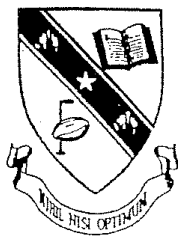


# Amuri Area School



*Kia Kitea Toikaka  
Nothing But The Best*

***Raising Achievement, Encouraging Excellence***

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NEWSLETTER NO 27

Week Ending 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## Kia ora Parents and Guardians

You may have heard in the media this week that a number of northern school principals are talking about fudging their student achievement results in tests such as aTTLe in response to the governments intention to introduce national standards next year. Talk of giving easy tests and amending results has been evident as schools react to the threat of comparative data being published in primary league tables.

While I don't support the publishing of league tables especially for primary students, you can rest assured that Amuri will be complying with the new requirements. As parents, I believe you have a right to know how your son/daughter is progressing as compared to national norms and we will be giving you that information as part of the conferences in 2010. We will also pass the data that we collect on to the Ministry as we believe we will be required to do and what they choose to do with that data is up to them – all I would urge is caution if that data is used to compare students in different circumstances.

Our Achiever of the Month featuring now is Nadine Hendry, one of our Year 13 students. Amongst a wonderful group of seniors who are contributing positively to the school, Nadine epitomises all that we aim for at Amuri and her work as a Whanau leader this year has been fantastic along with her general attitude towards learning.

Last Wednesday during the Hurunui sports exchange, a family from the UK visited the school with a view to enrolling. Most staff were busy with the exchange and so two primary students showed them around and they were advised to 'go anywhere'. Our visitors were most impressed with the school and could not believe how open we were; at their school in Wimbourne everything was kept locked including the staff toilets! It's hard to imagine working in such an environment and our value of trust is definitely something to cling to and promote.

We welcome Mrs Christine MacDonald to the staff this week working full time in Room 2 for the remainder of the year assisting Miss Hoban and the children in this important year starting school.

Last Friday's Junior Academy lunch was enjoyed by the students and the parents who came in and well done to Ms Thomas and the students who prepared and served a delicious meal as part of their Health and Foods programme. This was a real life experience and fits neatly into our new curriculum focus.

The netball girls have worked hard at tournament this week and I was fortunate enough to spend two days supporting them. Constant strong winds have hampered the tournament a little but the girls have shown commitment and enthusiasm as they play. To date they have won three games and lost three – two wins by 1 goal have made life interesting for a nervous coach, manager and spectators!

Today we have distributed Options Booklets to all returning Year 10, 11 and 12 students and we now start the process of course selection for 2010. Subject teachers and Mrs Mossman will be available at Open Evening next Wednesday to answer any questions you or students may have about any aspect of the process.

Finally, a reminder of Open Evening next Wednesday between 5pm and 7pm. Some of the items and displays are listed elsewhere in the newsletter but this is another chance to show your support for what the students and staff do at school. I hope to see you there.

Neil Wilkinson  
Principal



## ROLL OF HONOUR

**C = Caverhill**  
**H = Hamilton**  
**M = Mitchell**

	House
Ethan Jauncey	H
Caleb Allison	C
Josh Broomhall	M
Bayley Draper	C
Emilee Hickey	C
Jessica Price	C
Casey Smith	H
Jacob Tamatea	H
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> MERIT CERTIFICATE</b>	
Jonathon Schwass	H
Finn Cunningham	H

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	Open Evening 5-7pm
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunchtime Activity-Y9-13 Talent Quest Senior Course Selections Close
<b>14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Work Experience Week Year 10-13 Exams
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunchtime Activity-Y7&8 Talent Quest
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	Got to go Day – Y9 & 10
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup></b>	CASafest
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunchtime Activity-Y1-6 Talent Quest Term 3 Ends
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Term 4 Begins

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

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you again to all those generous students and their families who filled a shoebox for children in the Pacific Islands for Christmas 2008.

**NB!** It's that time again!

Forms showing what can be included in the boxes are available, as are shoeboxes. Please let Chrystal, in the senior office, or your child's teacher know if you would like a box. These will be issued the final week of Term 3 and must be handed in Week 1 of Term 4.

This is a great holiday project and we know personally how much these gifts are appreciated!

Many thanks, Diana Turner

## Culverden Rugby Club

Prize giving Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September (today)

5.30pm at the club rooms.

