

MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL

TE KURA TAKIWA O MANGAKAHIA

16 June 2010

NEWSLETTER

No. 6 /10

Please ring us **BEFORE 9.00** if your child is absent, **BEFORE 2.00** to change home-time transport plans.

STUDENT SUCCESS - PASTORAL CARE - MID-YEAR REPORTS - CHECK IT OUT - OFFICIAL SCHOOL UNIFORM
OUTDOOR AREA - MATAARIKI CELEBRATION - STAFF - TIPS ON CYBER SAFETY - ADMIN & COMMUNITY

Greetings. Tena koutou katoa.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Y12-13 on the move

Our exchange student **Kim Tscherner** returns home to Germany at the end of this term. It has been a great privilege to host Kim – an excellent student and ambassador for her country. During her two half-years here she has fully embraced the life of the school. Kim gained NCEA Levels 2 and 3, proficiency in kapa haka, calf raising for Show Day, NASA sports, hospitality competitions, and Outward Bound leadership at Akaroa. We thank Kim for her enthusiasm, hard work and friendship. We'll miss her heaps. Travel safely, Kim. Thank you host parents Finnisha and Shane for hosting Kim and giving us the pleasure of her company here.

Best wishes to Y13 student **Kayla Piri** who travels to Blenheim next week for a challenging and rewarding three weeks on an Outward Bound course. This is a lifetime leadership experience that Kayla well deserves. Thanks to Jodi Antunovich, Lesley McCardle and team for making this possible for Kayla.

Congratulations deputy head student **Dylan Tohu** on the excellent work coaching the Y7-8 rugby team. Link class teacher Rosemary Grieve reports that Dylan gave a lot of his time to the team and made a great job looking after and encouraging them at the recent Whangarei Primary School Winter Sports Tournament.

Y7-8 Rugby Team played well and played fair: **Shai Brooks, Thorodin Crawford, Brian Fryer, Haki Korewha, Grayson Naera, Taylor Neho, Wesley Pomare, Harley Pou, George Shortland, Levi Tito.**

NRC Grant for Zero-waste Recycling Station

Northland Regional Council has given our landcare students \$1245.75 for building materials. Thank you NRC!

Reminder - NCEA Wahanga Whanau workshops

To help you help your seniors to NCEA success, NZQA is hosting a series of Wāhanga Whānau workshops, Whānau will be able to have a face to face opportunity to clarify how NCEA works and the pathway options open to them. **Whanau hui NCEA is at Te Rawhitiroa Kura (Tikipunga) Mon 28 June 6.30pm**

PASTORAL CARE

Student safety – how to stop cyber (internet) bullying and on-line predators / paedophiles

As explained in the last two newsletters, we have taken several steps at school to limit the harm caused to Y8-10 girls by Facebook, Bebo and texting, hatched at weekend sleepovers, generating gossip and discord at school. **On page four of this newsletter is information we hope you find helpful as parents and guardians.** Keeping young people safe is a huge job. Please talk about this with your children. Thank you.

Great assembly speaker, great student audience

Y7-13 students thoroughly enjoyed guest speaker Billy Graham last week. He entertained them with guitar and harmonica playing, and moments from his life told with a funny twist. He also impressed on them his keys to success – **stay smokefree, fit and healthy, stay focused on what you CAN do with your life, and never give up on your goals.** Thanks to his sponsors Fuji Xerox for funding Billy's school tours, and Pastor Dick Gordon for making sure he added Mangakahia to the list of Whangarei schools this time around.

Better attendance

Thank you those families who are now ensuring students are at school every day. Whatever else is going on around them, the children should be at school whenever possible. That is their priority. Please keep up the good work. A good education is every student's birthright. Every day counts for every child.

Heating back on

The school boiler has taken months to repair and is now in good working order. Radiators are warm again!

MID-YEAR REPORTS

The best way to know how well your children are doing half way through the year is to sit down with your child and their homeroom teacher and have a conversation about it. Here's the plan for June 2010.

