

MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL

TE KURA TAKIWA O MANGAKAHIA

19 February 2009

NEWSLETTER

No.1/ 09

**SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS FROM MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL, 1480 MANGAKAHIA RD, TITOKI.
160 STUDENTS AGED 5 – 18, LOOKING SMART, HAVING FUN, AND LEARNING HEAPS!**

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

**WELCOME BACK – HOME & SCHOOL TEAM-UP – BOT – TEEN PARENT SCHOOL– NEWSLETTERS
SPORTS REPORT – ADMIN & COMMUNITY NEWS – MORE ABOUT MANAGAKAHIA**

Greetings. Tena koutou katoa.

WELCOME BACK

We hope you enjoyed a good summer break and wish you all the best for the coming year.

The 2009 school year has got off to an excellent start.

- It's always a pleasure to return to our beautiful school. Thank you Marlene, Daphne & Bob for the big clean, Leith for the maintenance jobs, pool & lawns, staff for the great classrooms.
- During the holidays, air-conditioning units were installed in 3 more classrooms - the whare, computer, and rural studies rooms now have cooler temps to match the food technology room.
- The week before school started, teachers planned fun subject activities to get students keen to learn.
- We timetabled swims for every class every day to help students keep cool while the heat is on.



The 'staggered start' in Week 1 was a good idea.

- Enrolment days in the library made for a much more focused and relaxed process.
- Y1-6 had their own start-up programme. The children settled quickly and enjoyed being back together.
- We were able give seniors more time for settling into new timetables and course adjustments.
- Y7-10 had our full attention on the Wednesday. All students had games and activities on the Thursday.

New and returning students and staff have settled in quickly.

- The powhiri set the tone for the year. Thank you George & Marlene Tuhiwai for your welcome & warmth.
- This week has been the last of our 3-week 'shake-down' period – groups set up, initial meetings held, subjects well established and whanau leaders chosen (leaders are featured in the sports report below).
- We have all been impressed with the friendliness and good will of students, the high standard of uniform and readiness to learn. And the high calibre of our Y12-13 seniors, who have volunteered for everything!

Thank you parents and caregivers for the trouble you took to give your students the best possible start.

HOME & SCHOOL TEAM-UP

This year we are engaging Y7-13 students more deeply in learning - by putting them in charge of it!

- During this term every student is being interviewed about their interests, their life-skills (cook? drive? work a part-time job? play a sport?) and learning needs (good at? need help with? enjoy? dislike?).
- Assistant principal Jan Jones is interviewing Y7-8 and Y11. I am interviewing Y9-10 and 12-13. We can make sure that each student's learning programme makes the most of their interests, life-skills and needs.
- At the end of each interview we ask the student to suggest the family member best able to come in for a '**student-led conference**' near the end of term – a meeting of the family member with the homeroom teacher and student.
- **The conferences take place near the end of this term.** The student introduces the family member and homeroom teacher, presents samples of work, and sets their goals for the year. Y4-6 students do this already with great success.
- At the start of Term 2 we are putting on an **evening 'education fair'** in the gym – displays of all the subject areas and what they involve, hosted by the subject teacher and senior students. We'll make it a fun event!
- Near the end of Term 2 another student-led conference replaces the old 'parent teacher interview' event.

We hope that these ideas work! We will give them our best shot. As always, we welcome your feedback.

OUR TEEN PARENT SCHOOL (TPS)

He Mataariki Teen Parent School in town has also had a good start to the year.

- New manager Terri Cunningham and staff - Muriel Willem, Carolyn Findlater, Nicola Mann, Marion Maplesden, Roz O'Shea, and Kath Wynn – have transformed the 3 classrooms and extra office space. Julie Hamilton and Lesley McCardle teach at TPS on Thursdays. TPS teachers are well qualified and experienced. They could also teach here in the future
- They have set up good quality programmes and individual learning plans for each student.
- The roll is already at 30, so there should be no problem filling our Ministry licence of 35.
- We continue to integrate the two campuses. We welcomed 15 students and 3 teachers at our powhiri. Terri Cunningham has moved from assistant principal at MAS to manage the Teen Parent School. She stays on our management team, attending the weekly meetings after school each Monday.
- Last term our first 2 graduates to enrol at university were accepted into teacher training! **How good is that!**



The board rescued the school in August 2006 – no city school would take it on, and it was due to close. Since then we have turned it into a top performing school where pregnant or parenting teens study NCEA Levels 1-3 and polytech tertiary courses (check it out on www.ero.govt.nz – type in the school name and click the Advanced Search button).

