

Term 2 has begun well with students quickly settling back into their routines.

Term 2 marks the beginning of our busy winter sports programme so I wish to acknowledge all those folk who are helping coach or manage one of our many teams. We still require help with some of our rugby teams so if you can assist please telephone Mr Rick Francis, our Sports Director, on 0274 406946. Our extra-curricular programme has an important impact on school tone and pride, so we are keen to have as many students involved as possible.

Our senior exams begin next Monday and run for eight school days. Exams will run during periods 1 and 2, including late start Tuesday, with normal timetabled classes running from period 3. We will have study facilities available for bus students. Seniors will have study leave periods 1 and 2 when they have no exams. If sick telephone the school.

We are trialling a new mid-year report format this year. Reports will have more specific information but no individual teacher comments. Reports will be issued on the Parent / Teacher evening and we encourage you to meet with teachers to discuss student progress in depth. Senior reports will have an attached NZQA results page. These changes are an effort to have improved communication with parents. We will hold two report evenings in the last week of term.

On the Friday before Queen's Birthday weekend we will be having a Teacher Only Day for professional development associated with the introduction of the new curriculum. All secondary schools in the region will be similarly involved.

With the raft of financial demands placed on families - school fees, subject fees, sports fees and camp fees etc., I encourage families to set up an automatic payment with our school office.

Ms Wendy Teekman has returned from maternity leave to her Science position, while Mrs Megan Dundass will commence maternity leave on 2 June 2009. I have appointed Mrs Sue Way to a Network Manager's position to assist with the smooth running of our significant ICT resources.

The arrival of cold winter days results in a number of non-uniform clothing items being worn. We allow plain black or navy blue jackets to be worn. Plain black or navy blue scarves can also be worn, or the traditional three-colour school scarf. Students are not allowed to wear socks with their sandals and all undergarments must be hidden. Non-compliance will result in items being confiscated.

A major focus for this term will be our Open Day on Thursday 25 June 2009. All Year 10 students will be working in the community on this day in order to free up staff to host our 1000 plus visitors.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MATTERS

The triennial elections will be coming up next year so it is an opportune time to think about who you would want representing the parent body or whether or not you would be prepared to stand for the Board of Trustees. The governance of the school has been extremely well looked after in my 12 years at the school and obviously the present Board is wishing this to continue. If you have any suggestions please make telephone contact with either Ms Lyn Carey, Board of Trustees Chairperson, or me.

The Board will be reviewing a number of its policies in the next month.

Recent Happenings

- The 2008 Financial Report was adopted.
- The dairy farm redevelopment is underway.
- Funding provided for a Network Manager.
- New format of NCEA results circulated.
- Technology Block refurbishment contract has been let.
- Concept plans are being developed for the main quadrangle landscaping.
- Music resource area renovation has been completed.
- Approval in principle was given to a French trip in 2010 to France.
- The school's 2009 Annual Plan has been approved and the achievement reporting accepted.

STUDENT MATTERS

The 1st XV competed at an international schools tournament in Christchurch and won. A number of their games were against prestigious rugby schools and they had very convincing wins, playing well as a team. They also played Mount Albert Grammar in the last week of the holidays and played out a hard fought draw.

During the school holidays Samantha Ellery and Brayden Worboys competed in a three day cycling tour held in Te Awamutu. It is an awesome achievement for cyclists to finish this race and both students completed the race in one piece. Congratulations to them both.

The school cross country took place yesterday, here at school. A group of students will now be selected to represent the school at the Manawatu Cross Country Champs next Wednesday. Any questions should be directed to Mr Parker or Mr Jones.

We have a group of 5-6 players who are involved this year in a new women's rugby club team competing in the local women's competition. These students are playing against some of the best players in the region including some Black Ferns. This team has already had some very good results.

Jed Stewardson-Hill, Charles Bennett and Nathan Roberts competed at the National Secondary School Orienteering Championships over the holidays.

Haki Waller has made the New Zealand motocross team in the 85cc category. This team will compete in the World Junior Motocross event in Taupo in August.

Lori Morrison competed at the New Zealand Special Olympics event held in Taranaki during the school holidays in the shot put and discus.

