

MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL

TE KURA TAKIWA O MANGAKAHIA

30 November 2009

NEWSLETTER

No. 11 / 09

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

**Student Success – Student Attendance – Changes in 2010 – End of Term
Admin – 2010 Term 1 Calendar – Community News**

Greetings. Tena koutou katoa.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Seniors on Leave Most of the seniors who finished the academic year on 11 November did so having already achieved internally the number of credits they needed. The students sitting external exams have now completed them and we hope they are well rewarded for their efforts when results arrive next year. In the meantime many are working over the summer break and/or relaxing. We look forward to seeing Year 12-13 seniors and their guests at the **Senior Dinner Thursday 3 December**, and **Y11-13 at Final Assembly on Wednesday 9 December** and **Prizegiving 10am Thursday 10 December**.

Congratulations to **Rochelle Lomas Y13** on being accepted for Early Childhood Education training at Waikato University and **Riwhi Edmonds Y12** who has completed his trial period and is now on a builder's apprenticeship. **Cameron Kaka Y12** and **Laytin Harrison Y11** have been accepted for the Rotorua Rugby Academy at Rotorua Boys' High School – a great achievement and lifetime opportunity.

Big Day Out for Token Winners Each year we run the Gold Tokens competition for Y7-13 students in Term 3. Staff award the tokens for good participation, citizenship, effort and achievement. Each token also earns a house point. These are tucked into the registers each day and issued to students at homeroom times. Students then put them in the collection box at the office. Those with the highest numbers have a day trip to town in Term 4 to 10-pin bowling and the Aquatic Centre or other treats, and of course a lunch. Congratulations to the 2010 winners:

Y10 Natasha Edmonds, Jessica Knight Maggie Henare Y9 Caitlin Hunter, Rachel Jones, Mary Mackie, Kane Mickan, Kolio Parata-Lamusitele, Logan Wright Y8 Jade Rakich-Tuhiwai

Thank you Jodi Antunovich and Lesley McCardle for helping them have a good day out last week.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Some Year 10 students seem to think that their year has already finished, and as is usual at this time of year some students are telling their parents "We're not doing anything anyway." Don't you believe it!

Y1-10 are finishing their 2009 year's courses. Their work books need to be complete to use as a resource in February, when teachers re-cap on the previous term's work. Y10 work leads directly into NCEA Level 1 next year and the focus in Term 4 is on giving Y10 students a sound platform from which to launch into NCEA at the start of next year. House competitions are being completed, with Town & Country Day whanau games this week generating last minute house points. Merit certificates for final assembly on the last Wednesday are written right up until the previous afternoon.

The school leaving age has been 16 for many years. The Ministry is loath to grant exemptions. Students keen to leave on their 16th birthday must register their intention well in advance so they can complete career advice, an exit interview, certification and the sign-out process.

New enrolments take time. It helps to ring the school in advance for an appointment. Every student is interviewed. Please bring the student's birth certificate, and if possible the last school report.

CHANGES IN 2010

The 2010 timetable is now complete. Student preferences determine which courses run and how the option lines fall out. **We are changing the school day from six periods to five periods** (in line with most other secondary schools), lengthening interval and shortening lunch. **Advantages to students:**

- one-hour periods for deeper learning
 - five subjects to focus on well instead of six (the sixth subject is too often a subject too far)
 - fewer change-overs during the day save learning time
 - two 30-minute breaks during the day make better use of student time
 - one period after lunch, cutting down on time when students are less likely to focus on class work.
- The changes are designed to support **learning**, our core business. We will evaluate them mid-year.

Year 7-8 have an exciting time ahead. They are moving into what has been the music room, where they become **leaders of the Year 1-8 syndicate**. Their teacher is Rosemary Grieve. We have big plans for their personal development through school citizenship. Year 7-8 leadership roles include representing Y1-8 on the school sports council and training as peer mediators.

Year 9-10 All Y 9-10 students in NZ should be working at curriculum level 4 or 5 by July each year.