## School PE Shirts

We have a few children who are missing their PE shirts. It would be appreciated if everyone could please check the PE shirts they have at home and return to school any that do not belong to them. If you are unsure we have a list of all the shirt numbers that we can check.



## Amuri Area School Open Evening

Come and see our school in action on Wednesday night, September 9<sup>th</sup>, between 5pm and 7pm.

Come and see

- Hands on Science experiments
- Jump Jam
- Plays
- Speeches
- Junior Academy
- Japan Games
- Music
- Computing in action
- Outdoor Ed display
- Art
- Workshop in action
- Student videos and exemplars
- Cooking
- An upgraded H Block

A programme with a timetable of performance items will be issued at the gate and there is no cost to get in!

## Hurunui Youth Programme

### Yr 9-13's SOCIAL

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Culverden Community Room

7.30- 10.30pm

Theme- Neo/Fluro

Tickets Cost= \$3(NO Door Sales)

DJ

Refreshments available for purchase

Tickets Available from:  
 Amuri School: Nicole Eastmond

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

**Attention: We are in desperate need of some more adult supervision for the social, this will not involve much work - but for events like this to happen we need parental support. Please contact Sam if you are able to help.**

# Senior School News

## Study

With such a small word it is hard to imagine that many students have issues understanding what it means! A simple definition would be the devotion of time and thought to acquiring/learning knowledge and information. Study is an important part of any learners' routine regardless of age so the following steps should help:

## Being prepared:

- Know what is required for each standard/test i.e. what you will need to know
- Go to revision sessions held at school
- Have up to date notes, handouts etc
- Practice assessments and test papers
- Catch up on missing class work

## Planning:

- Setting regular routines of study
- Study in a well lit, quiet place
- Set study goals, daily, weekly and long term
- Know deadlines
- Have a study timetable
- Do small amounts each night

## Relax

- Have regular study breaks e.g. 10 minutes every 50 minutes
- Eat healthily, sleep regularly and exercise
- Reward yourself
- If stressed ask for help

There are excellent advice, notes, and study guidelines on [www.studyit.org.nz](http://www.studyit.org.nz) and [www.studypass.co.nz](http://www.studypass.co.nz) which are free and well worth a visit.

## NCEA Pamphlets

The year 10 Introduction and the 11-13 Making use of NCEA booklets have been given to all students. These guides will answer most; if not all questions you have about NCEA and other qualifications.

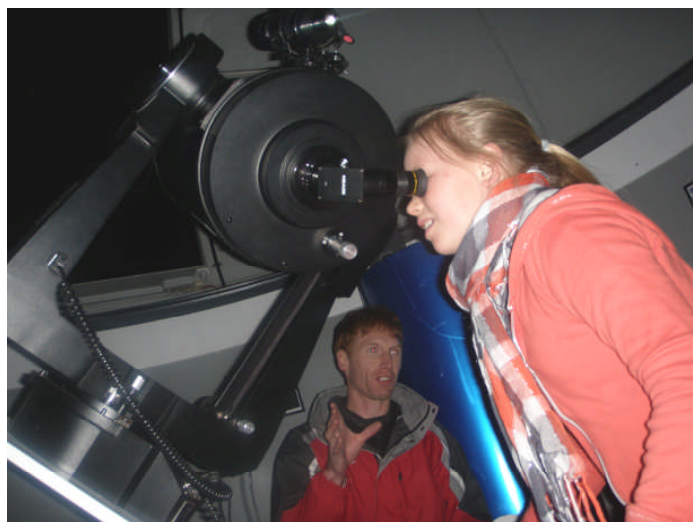
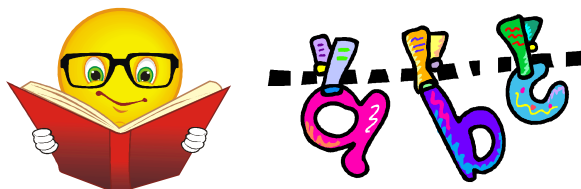
Penny Mossman  
Deputy Principal

## Pre-School Dates

Kate Hoban would like to invite any children who are due to start school soon to join her in Room 2 for an afternoon between 12.30 and 3pm on:

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September

No appointment necessary, just turn up.



Casey Smith checks out the stars during a recent trip to the Oxford Observatory.



Students enjoying the tropical weather at a recent trip to Mt Hutt Ski Field.