We had a number of students competing at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Mountain Biking Championships held in Levin on 18/19 April 2009. We had some great results:

Under 16 Boys	Mathew Waghorn - 3rd Overall
Under 16 Girls	Keryn Knight - 4th Overall
Under 14 Girls	Siobhan MacDonald - 1st Overall (in her 1 st season)
Under 15 Boys	Nathan Waghorn - 19 th Overall

In the Manawatu Sevens Tournament the girls' rugby development team played well, beating Palmerston North Girls' High School and losing narrowly to Kuranui. They played off for 5th / 6th place.

The girls' A rugby team beat Freyberg 38 – 0 in the final. They scored 159 points, conceding 0. Standout players for both teams were Deirdre Roberts and Steph Dickins.

REPORT AFTERNOONS FOR ALL LEVELS

Tuesday 30 June 2009 and Thursday 2 July 2009, 3.30 PM – 6.30 PM in the school assembly hall. Reports will be issued at this time. Choose the day that suits you best.

WHANAU CONSULTATION EVENING

Thursday 21 May 2009 at 7.00 PM in the new classrooms, N1 and N2, next to the school hall. This will include a progress report on our Maori achievement class as well as NCEA feedback. An opportunity to share information.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Year 10 camp notices have been issued to students. This is a compulsory school activity. The first date for return of these is 2 June 2009. Please return promptly as this helps ensure the camp of your son / daughters choice.

This year, through a generous donor and the Old Pupils' Association, we are offering scholarship places.

Criteria for selection include:

- Attitude to work and behaviour at school (*Consultation will be made with your subject teachers, Group teacher, Dean, sports coach / cultural leader.*)
- Contribution to school-life and participation in co-curricular activities.
- Financial situation of your family.

Contact Mrs Phillips at school for more information / application forms.

MUSIC

Barbershop Girls – Will be playing with Vocal FX and other Manawatu men's and women's choruses at Palmerston North Boys' High School on 17 May 2009.

Big Sing – The Ukulele Orchestra, Dolce Com, and Lyrical ladies will all be performing on 5 June 2009 at the Regent on Broadway.

Rock Quest – 12 / 13 June 2009 at the Massey University College of Education auditorium.

Jazz Festival – The Jazz Band will be performing in the schools' competition at the Globe Theatre on Saturday 30 May 2009 from 9.00 AM to 1.00 PM.

BALL GOWN SWAP

6 June 2009 at the Maternity Resource Centre, 111 Derby Street, Feilding. Bring in your pre-loved ball dress, shoes and accessories in good condition between 12.00 noon and 2.00 PM. They will be processed and you get the chance to come back between 4.00 PM – 6.00 PM to swap until you drop! Cost - \$20.00. Brought to you by Feilding Plunket. Contact Natasha Casey, 3231944.

WEARABLE ART AWARDS

The Wearable Art Awards will be held on **Friday 31 July 2009**. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

May

- 16 NI Secondary School Swimming Championships
- 18 Senior Exams Begin, Periods 1 / 2 Only (8 Days)
- 20 Manawatu Secondary Schools Cross Country at Foxton
- 21 Whanau Consultation Meeting, 7.00 PM in N1 and N2
- 26 Late Start Tuesday (Except for Exams)
- 27 Board of Trustees Meeting, 6.30 PM, Council Chamber
- 29 Teacher Only Day

June

- 2 Year 10 Camp Choice Form and Deposit Due
- 4 Year 12 / 13 Economics Trip to Wellington
- 5 Big Sing
Manu Korero
- 9 Late Start Tuesday
- 10 PTA Meeting, 7.30 PM in the Council Chamber
- 12 One Act Play Festival
- 17 SELL Programme for Year 10 (3 Days)
- 23 Late Start Tuesday
- 24 Board of Trustees Meeting, 6.30 PM, Council Chamber
- 25 Open Day
Year 10 Community Day
- 29 Year 12 / 13 Music Performance Assessment (5 Days)
- 30 Report Afternoon, 3.30 – 6.30 PM in the Assembly Hall

July

- 2 Report Afternoon, 3.30 – 6.30 PM in the Assembly Hall
- 3 Last Day of Term
- 4 NI Cycling Championships

R.S. MENZIES

Principal

HANSEN PRODUCTS

Proud to Support Community Initiatives

The Board of Trustees acknowledges the generosity of the Hansen team who donated pipe fittings for the new water lines for the dairy farm.

Wherever fluid is needed to be moved, Hansen will have a product to do the job. Go to www.hansenproducts.com to see their product range.