Primary student-led conferences are already set for the afternoons of Weds 23 - Thurs 24 June. Parents are always incredibly proud as their children explain their work and the teacher reports on progress. This year the focus is the new National Standards in reading, writing and maths. Primary manager Rosemary Grieve has attended several training sessions run by advisers and has ably trained her colleagues at school.

Year 9-13 student-led conferences happen Tues 29 and Weds 30 June, 2-6pm. The two homeroom teachers at each year level take half the class each and contact parents to arrange meetings.

The homeroom teachers are: **Y9 Ms Van der Klundert & Mr Morgan; Y10 Mr Dunn & Mrs Stead (deputising for Whaea Palmer); Y11 Mr Sadgrove & Mr Smith; Y12-13 Mr Susnjar & Ms Semenoff.** They will ask you for preferred times and if necessary whether we need to come to a place near you.

Y9-10 conferences focus on student work samples and the written report. Students present their own chosen work samples and talk about their subjects.

Y11-13 conferences work the same way, except the focus is on student NCEA credits to date – how many were offered and what percentage the student has achieved.

No child left out - we are determined to ensure every student has the benefit of homeroom-parent time. That's worth so much more than a piece of paper on its own. **If you cannot come out to school, we can certainly come closer to you** eg Te Horo School? Whangarei Library? Let the homeroom teacher know.

No surprises - if there are any highs or lows you'll already know, through homeroom teacher or other calls. The important thing is to **give your child the gift of your time** (whether they want you to or not!).

No opportunity missed - if you'd like to check out a concern, visit a classroom, tour the school, have a cuppa in the staffroom, meet any one of us, please do - we want you to make the most of your time on-site.

CHECK IT OUT

If you hear gossip about our school, **don't just pass it on, check it out!** Human nature being what it is, students are prone to go home and tell their parents one side of a story only, which most of us have done in our time. A useful question to ask is "And what will people at school have to say about it when I ask them?"

OFFICIAL Y7-13 UNIFORM

Below is the uniform as listed in the school information handbook given to families on enrolment. If you have mislaid yours, please request another from the office. There is a range of items including several winter weather options - **jacket, polar fleece, woollen jersey, sweatshirt.** They come in a range of price options. Postie-Plus (Okara) stocks some items but not all. **Regulation shorts trousers and skirts** are stocked by the uniform shop at Kamo (opposite the supermarket) and Bethells (Strand Arcade in the town centre). **School shoes** are much cheaper than in previous years and available from several stockists including Warehouse.

Y9-11 students: leave the black jeans at home. **Boys** - wear regulation trousers or shorts. **Girls** - wear regulation trousers, skirts or shorts. **From the first day of Term 3**, students choosing to arrive in non-reg items spend the first day in isolation. Second time it's a stand down. **Wear the uniform well and with pride.**

Y7 – 11 GIRLS AND BOYS

- jade polo shirt with black embroidered monogram, royal blue sweatshirt with embroidered monogram
- school jacket or school navy polar-fleece with silver embroidered monogram
- royal blue woollen jersey with embroidered monogram
- black lace-up shoes that can be polished, black socks; black sandals (plain, flat)

GIRLS ONLY

- plain or black pantyhose (optional), black straight regulation skirt or shorts, black trousers – regulation only

BOYS ONLY

- black regulation shorts or black trousers, black socks worn with regulation shoes

Y12/13 GIRLS black regulation skirt or shorts , white shirt, school jacket

BOYS black regulation trousers or shorts, white shirt, school jacket

OUTDOOR AREAS

The spider climb is now up, completing the new playground area. A legacy from the previous board of trustees and the 2005-7 PTA team who envisioned the upgrade, it is proving a great hit with Y1-6 students.

Planting This week a group of primary school children and landcare secondary students are planting the new 'edible forest' and orchard beds, led by previous board chair, school parent, and former student David Davies-Colley who is driving the initiative. We thank David and Catherine for their continued support for our school.

Y9-11 vandalism Earlier this term we paid for the repair and strengthening of the outdoor tables in the senior yard. One has already been broken. Three windows have been broken this term by students booting balls at break-times (well named) accounting for around \$1500. Two boys watched another punch two holes in a corridor wall in the secondary block. This repair is likely to cost as much again. It's hard to understand why students destroy their own stuff. Parents rarely pay for the breakages. It comes out of our operations grant. By the end of the year there is little money left to pay for summer excursions/camps. We are working on this.

