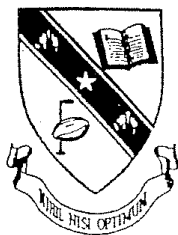


# Amuri Area School



*Kia Kitea Toikaka  
Nothing But The Best*

***Raising Achievement, Encouraging Excellence***

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NEWSLETTER NO 22

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Week Ending 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Kia ora Parents and Guardians

It's a short newsletter this week with the Teacher Only Day tomorrow to enable the staff to focus on curriculum development. As you are probably aware the NZ Curriculum has been revised and schools are busy preparing to implement the intent and contents of the document. There are a few points that you may be interested to know:

- The curriculum describes what we teach and how we teach
- It is based on a series of principles that the school should always consider when making changes or decisions about either of the above
- The school's vision and values are a critical part
- Each essential learning area (Maths, Science, English, Arts etc) have a series of prescribed achievement objectives for their subject and schools can choose which of these they cover based on student need
- It includes a series of 'key competencies' that should be developed in all students. These are:
  - Managing self
  - Relating to others
  - Understanding text and symbols
  - Participating and Contributing
  - Thinking

Tomorrow, we will be considering the shape of 'The Amuri Area School Curriculum' and how we can implement the above features. We aim to do some work with students after this and then give you an opportunity to contribute and critique the document – there will be some 'big questions' where your thoughts will be appreciated – so watch this space!

Congratulations this week go to two students who have been selected for higher honours:

- Gerard Beaven has been selected for the NZ Area Schools rugby team to play two

matches in late September which is a huge achievement and builds on his selection last year

- Andrew Murdoch has been chosen for the Canterbury Under 16 Golf Development Squad which is significant given the often seen approach of metropolitan vis a vis country selections

Bus evacuation drills went well this week thanks to great work from Miss Teulon, Constable Kate Brown and the monitors who fill a vital role in being the ears and eyes on the buses, ready to help lead when circumstances dictate.

Next week, 16 students and 2 staff from Myojo Gakuen School join us for their 10 day visit and with the staff having been here each year for the last three years and two students who came last year, we must be doing something right in the way we provide them with opportunities and the way we look after them. Thanks in advance to all host families and to students/staff for making our visitors feel welcome and especially to Mrs Macgregor who is coordinating their visit.

Wednesday next week is CCHS Indoor Sports Tournament day and most of the Year 9 - 13 students are playing volleyball, basketball, badminton or table tennis on the day. For those who have chosen not to participate, there will be school and while a different timetable will run for the day, the students are expected to be here. On Friday our lunchtime activity is 'Impromptu Speeches' and after last week's efforts when Mitchell teams came 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, we hope to see Hamilton and Caverhill come to the fore.

**The PTA meet on Tuesday night at 7.30pm in the staffroom – all are welcome.**

Neil Wilkinson  
Principal

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	Teacher Only Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
<b>4<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Myojo Gakuen School Arrives ICAS English PTA Meeting 7.30pm
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	CCHS Indoor
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunchtime Activity–Impromptu Speeches SISS Indoor Cricket
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	SISS Indoor Cricket
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	Oliver Heuchel Arrives (ICYE)
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunchtime Activity-Recycling
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	Myojo Gakuen Departs CHCH Music Festival – Rehearsal
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	ICAS Maths
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	Lunchtime Activity-Wheel of Fortune
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Leonard and the Lottery Ticket Musical

**Looking Ahead**  
**November 12<sup>th</sup>** Teacher Only Day–SCHOOL CLOSED

### WANTED

We would appreciate any empty "V" or "Monster" cans for a project we are working on. Please drop into the school office or the Art room. Thank you-Year 11.

University of Canterbury and the Canterbury Mathematical Association

### Mathematics Enrichment Evenings, 2009

Powerball, probability and paradoxes

Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 7.30-8.30

Room 031, Mathematics and Computer Science basement

This month Mike Steel (Mathematics and Statistics) will talk about the strange and wonderful world of probability. Can we use maths to increase our chance of winning Powerball? And can 'irrelevant' information help us increase our odds of winning a prize?

There will be plenty of audience participation, so please bring along a pen and some paper.

All the sessions are aimed at students in Years 9 and 10, but parents are also welcome to join in.

A map is available from school if required.

### Community Software Plan 2009

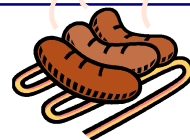
Our school is participating in the CSP (Community Software Plan) featuring great value bundles of the new-to-CSP Computer Classroom at Home series. Each bundle contains 4 titles (Maths, English, Reading & Spelling) for a specific age group. Many students at our school have benefited from EdAlive software in the past. Through the CSP parents can purchase a bundle for only \$37.95 (usually \$99 for all 4 titles). That's over **60% off**.

Please consider making an investment. As part of the Plan our school will receive **FREE Unlimited School Site Licence** for the EdAlive software title of our choice. Please return your orders to the school by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

The leaflet should have come home with this newsletter.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August

### NO CANTEEN



There will be a Year 8 Sausage Sizzle Camp Fundraiser.

Sausage in Bread \$1.50    Savouries 2 for \$1.50  
Cool Sips \$1.20        Home Baking \$1.00

### Mt Lyford Ski Trip – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

This trip has been postponed due to Mr Anink being unwell. A new date will be advised as soon as it has been confirmed.

## Senior School News

The start of term 3 is a significant point for all students in the academic year. For NCEA students the instructional year is more than half over so it is absolutely essential that they are totally focused at all times in all classes. If this is not the case we will be discussing barriers/issues with individual students and parents in the next couple of weeks. It is timely that our school value focus for the first part of this term is self discipline, for all of us self discipline can be the bridge between our goals and accomplishments – something to think about.

Year 10 students will also need to be thinking about their exams which happen this term in week 9 alongside the senior exams. These exams are a very real experience of what external NCEA exams are like, but more importantly it will give the year 10 students a very clear idea of where they are now and where they need to be in order to be prepared for and successful in year 11.

Years 7, 8 & 9 are also important milestone stages and the expectation of students here is no different from anywhere else in the school. Students need to be consistent about giving their best to develop a winning edge as even small differences in performance can lead to big differences in results.

### Careers

Josh Phillips had an amazing and career affirming experience on his 'work experience' week with the NZ Army at Burnham during the holidays. It has been good to hear his experiences and to see him focused on the next steps he needs to take to gain selection. It is worth mentioning that he has already passed the physical requirement of the entry test which is no mean feat.

With the huge selection of options available to students it is a very valuable exercise to take the opportunity to attend Open Days etc. which is most valuable if attended by the student with their family. All training institutions are happy to spend time showing you around and explaining courses. Information is available through the newspapers and/or me at school so it is not difficult to explore options and make well informed decisions.

An important note of caution for all students is that **NCEA Level 2** is becoming the base entry qualification for many courses and apprenticeships.

Penny Mossman  
Deputy Principal