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mangakahia Area School has a history of excellent governance. This is acknowledged and affirmed in successive Education Review Office reports - www.ero.govt.nz (type in the name of the school and click the Advanced Search button). The current board carries on this fine tradition. It meets 4.30pm Monday in Week 3 and Week 8 (23 March), in the staffroom. Its role is to make sure that, on behalf of the community, **MAS students have a high quality education.**

- **It sets long-term goals to deliver high quality education services to the students and community.**
- The principal is directly accountable to the board for these services being achieved and maintained.
- The board is accountable to the Ministry of Education and the Education Review Office (inspectors).
- Everything it does helps students learn better, whether through school safety, teaching, property, finance.
- It follows a long-term plan to improve facilities each year as the budget allows eg classroom air-con units.
- **Each meeting reports on student achievement & welfare, teaching programmes, school business.**
- The student rep reports student achievement and activities, the staff rep reports teaching programmes.
- The principal reports the school roll, current goals, projects and initiatives, and management priorities.
- The executive officer (business manager) reports finance, property, staffing, and a million other things!
- The board makes decisions on current matters arising from these reports and keeps full minutes & records.
- It stopped asking families for 'school donations' in 2005 as these are unfair and un-enforceable.

Successive boards have maintained a keen sense of community responsibility and social justice.

- Since 1998 the MAS BOT played leading roles in the national area schools organisation (NZASA) which continues.
- We share with the community a school-community library and new hall-gym with kitchen & full-size basketball court.
- The present board hosts He Mataariki Teen Parent School in Whangarei - 35 pregnant or parenting teens and 6 staff.
- It is working with the Ministry of Social Welfare to open a Mangakahia Valley Community Resource Centre adjacent to our grounds, bringing a wide range of free health and social services from town to the rural community.
- It endorses the school's introduction of restorative practices during 2009, one of several projects we are working on.

Board chair David Davies-Colley is happy to discuss school-related ideas or issues. Ph 4347-660 or 0274-974-358.

OUR NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters this term are in Weeks 3, 5, 7, and 9, usually mid-week, giving school and community news.

- Students write about their activities, we celebrate student success, and include a busy community page.
- Term events are published in the calendar near the end of each fortnightly newsletter.
- This week's calendar term and key dates for 2009, and the start-end dates for 2010.
- It also gives the Ministry of Education website where you can find the term dates for 2011-12.

Please make sure you receive and read each newsletter.

- We really feel for parents who miss out on newsletters and then wish they'd known about something.
- We send them home with students or email them, and are now also distributing them through the local RD services.
- If you would like us to email newsletters to you, please ring the office.
- We are always looking for ways to improve the service so feedback appreciated (sorry, can't afford colour photos, just coloured paper!) Our next newsletter is all about **Student Success** from 5 to 18 year-olds, and 2008 NCEA results.

Ka kite

Anne Stead, Principal

SPORTS REPORT

Welcome back everyone to a busy term.

Fun Sports Day, Feb 5

Students enjoyed the day. A special thank you to Mr Dee for getting the pool ready in such a short time, it was greatly appreciated.

Up and Coming Events

Term one is, as always, one of our busiest terms. Please mark these dates on your calendar. It would be great to see you here if you can make it.

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| School Swimming Sports | 10.00am, Tuesday 24 February |
| Valley Swim Champions | 10.30am, Monday 2 March |
| School Athletics | 10.00am, Thursday 5 March |

House Leaders 2009

| | | |
|------------|------------------|---|
| Kowhai | Finnisha Tuhiwai | Deputy Leaders - Tynneal Openshaw and Wayne Kaka. |
| Matai | Chastity Paniora | Deputy Leader - Rochelle Lomas |
| Pohutukawa | Kayla Piri | Deputy Leader - Kahlen Parata-Lamusitele |
| Taraire | Sherryn Schraag | Deputy Leader - Chelsea McLeod |

Sun Smart

We all need to protect ourselves from the sun. Each child needs to wear a hat and sun block, or stay in the shade.

Healthy Eating

Dehydration can be a major concern over these hot months. Please encourage your child to drink water. Water coolers are on site. Alternatively you could half-fill your child's water bottle and freeze over night (make sure the bottle is upright). In the morning just top up the bottle. They then have ice cold water to drink, and it helps to chill their lunchbox food.

Oxford Sports Trust

Once again we have been fortunate to receiving funds from the Oxford Sports Trust for equipment and uniforms. The Sports Department acknowledges their generosity and support.