In 2009 there are students in both classes with very varied abilities in English, maths and science. Some working at level 2-3 need support to bring them up to speed, especially those who have ability but have missed 2009 work through too many absences. Others working at level 3-4 need programmes that build on their existing strengths. The classes are also unevenly matched in class size, with Y9 being smaller certainly for the first term and then building up as new students enrol.

So, in **Terms 1 and 2 2010**, Y9-10 students will be grouped according to their curriculum level for **English, maths and science**. Teaching will focus on their actual needs. Regular testing will determine individual progress. In Term 2 we will decide whether students return to a Y9 and 10 split for Terms 3-4.

Staffing is now settled. At the start of this year the school roll dropped in the Y1-6 area. Our roll on July 1st was down from **169** in 2008 to **149** in 2009. After that the roll increased so we end the year on **155**. As the Ministry funds staffing on the July 1st roll, we are down on funding for 1.2 teachers. We had been anticipating this since 2007 and managed staffing accordingly. We are pleased to report we can cover the subjects the students need without staff losses, but the budget remains very tight. Most schools are in this position 2009-2010. Far fewer jobs than usual are advertised for next year.

Itinerant Music teacher Terry Toohil moves on at the end of this year. Terry has given groups of junior students a good variety of tuition on his Tuesday visits. Y1 to 8 teachers will resume teaching music.

Food technology We congratulate **Julie Hamilton** on her new position as head of fabric technology at Whangarei Girls' High School starting next term. Julie has been an excellent teacher and colleague. We have appointed **Nikki Knier** to teach Julie's classes. Nikki moved from Scotland to New Zealand 15 years ago. A chef and restaurateur, she has now completed teacher training, working at Whangarei Girls' High School and Bream Bay College. Nikki brings a wealth of experience to our students.

Mathematics Wayne Atkins resigned in October. The board wished him well. **Terry Andersson** has been a great reliever. We appreciated his good rapport with students and efforts on their behalf. We have appointed **Stanko Susnjar** to the maths position. Originally from Croatia, he is currently head of maths at Taipa Area School. He has taught NCEA Level 1 to 3 maths for several years. He is an excellent teacher who relates well to students. Some of our students already know him as an opposition basketball coach – next year he'll be on our sideline!

END OF TERM

The 2009 Year Book is at the printer's. Well done all students and staff who contributed pages. Special thanks to Lesley McCardle and Katie Langridge for producing it on time. It is visually stunning.

Prizegiving on Thurs 10 Dec starts promptly at 10am. Please be seated in the hall **before 9.50**. Programmes are printing, trophies engraved, students are rehearsing. All students attend in smart uniform, Y12-13 students in 'number ones'. Junior Kapa haka students will be wearing their brand new uniforms for the first time. **Please note:** as this is a formal occasion, students not in uniform do not go up to receive awards. Afterwards, students collect reports. **Buses leave at 12.30.**

Please check the calendar below for **key dates for Term 1 next year.**

- Teacher-only days January 26-28 (full programme).
- **Term 1 start dates: Tues 2 Feb Y1-8, Weds 3 Feb Y11-13, Thurs 4 Feb Y9-10.**
- New enrolments in the library that week, after that at the office.

Please note: the FIRST TWO WEEKS of the school year are VERY IMPORTANT for students. They follow a full orientation programme that includes timetabling, group organisation, team building and high impact introductions to each subject. **Please get your student off to the best possible start to the year** by having them here **on time, well dressed and well equipped.** It is such a shame to see students arrive in week 3 (often for no good reason) still trying to catch up and fit in as late as week 5.


Thank you for your support this year. Enjoy a happy Christmas and safe, relaxing holiday.

Ka kite,
Anne Stead

ADMIN & COMMUNITY NEWS

Term Dates for 2010

Term	Start date	End date
1	Tuesday 2 Feb Years 1-8 Wednesday 3 Feb Years 11-13 Thursday 4 Feb Years 9-10	Thursday 1 April
2	Monday 19 April	Friday 2 July
3	Monday 19 July	Friday 24 September
4	Monday 11 October	Tuesday 14 December

 **ART & Craft Christmas Special** Wednesday 16th December in the Art room. Come along and make gift boxes, angels, cards, tree decorations and have some fun. Cost \$10.00. Phone Bobby 4331 556.