School security is high on our list of priorities. Police continue to investigate the recent burglary of \$20,000 worth of primary student computer equipment. The students are very much missing what they so briefly enjoyed. Because school insurance carries a very high excess, we are likely to get only \$10,000 replacement money. **We are not replacing anything until:** Ministry paperwork is completed, the block is alarmed, sensor lights and cameras installed, and setting up a Neighbourhood Watch group in the village is fully explored.

MATARIKI CELEBRATION

Our Matariki celebration is on Friday 25 June 12.30-2.30. As previous years, students and staff will enjoy a hangi lunch together in gym at 12.30, this year prepared by a community team, pudding provided by staff. Entertainment during lunch, games outdoors or indoors depending on the weather. Thank you matua Rama Tito for the community hangi idea, Whaea Kaye, Sharee Tito, Crystal Harris & team for planning and staff for fine-tuning the details. **A flier will come home to you soon – please support our Matariki celebration.**

STAFF NEWS

Helen Faber visited school in a wheelchair last week and enjoyed chatting with Room 3 students in the staffroom. Helen has another 3 weeks before she can walk on the ankle and so won't return, as her time with us finishes at the end of term when **Kate Fenton** returns from study leave. We thank Helen for her absolute professionalism and commitment to the children. We are sorry to lose her and hope to see her again soon.

Lesley McCardle is doing a superb job leading the Whangarei West Cluster of schools in a nationwide scheme to bring ICT (information & communication technologies) into classroom programmes, 2010-2012. **Lead school for the cluster is Mangakahia, with He Mataariki Teen Parent School, Kokopu, Maungakamea, Pakotai, Purua, Taniteroria, and Te Horo.** Lead teachers from the schools attended an e-learning conference in Rotorua in February and launched the cluster at Mangakahia in March (attended by teachers and trustees from each school).

Since then Lesley has visited every school twice to fix their ICT problems, teach the staff and work with the children. She has helped every school set up class and school wikis (mini websites) and chaired regular meetings for team leaders (so far one each at Mangakahia, Teen Parent School, and Kokopu) demonstrating IT tools (voice threads! flip video-cams! wordles! wikis!) for prompt passing on back in the cluster schools.

Y1-8 children at each cluster school are now doing amazing things with these tools - **except** at Mangakahia since the stuff was stolen. Mangakahia Y9-13 students are about to start, in the computer suite (in the secondary block which fortunately is alarmed and has security cameras). Future newsletters will feature an ICT update from Lesley, starting with the **Great Wiki Launch** for parent access at the start of next term. Terms 1 and 2 have been a huge learning curve for staff across the schools. The children of course are mastering it at a faster pace. **Your turn next!** Lesley brings huge mana to our school in pioneering this work.

On the subject of ICT in classrooms, **we have no intention of using cellphones in class to store notes**, as suggested by one ICT expert in the news this week - presumably not a practising teacher or struggling parent.

This is the last newsletter for Term 2. We will send fliers home about Matariki and reports. **Thank you for your support this term.** Enjoy a safe holiday time - get over winter colds and please take the opportunity to replace uniform items. **Many Y9-11 girls are in need of a school polar-fleece to keep warm in winter!**

**Ka kite,
Anne Stead**

CYBER SAFETY – CHATROOM DANGERS FROM A DETECTIVE’S INSIDE VIEW

Brett Lee is a former Australian Police detective who spent years posing as a teenager on the internet and has been speaking to Northland high school students about the dangers of cyberspace. He acted as bait for child sex-sex offenders as part of stings involving the Queensland Police and FBI. During his eight-year stint he contributed to the arrests of more than 200 paedophiles.

“One day I might be a 13 year-old girl, the next day a 16 year-old boy.” **He entered one teenage chatroom pretending to be a young girl and said it took only four seconds for him to be contacted by a paedophile, and 20 minutes for a criminal offence to take place.** “They sit there waiting for a teenager to enter the internet chatroom and as soon as they do, they request a private chat so they have them to themselves and they can commence the grooming process.”