After School Sports

Mangakahia Rugby Club. Anybody interested in playing junior and senior Rugby for the Mangakahia Rugby Club please call Paul or Shantee Palmer on Ph 4347659

Junior Twilight Hockey. Y4-8. Rosvall Hockey Centre, Kensington, Whangarei. Contact 09 437 3830 or nha@igrin.co.nz

Basketball – training u13 and u15 boys 4pm @ Kensington \$5.00 per player per practice. Contact Mata – m13cam@hotmail.com Twilight basketball starts at MAS on Wednesday nights later, but not now. Watch this space.

Badminton. Junior Fun Day to be held at Northland Badminton Centre, 41 Porowini Ave, Whangarei on Sunday 15 March 2009. All junior players are welcome any time between 10am and 2pm. Racquets provided. Please bring a drink bottle. Cost is \$5.00. Enquiries to Deirdre, 4346 425 or email northlandbadminton@xtra.co.nz

Bike Mania. The Rotary Club of Whangarei, in conjunction with the Whangarei Summer Festival, are organising Bike Mania, a family fun day in the Glenbervie Forest, 29 March 2009. Adults \$10 and children (12 and under) \$5. There will be spot prizes, BBQ, drinks and ice creams. Entry forms are available at www.endlesssummer.co.nz or contact Peter Smith on 4303 186 or peter@activefrig.co.nz

Beach 2 Basin. Fun run or walk, Sunday 1 March 2009. Enter online at www.runwalkseries.co.nz

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office, 4331 702.

Yours in Sport

Juanita Parata
Sports Coordinator



ADMIN and COMMUNITY NEWS

Birth Certificates – Students that are new to our school this year please remember that we need a copy of your birth certificate as soon as possible

Yearbooks - Some 2008 Yearbooks remain for sale at the office, \$20 each.

Subject fees should now be paid to the school office. These fees cover items your child makes and can take home. If you are unsure of the amount your child owes please contact the school office.

Art & Craft Classes are held on **Wednesday nights**, 7.00pm to 9.30pm in the Art room. No experience needed & only \$2.00 per session – clay, paint, crayon, dye & natural materials etc. Creative playtime for adults! Come along & have some fun. Phone Bobby 4331 556.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Coming Events

| | |
|-------------|--|
| February 24 | Swimming Sports |
| March 2 | Valley Swimming Champs |
| March 5 | School Athletics |
| April 5 | Daylight Saving Ends |
| 7-8 April | Tai Tokerau Festival, Bay of Islands College |
| April 9 | End of Term 1 |
| April 10 | Good Friday |



Term Dates

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Term 2 | April 27 to July 3 |
| Term 3 | July 20 to Sep 25 |
| Term 4 | Oct 12 to Dec 15 |

MORE ABOUT MANGAKAHIA

- **a school that few people know about, or mistakenly 'think' they know about (until now!)**
- 30 minutes north-west of Whangarei - 15 minutes up Mangakahia Rd from Maungatapere village
- Y1-8 students take art, phys ed, and Maori studies once a week with Y9-13 specialist teachers
- a school that out-performs most Northland schools in NCEA – eg in 2007 over 80% of our students achieved Level 1, 100% got Level 2, 60% Level 3 – well above national averages
- a school that teaches NCEA levels 1, 2 & 3 in art, English, health & PE, landcare (agriculture, horticulture, & forestry), Maori, maths, science (physics), and the technologies – food & fabric (hospitality, home economics), workshop (wood & auto-shop), information technology (L2-3)
- a school roll 50-50 European-Maori, boys-girls; strong on student voice & student leadership.

- **excellent teachers giving Y1-13 a good education in small classes in a quiet environment**
- modern science labs, food studies centre, a full-size gymnasium, refurbished library, attractive classrooms and air-conditioned classrooms for computer, food, landcare and te reo Maori
- 2 swimming pools (swimming, water polo), astroturf courts (hockey-soccer-tennis-netball), new gymnasium (full-size basketball court with electronic scoreboard, volleyball, badminton)
- senior sports leadership courses, full participation in Northland Area School sports & nationals
- a park-like campus in a stunning rural setting close to town - our own town bus service already brings 20-30 students a day to & from our school (concession ticket \$16 a week).

- **a school that earns high praise from the Education Review Office (1997, 2001, 2005, 2008)**
- a school that teaches students to be independent learners who behave and dress well
- a rural school with a community library, rural studies programmes, annual Show Day
- an Enviro-school holding Bronze and Silver Environmental Awards and studying marine reserves
- a Gateway School giving senior students opportunities for career & workplace visits
- a school that runs the Youth Apprenticeship Scheme and goes the extra mile for leavers
- a Health Promoting School teaching life skills, resiliency and safety education.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES - YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO OUR PLACE!