Country Meal: The next country meal at the Mangakahia Sports Complex, Poroti is **Friday 11 December from 6.30pm.** Attending this meal is a great way to meet others in the community and give your support to a wide range of community groups and schools. Come along and have a night out with your friends and neighbours. There is a delicious range of salads and desserts included with the meals. Full licenced bar available. Adults \$15.00 & children \$6.00 for a two course meal. Mangakahia Sports Complex is located on the corner of Kerehunga and Mangakahia Roads at Poroti. Country meals are held on the second Friday of each month.



Northland Rockhoppers Inc in association with Vertical Playground are presenting **ROCK RAVE.** Rave, rock climbing and abseiling. Location, Vertical Playground, 35b Southend Ave, Whangarei on Saturday 12 December, 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Spot prizes, free sausage and drink, ages 12 years and under. Entry \$15.00. Contact Ray or Sandy on 4302 481 for tickets.

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2009 Yearbook: Our family, _____ would like to order _____ copies of the 2009 Yearbook . \$20 each.

Please find enclosed \$ _____

Prizegiving Programme 2009

1. **National Anthem** – God Defend New Zealand
2. **Chairman’s Address** – David Davies-Colley
3. **Principal’s Address** – Anne Stead
4. **Junior Kapa Haka Group**
Sporting Awards
Announced by Ms Parata and Presented by Mr Dunn
Swimming Champions
Outdoor Education Award
Athletics Champions
Sportsperson of the Year (Junior and Senior)
Ruddell Family Shield
Fairplay and Sportsmanship Trophy
Jo Lloyd Award for Courage and Perseverance
Sporting Colours
House Cup
5. **Awards Years 1-6**
Announced by Mrs Grieve
6. **Awards Years 7-8**
Announced by Mr Morgan
7. **Awards Years 9-13**
Announced by Mrs Jones
8. **Citizenship and Leadership Awards**
Announced by Mr Morgan
Lion’s Citizenship Awards
Presented by Mrs Ruddell
Mangakahia Staff Junior Citizenship Award
Presented by Mrs Stead
The Mainfreight/ Duffy Award
Presented by Mrs Stead
Student Leader Awards
Announced/Presented by Mrs Stead
BoT Student Representative Award
Announced/Presented by Mrs Stead
9. **Tama Tu Award**
Announced by Whaea Palmer and Presented by Mr and Mrs Tuhiwai
Rimiriki Cloak
Announced by Whaea Palmer and Presented by Mrs Tuhiwai
10. **Musical Item by Kapa Haka Group**
Special Awards
Announced by Mrs McCardle and Presented by Ms Semenoff
Forestry Cup
Manaakitia te Taiao Land Care Trophy
Education for Sustainability (Junior, Middle and Senior)
Special Awards cont’d
Presented by Mrs Jones
Food Technology Trophy
Hospitality Trophy
Whitecliff Material Technology Awards (Junior and Senior)
Fleur Massey Shield
Cairns/Morgan Trophy for Excellence in English
De Rooy Trophy for Excellence in Art
Mangakahia Science Cup
Cassidy Cup for Excellence in Mathematics
Special Awards cont’d
Announced by Mr Morgan and Presented by Mr Davies-Colley
ASB Scholarship
Whangarei District Council Scholarship
Whangarei Anglican Pastorate Study Award
Te Whanau Ruddell Trophy
Presented by Mrs Ruddell
Principal’s Special Award
Presented by Mrs Stead
11. **Fiona Pratt Cup for Most Outstanding Student**
Presented by Mrs Stead
12. **Announcement of the 2010 Student Leaders**
Announced by Mrs Stead
13. **School sings “We Wish you a Merry Christmas”**