He encouraged parents to get kids working with computers early, coupled with support and education. “Parents step back because they don’t understand all the issues but they need to take control as kids lack the lifeskills.” While no silver bullet existed for staying safe on the internet, he recommended **banning computers from bedrooms, discussing acceptable use and consequences, keeping communication and knowing who your children were communicating with.**

“I tell parents it’s like there’s **an adult man in your child’s bedroom** telling them what they want to hear. **They’re psychologically affecting your child in your own home.**” Teenagers had become increasingly reliant on social networking sites and access to cellphone coverage, causing anxiety when access wasn’t available 24/7. Ways to ease back on this reliance included **having internet-free days and handing in cellphones at bedtime or while homework was done.**

Source: extracts from an article by Andre Hueber, Northern Advocate newspaper, Weds May 26 2010.

STOP CYBER BULLYING BEFORE IT STARTS

Cyberbullying is using the internet, cellphones, videogame systems or other technology, to send or post or text images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

THE STATS

a survey of 840 students aged 13-17

- 20% had a cyberbully pretend to be someone else to trick them online into reveal personal information
- 17% were victimised by someone lying about them online
- 13% found that a cyberbully pretended to be them while communicating with someone else.
- 10% were victimised because someone posted unflattering pictures of them online, without permission.

- 81% think others cyberbully because they think it’s funny
- 80% either did not have parental rules about internet use OR found ways around the rules
- 70% think being able to block cyberbullies is the most effective method of prevention
- 43% have been victims of cyberbullying in the last year
- 30% want to seek revenge on those who cyberbullied them
- 11% talk to parents about incidents of cyberbullying

- 36% asked the bully to stop, 34% blocked communication, 34% talked to friends about it,
- 29% did nothing about it, 28% signed off-line

PARENT OPTIONS

- visit social networking sites eg Facebook, Bebo to see what teens encounter online
- talk to your teens about internet risks and benefits,
- teach them about inappropriate incidents (asking for images, personal information, face to face meetings)
- keep computers in high-traffic areas of the house where online activities are hard to hide;
- ban computers from bedrooms; collect cellphones at bedtimes;
- save bad posts and report to police - traced, located, and punished by ISPs if bullying persists .

www.wiredsafety.org

www.stopbullyingnow.org

also useful:

inc a downloadable translator for cyber-lingo and acronyms used by teens

information for children age 10-12, cyber and face-to-face bullying

www.ncpc.org www.stopcyberbullying.org

ADMIN & COMMUNITY NEWS

Subject Fees: Accounts for subject fees have now been sent out. These can be paid at the school office. If you have any queries please contact the school office on 4331 702.

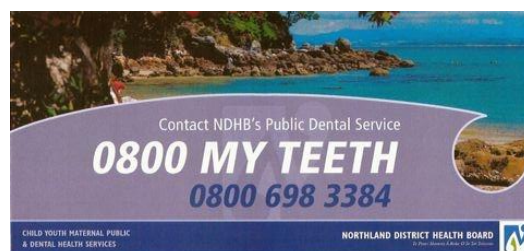
NZQA Fees: An early reminder that the NZQA fee of \$75.00 can now be paid to the school office. Families wishing to apply for financial assistance should contact the school office on 4331 702.

Student Absences: If your child is going to be absent from school please ring the office and let us know as soon as possible. In the case of illness, please make sure you ring each day your child is sick. For your child's safety we need to know when to expect them back at school. Please also note that a medical certificate is required for absences of 3 days or more.

Northland Sports Conference: Calling all Coaches, Parents, Whanau, Supporters and Educators who interact with our youth. Stimulate your thinking and develop your coaching/teaching skills through interactive workshops and presentations. ASB Leisure Centre, Saturday 3 July 2010. Register online at www.sportsconferencenorthland.co.nz

Oral Health Care: If you have any concerns regarding your child's oral health you can contact the Northland District Health Board's Public Dental Service on 0800 MY TEETH (0800 698 3384). The **School Dental Service** is available to all preschool and school aged children up to school year 8.

