden Fete and the PTA who provided over half of the cost – thanks to them for their fantastic support.

On Tuesday the four local schools ran a relief teacher training day and it was wonderful to have five attendees working with the principals. We hope to increase the number of day relief staff available to the schools as at times, this is a problem for us.

Next week, our Year 9's along with five staff, the Year 12 Phys Ed class and eight senior leaders head off to Windy Point for their annual camp which will include an overnight stay in the beautiful native bush there. This is a great opportunity for the staff and students to work in a different environment building relationships and developing skills in areas outside the classroom. All the best to the team going and we hope you have a great time at this venue which is a special part of the school.

A group of musicians from St Andrew's College visit on Monday to give a concert to the school at 12.20 and if you would like to see and hear them in action, please feel free to join us in the gym.

On Tuesday our Milo Cup cricket team take on Waipara School here in the first round of the competition and after last years achievements, the boys have a hard act to follow. With Hamish Lambeth at the helm however, they will give it their best and if you'd like to see our budding cricketers in action, play starts at 10am.

Wednesday sees the CCHS swimming event and a Science Alive trip focussed on 'creepy crawlies' with 20 or so keen students attending.

On Thursday the Year 9 students return while on Friday the Year 5 & 6 students will travel to the camp to work with Mr Cate and the senior PE students who will remain there when the Year 9's leave. It is a busy time but again, it is very evident that we are fortunate to have a committed and enthusiastic staff who enable these things to happen. It is something we should recognise, appreciate and cherish.

Neil Wilkinson  
Principal

## Pool Party



**Where:** Culverden Swimming Pool

**Date:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**Time:** 6.30- 9pm

**Cost:** \$3.00

**Who:** Youth aged 12-18 years

**Why:** For some summer FUN

**There will be a BBQ, Music and giveaways!**

For more information contact Sam Lynn, Youth Programme Coordinator on 0274271087, or  
[sam.lynn@hurunui.govt.nz](mailto:sam.lynn@hurunui.govt.nz)

### SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP Results - 2009

#### SENIOR GIRLS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Anna Duncan	53 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nicole Eastmond	45 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Zoe Topp	39 pts

#### SENIOR BOYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	William Duncan	55 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Elliot Hughey	45 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Richard Earl	27 pts

#### INTERMEDIATE GIRLS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Hanna Coughlan	55 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rachel Lambeth	45 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kendall Bond	26 pts

#### INTERMEDIATE BOYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Josh Hickey	55 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tom Crean	9 pts

#### UNDER 14 GIRLS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sarah Eastmond	53 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Denver Adams	49 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Belinda Dryden	37 pts

#### UNDER 14 BOYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Willie Steele	55 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tom Northcote	47 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Andrew Murdoch	32 pts

#### UNDER 12 ½ GIRLS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lucy Brustad	53 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Abbey Fleming	51 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sharne Jones	43 pts

#### UNDER 12 ½ BOYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Fergus McIntosh	55 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Scott Higgins	39 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Beau Galletly	

#### PRIMARY GIRLS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mairi McKenzie	55 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Madison Fleming	49 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kayla Baker	39 pts

#### PRIMARY BOYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Seb McCarthy	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bryton Simpson	23 pts

#### WHANAU POINTS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Caverhill	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hamilton	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mitchell
	1088 pts		978 pts		835 pts

Most colourful Whanau - Mitchell

Most colourful individual - Gerard Beaven (Mitchell)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

## Senior School News

### Student Welfare

Student welfare is one of the important areas on the schools Strategic Plan. As stated in the Plan, Amuri Area School will “Use the discipline system and other tools to provide a harassment free school” Included in this newsletter is a copy of the **Harassment is not OK** posters which are on the walls of all classrooms, the library and other spaces around the school. This outlines what a student who is feeling or being harassed can do. One of the most important points is the one which states ‘if we do not know then we can not help’ Harassment is something no-one has to put up with and you can be assured that it is treated very seriously by all staff here at school.

### Careers Information

Advice and guidance on an individual basis is readily available from me in my capacity as Careers Adviser. All students need to do is make a time that suits to see me and as always I welcome the opportunity to talk to parents about options for their child as well. This year interested students will be given the opportunity to listen to presentations from a variety of tertiary providers e.g. universities, polytechs, defence forces and others. Information on when these will be goes to students via the daily notices at school. Researching careers and future directions is a very important component of a student’s successful transition from school to future work.

Penny Mossman  
Deputy Principal

## 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

## WANTED

Old magazines and newspapers for the Art room please.

## Swimming Championship Records Broken 2009

### 75yds Medley Senior Boys

William Duncan 2009 51.90s

### 50yds Backstroke Senior Boys

William Duncan 2009 33.40s

### 50yds Freestyle Primary Girls

Madison Fleming 2009 42.23

### 50yds Butterfly Primary Girls

Madison Fleming 2009 63.40s

### 50yds Backstroke Primary Girls

Mairi Mackenzie 2009 53.63s

### 50yds Breaststroke Primary Girls

Mairi Mackenzie 2009 1.09s

These are the two new standards that have been set for new events in the primary open section of the championships.

### 100yds Freestyle Primary Girls

Mairi Mackenzie 2009 1.46.31

### 100yds Freestyle Primary Boys

Seb McCarthy 2009 1.52.28



**HARASSMENT  
IS NOT OK !!!**

If you are being harassed at school or you see someone else being hurt tell an adult.

- Mrs Mossman
- Mrs Cleeve
- A teacher or adult at school you trust or
- Fill in a harassment slip and put it in the Bully Box in the Library (Senior Side) or Office (Primary Side).

**Remember: If we don't know  
then we can't help.**