The Adolescent Dental Service is available to adolescents aged between 13 and 17 years and who are enrolled at school before their 18th birthday. To find an adolescent Dental Provider phone 0800 MY TEETH or contact the school office.



ART & Craft Classes are held once a month in the art room at Mangakahia Area School, 7.00pm to 9.30pm. Phone Bobby 4331 556 for more information. No experience needed & only \$10.00

Titoki Playcentre is situated at Mangakahia Area School and has attractive, modern facilities. Sessions are held on Mondays, 9.00am to 12.00pm for children aged 0 to 6 years. There are stimulating activities for adults and children and all families are welcome. Phone Michelle, 4331 115 or Philippa, 4331 511.

Community / School Library: Anyone from our community can borrow books and use the Community Library situated at Mangakahia Area School, just come in and register with the librarian. Library hours are Monday – Friday 8.30am to 3.00pm. All welcome. We have a large selection of books suitable for all ages.

Hockey North Holiday Hockey

Are you interested in becoming a better Hockey player? If YES - then the HN Holiday Hockey Programme is for you!!! Get you and your friends together and come and get coached by some of New Zealand's best young hockey players. Confirmed Coaches: Alana Millington 7 Tests for the Blacksticks Women's Team, Nicky Howes NZ U21's & current Blacksticks development squad member, Jacinda McLeod NZ U21's & Boston College (USA) – America East Rookie of the Year. DATE: Monday 5th to Friday 9th July. TIME: 9.00am – 12noon (each day). COST: \$20 Per/Day. VENUE: Rosvall ITM Stadium, Park Ave, Kensington, Whangarei. AGE: School years 3 – 8. **Registrations are essential!!!!** If you have any queries or if you would like to register please contact Bevan at the HN office 09 437 3830 or by email rdm@northlandhockey.org.nz

EF - EDUCATION FIRST: HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT! Become a volunteer host family with EF for foreign study and experience the world without leaving home! If you can offer a loving home, meals and a bed, call today to share your New Zealand - 0800-44-55-11 or ring local EF coordinator Lynne Morris 4335-939.

Calendar

23-24 June	Y1-8 Student-led Conferencing
29 June	School Cross Country
29-30 June	Y9-13 Student-led Conferencing
2 July	End of Term 2
19 July	Start of Term 3

Fundraising Made Easy!



To learn how you can nominate a School go to www.northfuels.co.nz Click Fuel for Schools

northfuels
FUEL & LUBRICANT SPECIALISTS

Introducing 'Support Your School' from Warehouse Stationery.

Here's an exciting new fundraising opportunity for our school that doesn't require you to sell a single sausage, bake a cake for the school fair or sell raffle tickets to your workmates and neighbours.

It's called 'Support Your School' and it's an initiative from Warehouse Stationery in association with BlueBiz Rewards, their recently launched rewards programme for Business Account holders (of which we are one).



It works like this:

- 'Support Your School' will be active around term breaks and at the key Back to School period. Great for those holiday supplies and back to school stationery purchases. In fact, with the exception of vouchers and phone top ups, everything you buy from their extensive range qualifies. The first promotion kicks off from Monday 28 June - Sunday 1 August.
- our school will get 1 BlueBiz Point for every \$1 spent by parents, caregivers and the wider school community at Warehouse Stationery during these periods.
- you'll need to present a unique voucher at the checkout so that the right number of BlueBiz Points are awarded to our school. This voucher is shown below
- we can then redeem these points online for rewards like Warehouse Stationery vouchers to buy much needed school stationery, technology supplies and more.

What could be simpler or easier! Cut out or download the voucher below and keep it in your wallet ready to present at Warehouse Stationery between 28 June - 1 August. To raise even more funds, print or send it to all your friends, family and workmates and get them supporting our school.

Plus, WIN one of 6 Canon Digital Cameras

To enter the draw (no purchase necessary), simply register your details at form.everythingyouneed.co.nz/schools by 1 August 2010. Thanks for supporting this fantastic fundraising opportunity. For more information on how this programme works, visit www.warehousestationery.co.nz and click on the 'Support Your School' tile.

